

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

July 2016 - Issue 292

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'Outstanding Teacher' Scoops Award



Saltash.net students of years 9 and 10 burst into applause during a year assembly at the announcement that a teacher nominated by their school council had achieved a regional National Teaching

Award, having been shortlisted from many thousand nominees. Alan Hawthorne had been shortlisted for his 'outstanding use of new technology' and after the judges had spent a day at the school examining

his teaching techniques with each of the groups he taught, he had been selected as the South West representative and was to be one of 55 in the UK to be invited accordingly to a reception in the House of Commons.

The year assembly had been on the theme of democracy, based on the upcoming EU Referendum. After two teachers had conducted a dialogue putting the argument for both sides Saltash town Mayor Councillor Hilary Frank, who was a guest alongside Chair of Governors Mrs Kate Waghorn and the Observer's Martin Lister was invited to speak.

Having enquired as to how many students had voted in 'reality' television shows Mrs Frank told them that twice as many Britons had voted for Big Brother as voted in the Euro election. She stressed to them the importance of using the democratic vote which so many had fought so hard to achieve for every British adult.

The students were handed ballot papers and encouraged

to cast their own vote to leave or remain in Europe.

Councillor Frank then revealed her main purpose in attending the school which was to surprise Alan Hawthorne by informing him of his success, unknown to him until that moment, and presenting him with the prestigious award.

This is a considerable personal achievement as well as a credit to the school since amazingly it is the second such award in two years, similar one having been earned by technology teacher Scott Wieprecht in 2014.

A sixth form student, who intends to become a maths teacher himself having been inspired by Mr. Hawthorne, said of him to the Observer. 'The more effort you put in for him the more you get back, it is excellent working about him'. He added, 'I would not have achieved the grade I did a year early without him. He fully deserves the award'.

The Sun Shone, the Crowds Came to Share Saltash Regatta



The Mayor & her Consort enjoying the Regatta

The sun shone, the racing gigs flashed along the river and the crowds poured down to Saltash Waterside to share the fun of the traditional Saltash Regatta and Waterside Festival.

On the Sunday the sunshine was a little damp at times but this did not deter the visitors who came to enjoy the host of land and waterborne activities and to patronise the wide variety of stalls on the Green, on Jubilee Green and along the road between.

A clear favourite was a fun event new this year, the Cardboard Boat Race. Visitors watched the finishing touches put to the brave craft before watching them launch off the old ferry ramp. After a few thrills and spills the race was won by the good (cardboard) ship 'Endsleigh' captained by Matt Pollard, while second in was the Saltash maritime cadets' 'Defiance' which won the Brunel Award for best design, captain Richard Fry.

Gary's ship of the aptly named 'Dangerous Dads' sadly foundered. It is hoped this race will become a regular feature attracting more entrants in future years.

The race followed the safe arrival on shore of the fifty 'wild swimmers' who well accompanied by safety boats had crossed from Saltash to England and back.

There was continuous entertainment, notably music on the Green, including that of top local bands based at Saltash Youth Club 'Livewire', while solo performers entertained those on Jubilee Green. Here there was also magic from Billy Wizz, dancing by Wreckers Morris, and pop up drama from the Burraton Players.

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Observer Telephone Numbers
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#LOVESALTASH

FESTIVAL OF ARTS



INTERESTS

Friday

GoMobile - improve your phone skills
Barclays Bank - local photography group displays
Firepower - woodwork display and lace making demonstration
Westcountry Funeral Services - 1950s clothes to buy
Noakes & Habermehl - weaving demonstration
The Bookshelf - wartime lunch
Walk round old Saltash and enjoy a cream tea
Saltash Pharmacy - card demonstration
Vicki Archer demonstrates her work in Driftwood

Saturday

Passport to Sport taster sessions across Saltash
Saltash Library - handbell ringing
See the Saltash Chronicles embroidery in the Baptist Church
Rachel demonstrates stencils in Lloyds Pharmacy
Truly Scrumptious is hosting a screen printing class
Becky will show you how to transform furniture in Florabella

ARTS

Friday

Patricia Ann hosts two artists painting
Ashtorpe - Art on the Edge exhibition

Saturday

Kasia Hairdresser hosts artists Roger and David
See the Saltash Chronicles embroidery in the Baptist Church
Visit Ashtorpe to see local artists' work
Speedy Prints - artists' workshop

FOR CHILDREN

Friday

Community Market treasure trail
Original Factory Shop - face painting
Saltash Social Club - Messy Carts crafting and colouring
Teddy Bears' Picnic in the Peace Garden

Saturday

Maitlands host The Crafty Crowd for 4 to 10 year olds
Pavement Art competition at Saltash DIY

MUSIC

Friday

The Courtyard hosts Peter Crawford
Senior Moments entertain in the street
Coral Garden and The Courtyard - Livewire buskers entertain
Judy Whitlock is in Keast Mews
Peter Mancini is in the Brunel
Geoff Taylor is in the Railway Inn

Saturday

Livewire buskers are in the Courtyard
Hear the Saltash Handbell ringers in the Library
Mike plays the mandolin in The Brunel
Peter Mancini sings in the courtyard
Julie sings at Petit Pain

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Chamber Chairman Peter Ryland keeping us Updated...

So the people of the U.K. have decided to leave Europe. As a Chamber we do not get involved in the political debate. But the impact of the decision will have an effect on our members. At the time of writing this article the pound has fallen which will help those members who export but will have the reverse effect on those who import. Because holidays abroad will be more expensive it should encourage U.K. residents to holiday in the U.K., Cornwall should benefit.

Only time will tell how the decision will impact on Saltash. However, the Chamber is there to help members and thereby in trying to maintain the local economy. When I was doing my degree (40+ years ago) economics was part thereof and economists showed that £1 spent by a customer in a shop is worth £12.50 to the local economy. How? Well, the shopkeeper will replenish his stock from the wholesaler, the wholesaler

will spend with his manufacturer, who in turn will buy from the producer who buys his raw product from the farmer etc. etc. In each transaction there is a margin taken out for profit so the £1 becomes 91p becomes 82p etc. and if you add them all up that £1 generates £12.50.

The Chamber wants to make sure that as much of that £12.50 is spent locally because that expenditure creates employment and high

employment boosts the local economy because it gives more £1's to spend. Saltash Chamber therefore is involved in the microeconomics of the local economy but has to be aware of how national/international decisions will have an impact on the local community. If we can find ways to encourage more £1's to be spent then this will benefit not only our members but also the Saltash community at large.

The population of Saltash needs to spend more of its £1's locally and Saltash will prosper.

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The Waterside Lights Up

The Saltash Regatta weekend ended with fireworks and with the lighting up of the ancient heart of our town.

As the regatta weekend came to an end many had stayed on at the Green outside the 'Union Inn' to enjoy the brilliant bluegrass music of recording stars 'Flats and Sharps'.

As they concluded their performance Mayor Hilary Frank came on stage to announce that several months previously she and Lynn Marsh of Ashtorre Rock Centre had decided that a fitting way to mark Her Majesty's 90th Birthday locally would be to light up the Waterside with strings of lights.

They had been amazed at the overwhelming response from the Waterside community. There had followed financial donations from the Lions' quiz, Inner Wheel, Saltash Cine Group and from the Guides Queen's Birthday Tea held on the green two weeks earlier. Saltash Town Council had donated the balance and accordingly the lights were ready to be lit up.

A fiesta of fireworks shot into the skies from the pier before local resident Beryl Bond and daughter of the Union landlord Kelly Pritchard proudly threw the switch that lit the string of lights connecting the Victorian style lamp posts surrounding the green.

Another lamp post is, however, really needed to complete the picture and the Mayor would welcome ideas as to how to raise the £500 needed for this.

This is a very difficult article to write and I do so in the hope that a different view will also be written in this paper. The difficulty is to comment on the referendum result and the way that it might or might not affect Cornwall. I will put to one side the issue of the EU grant to Cornwall because legally the disbursement of that allocated money continues until the day of exit - I have checked this with the Chief Executive. Neither will I comment on the fact that SE Cornwall has received a miserable pittance of this money over the years, the biggest part of the cash has gone to the centre and west of Cornwall, for good reasons I am sure.

The certainty for us as a county is that we will be caught up in the inevitable leaving turbulence and there will be winners and losers for quite a few years. However the UK and especially Cornwall voted to leave, a position I supported in the end, having changed my mind for economic reasons; however if you voted "remain" you should consider whether your MEP should shoulder some blame, in Cornwall and also nationwide. My view is that MEP's have become faceless, distant and expensive and if different, I would welcome your opinion on this.

That the latter - their cost - is true is beyond dispute and since the great vote I have proved to myself the former by asking numerous people who their MEP actually was. Nobody knew and incredibly nobody at all even knew the sex of their MEP. Astounding, absolutely astounding and it begs the question - what do they do for us? Really they make our six Cornwall MP's seem paragons of help and communication, but to be fair I think our MP's of all political parties have indeed been pretty good over the years, keeping in touch with us and batting our Cornish end quite well.

So what might the effects be on us in Cornwall: foreign tourism should be up a little if

In the end I weighed it up and took the Cornish view that bureaucratic and undemocratic empires are not good. I think too, had we stayed in, that we would be harmed by the increasing marginalization of the U.K. as a non-euro member in a centralizing club. Critically we would have diminishing influence over what will really matter in the future - European monetary policy - the ability to control central banks, lending, currency and exchange rates.

So what other county matters have kept me awake lately? Pensions might be boring to loads of residents but government-forced changes have affected Cornwall's Local Government Pension Scheme, which I Chair, and which has 50,000 members. Boring perhaps but there are an awful lot of people in Saltash who should be interested. Basically eight other counties and the Environment Agency are forming a buying consortium and the theory is that buying investments in bulk will save money.

So I have been sitting on an Oversight Board while a company with directors etc. is formed to do this. Cornwall



CORNWALL COUNCIL



and our PL12 community

For Observer readers
 Derek Holley
 Cornwall Councillor, Saltash East.
 dholley@cornwall.gov.uk

the pound cheapens; industrial and particularly fishing and farming exports up similarly while our goods are cheaper abroad and there is a real opportunity as a result for exporters to show off their wares. A one-off opportunity is present now with Whitehall to further our devolution plans while there exists a feeling that Cornwall needs compensation and is hard done-by; our glorious Cornwall Council leader, John Pollard has already started on this. There should hopefully also be a boost in the future to our fishing industry because we can control our waters and stocks better.

The unknown for us, and a worry, is how negotiations for access to the common market will pan out, but the EC, if nothing else over the years has been a master of compromise, and this is what will happen again. There are downsides for us and I have been talking to a medical research scientist concerned about the EC part of the grants he gets for research, and how they might be replaced by UK grants - yes, top flight research does go on locally!

You have probably noticed I have not mentioned immigration from the EC and elsewhere - this is because I have never really been concerned about it and I am in the "remain" camp on this. History shows that immigration strengthens a country in the long run and the local immigrants I have come across in Saltash (and I know quite a few) are very hard working and very pleasant people - absolute model citizens in fact and it has been a pleasure to assist them from time to time with passports etc.

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LGPS will continue to control its own pension strategy to suit its particular make-up of members. We all hope the theory is correct because we are investing £1.5 billion pounds of your Cornish money and £23.5 billion in total. We have no choice: Big Brother has told us; we have to comply. You will therefore not be surprised to hear that my work as Chair of Pensions is the only council thing I wake up worrying about - whether or not we have done the right thing for our members!

After last year's potato disaster the current crop is looking pretty good! But just to get the balance right I have made an almighty mess-up of the tomatoes - I sowed two varieties intending to plant mostly Ferline with a couple of Sungolds but ended up with a greenhouse of mostly Sungolds with a couple of Ferlines - unbelievable! Next year I intend to get everything right! Hey ho and a sunny summer to you all!

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Mayoral Matters...

Alan Preedy, son of Rev. Arthur Preedy, Canon of the church of St. Nicholas and St. Faith here in Saltash, was just 23 when he died. He was killed in action on 1st July 1916. Alan has no known grave – he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial in the Somme. By the end of the first day of the Battle of the Somme on 1st July 100 years ago, 19,240 British men were dead. The scale of carnage on that day and in that battle retains a strong hold on Britain's collective and institutional memory.



That's one reason, surely, that the sight of men on Fore Street on 1st July 2016 dressed in the uniform of the First World War was such a haunting, evocative scene. Did you see them, too?

Thousands of volunteers appeared unexpectedly in locations across the UK as a memorial marking the centenary of the Battle of the Somme. Here in Saltash, they sat on the bench next to Ann Glanville. They marched silently across the Tamar Bridge.

For me, another reason the ghost soldiers left such a powerful impression was because they appeared in the wake of the EU Referendum. With the question on our ballot papers having been so black or white - Leave or Remain, Yes or No - we seem to have been left with a fractured society. One of our little daughters was taunted about her background because her father happens to have been born outside the UK... It is all too easy to blame politicians for this state of affairs but the sight of the soldiers reminded me of how grateful I am that we at least had the opportunity to vote.

We owe it to those ghost soldiers and we owe it to our children to work to heal any rifts. We need to carry on exploring inter-generational initiatives, providing ways of bringing people of different cultural backgrounds together, building relationships and appreciating our rich, multi-cultural society. Environmental concerns, personal freedoms, fighting discrimination and building a more inclusive society do not change whether we are in or out of the EU.

It has been a privilege,

since taking on the mantle of mayor of Saltash in May, to witness all the inspiring initiatives that are happening right here to build a cohesive society where each individual feels valued: the excellent concert by Saltash Ladies' Choir; the presentations at Saltash United Juniors Football Club, the awards ceremony at the Waterside Explorer Scouts; and the Rotary President's Night at Saltash.net. All these have shone a spotlight on the thriving sense of COMMUNITY spirit we enjoy here.

I know that we as citizens of Saltash will continue to move forward together, finding even more ways of bringing our community together. The words of Rev. Cryer, giving the sermon at the poignant service held at the church of St. Nicholas and St. Faith to commemorate the Battle of the Somme really struck a chord with me. Reflecting on the loss of life 100 years ago, he said: "It is our mandate to strive for peace". Every one of us, however we voted in the Referendum, needs to do all we can to build a more cohesive, inclusive and integrated society, where all are welcome and all are valued.

We had another chat with our daughter a few days after she got taunted. She said: 'It's alright, Mummy. We sorted it out'. I know Saltash can sort it out, too.

*Cllr Hilary Frank
Town Mayor*

Service 'Beyond Price'



Service 'beyond price' was rewarded at an event to celebrate and thank Saltash volunteers who give their time to the town's youth groups.

Volunteer Service PL12, part of Community Enterprises PL12, organised the 'Big Thank You' as part of National Volunteers Week and welcomed representatives from 14 local organisations, which have over 200 volunteers between them.

The Mayor, Councillor Hilary Frank presented certificates to acknowledge the major contribution these

organisations make to the town which, she said, "would not be possible without their amazing volunteers".

Nicole Higgins and Jesse Illingworth from Livewire provided musical entertainment and Grace Lovegrove and Ellie Kevern of Page2Stage read a poem about volunteering. After the presentations everyone was invited to enjoy a buffet and exchange information about their various activities.

Despite the number of people who already volunteer locally many more are needed. There are approximately 100

voluntary organisations within the Saltash area who provide vital services to the community and Volunteer Service PL12 help to find the volunteers they need.

If you have any amount of time to spare, whether it be a day a week, a couple of hours a month or just the occasional half day there is something for you. Remember doing good makes you feel good, if you are interested please contact us at volunteering@communityenterprisespl12.co.uk, phone us on 01752 848348 or call in at 4 Fore Street any Thursday between 9.30 am and 1.00 pm.

Waterside Inn is Dangerous Eyesore

The former Wheatsheaf (later the Waterside) Inn, as well as being a major eyesore on Saltash's historic waterfront is a dangerous environment. So concluded a report put by Councillor John Brady to Saltash Town Council.

Access to the derelict structure is comparatively easy, much of the guttering and signs are metal, some have dropped off and open windows on the first floor assist in access. There had been unconfirmed reports of people sleeping out there.

The rear wall is bowed outwards and there are no safety barriers around the exterior, the report continued.

The Town Council agreed to seek that Cornwall Council place an enforcement notice on the property to ensure it is made safe and in particular that two metre wooden hoardings be erected around the site.

Planning permission has been granted to convert the premises into apartments since when no action has been taken and the property has continued to deteriorate.

Community Room's Future for Discussion

The long term future of the Maurice Huggins Room in Victoria Gardens, at the top of Fore Street, is open to consideration.

Following its closure as a refreshment facility open to all, the town's Community Interest Company took over its running. However since the main user quit to find out of town premises, the company has relinquished the room, though they have continued to handle bookings. 'There is still a trickle of meetings held there', said CIC Chairman Peter Thistlethwaite. 'People do like it'.

The definitive answer as to who owns the premises is still being sought of Cornwall Council's legal department. When this has been confirmed the town council's devolution options group (DOG) hopes that the room, together with Victoria Gardens, might be devolved to the town council for it to administer. Ideas for the usage of the room itself would be open to consideration.

Ann Glanville Rides the Waves Again

The launching of a new gig by World Racing Champions Caradon Gig Club was a highlight of Saltash Waterside during the regatta weekend.

The club's original gig had been named after Saltash's renowned oarswomen of the Victorian age Ann Glanville (who lives again on Fore Street's 'talking bench') And Ann Glanville was the name given to her proud successor as she was launched in the presence of the great great granddaughter of Ann Glanville, Celia Armstrong a special guest for the occasion. The Boat was blessed by Reverend Prebendary Brian Anderson and crewed on her maiden voyage by the Caradon ladies crew who had been crowned World Champions at the May World Pilot Gig Championships in the Isles of Scilly, and hope for similar successes in their new craft.



NEWS UPDATE

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The Sun Shone, the Crowds Came to Share Saltash Regatta

Continued from page 1

The event had begun on Saturday morning with a grand parade down Fore Street led by Saltash Town Band and featuring children from local schools dressed in themed costume to celebrate the Queen's Ninetieth Birthday, which was also being celebrated this weekend.

There had been some doubt as to the gig racing taking place since the Jubilee Pontoon, opened in 2002 had been declared dangerous. Unless it is repaired by next year the future of the racing, which attracts participants from all over the South West and beyond, must be in doubt.



A Big thank you to the willing helpers



Cardboard Boat Race



The children enjoyed the entertainment

Packed Programme for Third Fantastic Festival of Arts

The Saltash Festival of Arts is back in late August and in its third year it promises a packed programme of events to enjoy and to participate in over a busy two days.

Music is to the fore and the repertoire promises to please all ages and musical tastes. The sounds of the forties and fifties will return at various venues around the town, while talented local acts from Livewire will be busking in the street. Together with female soloist, guitar accompanist, barbershop choir and the acclaimed vocal fun of Amy and Lacey on the Waterside and much more the

two days promises a veritable musical feast.

A feast of art displays from local talent throughout the town will also coincide with the chance to discover one's own artistic talents with 'messy carts' at Saltash Social Club and children's crafts in Fore Street. Children can also bring their furry friends to share a Teddy Bears' Picnic in Alexandra Square.

Alongside the Arts Festival

and back by popular demand is one of the highlights of the Saltash Olympic Torch Run festival, the Saltash Passport to Sport. Sports taster sessions will be available at various venues in and around town. And if this seems too much to cover in two days our Saltash Hopper Bus will provide a free service linking the venues.

The busy organisers are still finalising the details of the action packed programme, which will appear in full in your next month's Saltash Observer. Meanwhile book Friday and Saturday 26th and 27th August, for a Saltash community event to remember.

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Sailing, Modes and Festival Gain Town Funding

Successful applications for funding from the Town Council's Community Chest and Festival Fund came from Saltash Sailing Club, the Tamar Protection Society and Saltash Chamber of Commerce.

Four new sails for Topper sailing dinghies, popular with the club's young cadets, were sought by the Sailing Club and £937.60 was awarded towards these.

The Tamar Protection Society is aiming to install a Modes Compact System in Elliotts Shop, the time-warp grocery and sought a 25% contribution towards the total cost of this and a display cabinet. They were granted £850.00.

The '#LoveSaltash' festival,

promoting the town's businesses and seeking to increase football in and around Saltash is to be held for a third year, this year on Friday and Saturday 26th and 27th August. The town's Chamber of Commerce and Industry sought £600 towards the costs of this and this sum was agreed subject to the Chamber providing its accounts for the Town Council's approval.

The Regatta committee was awarded the £1512.00 that it requested.

Parking Tickets Never on a Sunday

Having parked the car as usual on a Sunday morning in Culver Road, the daughter of local resident Steve Miller was surprised to return and find a £70 fixed penalty ticket attached.

As owner of the vehicle Mr Miller received a 'Notice to Owner' from Cornwall Council twenty-eight days later. He telephoned the council and after long delays, spoke to a parking official to advise him that the single yellow lines are Monday to Saturday only. He agreed and confirmed that the letter could be ignored.

Mr Miller was therefore shocked to receive a charge notice threatening further action shortly afterwards. After a further lengthy call to Cornwall Council he was told 'we do not check before we send these out', Mr Miller told the 'Observer'. He wonders how many other parking tickets

might have been wrongly issued on a Sunday and the drivers just paid up. I was given the excuse 'the warden was new to the area and did not know the restrictions', he added.

Press Secretaries & Correspondents

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A Tea Party Fit For A Queen

A May afternoon with a hazy sun shining on Saltash Waterside proved the perfect venue for Saltash to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's ninetieth birthday.

Live music from duo 'Anything Goes' wafted over the Green where scores of families strolled or sat enjoying tea and delicious homemade cakes. The event was organised by Mayor Hilary Frank who was present with consort Shojiro and their young daughters, together with Lynn Marsh of neighbouring Ash Torre and Julie Dingle, local guide leader. Guides together with their families and friends had donated the home made cakes for which there was a constant queue.

The Queen herself was present, if only in full size replica standing adjacent to Brunel. Any profits from the event were to go to Saltash Guides, the mayor's chosen charity.

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Cornish Symbol Sought for Carkeel Roundabout

The first and last roundabout in Cornwall, at Carkeel, should hold a symbolic feature welcoming visitors to the county, Town Councillors considered.

Work on the roundabout should begin with night work in mid September and will last for over a year. The end result will be an oval roundabout with traffic lights to regulate access at busy times.

Relaxed regulations mean that Highways England now allow installations in the middle of roundabouts such as frequently feature on French highways.

A rowing gig was suggested by Councillor Mrs Sue Hooper MBE as a fitting feature following the local Caradon ladies rowers becoming World Champions.

A mine engine house with a Cornish miner, possibly holding a pasty, could welcome visitors to Cornwall, County Councillor Bob Austin suggested, while a boat with fisherman could face those leaving the county.

Highways England are being asked to confirm what might be considered acceptable.

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Creative Arts Flourish for Actors, Musicians and Writers

The packed houses who came to enjoy the pre-Christmas all-school production of 'Annie' last year will be delighted to hear that rehearsals are already underway for what promises to be an outstanding 2016 show. Saltash.net has been fortunate to secure one of the first amateur licenses to produce the West End success 'Billy Elliot', with leading roles played by students from local primary schools.

Yet this is just one of the opportunities for students to become involved in the arts. Organised public concerts, and student concerts fundraising for charity, are a regular feature at the school, which also welcomes outside performers. This year students were excited to welcome back old friends from Uganda, 'Pearl of Africa' and the African children let their Saltash friends share the thrill of playing their vibrant and dramatic music.

Young budding writers, too, have been inspired by visits from local authors including Ian Parsons who read from his debut novel 'A Secret Step' and gave invaluable advice on careers as writers.

Some students indeed launched their careers last Christmas with their own poetry in a fund raising anthology 'A Very Cornish Christmas', much enjoyed by your 'Saltash Observer' correspondent. Twenty six students also had their short stories published in the Grim Tales Southern Adventures anthology.

Boosting literacy for all is a key aim at saltash.net. Year 7 to 10 students are involved in the Leaders of Literacy Scheme, working to have fun while helping improve literacy in primary school students. The year 7 Leaders of Literacy were presented in assembly with purple badges to reflect the school's 'Purple Pens of Progress' ethos and these they are wearing with pride.

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Firstly I would like to thank the people of Cornwall for taking the brave step to vote to leave the European Union. Not only does Britain face a new relationship with the EU but Britain can be outward looking and a big player in the World, free from the constraints that EU membership brought with it.

Of course this move will not happen overnight and will take many lengthy negotiations, but I will be fighting in Parliament to ensure that Cornwall and our farmers still get the funding they need. Indeed this funding could prove a greater benefit once we can pay this UK money directly to the recipients without it being recycled through the unelected European Commission who have always added their own rules.

I will also continue to fight to get a better deal for our fishermen as we extract ourselves from the Common Fisheries Policy, which even many people who wanted to remain in the EU admit has failed.

I was very sad to hear of David Cameron's resignation as Prime Minister and was one of many MPs who wrote him a letter asking him to stay. He has been an excellent Prime Minister

SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...



who has done so much to turn our struggling economy around. I would like to thank him for all he has done.

We do not yet know who will replace him that will be up to my colleagues and I in the Conservative Parliamentary Party in the first instance and ultimately the Conservative Party Membership who will deliver the final selection. However, work has already been started with the setting up of the new Unit in the Cabinet Office to allow Civil Servants to formulate plans for our eventual exit from the

European Union. I would like to assure all of my Constituents that I will work with all of my colleagues within and outside of the Conservative Party to respect those who did not share my view in the Referendum and work together towards a strong future for my Country, County and Constituency.

I would also like to reassure my Constituents that I will continue to represent all of those who I have been elected to represent and my staff and I will continue to provide assistance when requested to do so.

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Essa Files

This is not a column about Brexit. I say that firstly because you may have expected it to be, and secondly because to the casual reader it might still look like it is. I certainly have strong personal views about (against) Brexit and the impact it will have on our economy, security, equality and tolerance. However right now it's not my opinion that's particularly bothering me.

What bothers me is Jane's opinion. Jane is a fictional but fairly typical 16-year-old. When we voted for Brexit she had just finished her GCSEs. When the new Prime Minister triggers Article 50, the formal request to leave the EU, she'll have recently started in the Sixth Form. If, as she may hope to do, she goes to university she'll be arriving on campus just as we actually depart. If, and I hope this will not happen but very much fear it will, Brexit plunges us into a recession then its effects will still be being felt when Jane graduates and searches, possibly unsuccessfully, for a good job and a secure future.

'Hold on' you might say at this point. 'You don't even know if Jane wanted to stay in the EU: maybe she is pro-Brexit'. You are 100% correct. I don't actually know how

millions of real 16 and 17 year olds would have voted, and nor do you, because we didn't let them vote. In a decision that will affect their future, their education and their job prospects more than the rest of us they were forced into silence.

The logical case for votes at 16 is hard to dispute: we ask 16 year olds to make major decisions about their future – sixth form or college; apprenticeship or armed forces; work or university; we allow them to get married and have children; and at 17 we allow them to take control of a ton of moving metal and drive it down the road. The idea that we then make them wait a minimum of two years, and in some cases nearly seven (since some young people do not get to participate in a general election until they are nearly 23), before they can help choose the government that sets those rules, charges taxes, and potentially sends them off to war, is very hard to defend.

Beyond that though there are several points made against votes at 16 which I feel just do not stack up. Some argue that young people have no interest in Politics: I teach the subject so I know that's not true. Some say 'OK, but most young people have no interest – only the few who study it'. I know how many, Politics student and non-

Politics student alike. wanted to talk to me about the referendum result the day afterwards so I know that's not true. Some say '16 year olds would only vote with their parents'. I don't have children of my own but chuckle at the idea that teenagers will suddenly all decide that their parents are the fountains of all life wisdom. Some say that many 16 year olds wouldn't bother to vote, which confuses me because if that's the case then why would they mind giving the right to those who do want to use it? Some say 16 year olds just don't have the maturity to exercise political decisions which makes me wish they knew how much the 16 year olds I teach do voluntarily for their communities.

We can argue about whether a referendum was the best way to decide Brexit. We can argue whether we got the best result. I really don't see any good argument as to why we all got to decide Jane's future and she didn't. Whatever else comes out of this referendum it's time we got her, and other 16 and 17 year olds a voice, a choice, and a vote.

Adam Killea

Conundrum Corner

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

- 1 What name is given to the branch of Zoology that involves the study of Birds? (11)
 - 2 The Gall Bladder is attached to which organ of the human body? (5)
 - 3 In which Country is the source of the Amazon River found? (4)
 - 4 Shout and Boom Bang-a-Bang were UK top ten hit singles in the 1960s for which singer? (4)
 - 5 Which Country had the singular misfortune to declare War on both the Allies and on the Germans during World War II? (5)
 - 6 What gives the Greek drink Ouzo its flavour? (7)
 - 7 In which Sea is the Dogger Bank situated? (5)
 - 8 What was the name of the dog in Enid Blyton's Famous Five stories? (5)
- Answers on page 8

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Steps Ahead

Pillmere Play Park Re-Landscaped

There is a strong wish among Pillmere residents to have a central adventure play park, which has been closed for two years due to unsafe equipment, removed and the equipment taken away.

Local Cornwall Councillor Jo Ellison reported this to Saltash Town Council, adding that if the equipment were removed the valley could then be re-landscaped and converted back into a natural valley floor.

There is a problem in doing so since the provision of a play park was a condition of the original granting of planning permission for the surrounding estate. The Town Council, which owns the land, would therefore have to make a formal planning application to waive this condition and to remove the equipment. It was agreed that such an application should be made.

Leisure Centre's Future Uncertain

The future of Cornwall's eleven leisure centres including the popular facility in Saltash is uncertain as Cornwall Council intends to dispose of them.

The contract for the running of Saltash Leisure Centre comes to an end in April 2017.

Saltash Town Council is currently taking on a number of local facilities from Cornwall under planned devolution. However Mayor elect Councillor Hilary Frank told the Council, 'Maintenance costs for a swimming pool are astronomical. A Town Council could simply not consider taking this on'.

Year 11s' 'official' last day



Year 11s' 'official' last day is a rite of passage anticipated with a range of emotions by students and staff alike at saltash.net community school. The 12th May marked the end of Year 11s' time at the school (apart from exams and an extensive revision programme!) and students were sent off in a way they would remember for years to come.

The last day for Year 11s at saltash.net isn't like an ordinary leavers' day. All members of Year 11 come in fancy dress, and instead of the usual sadness that accompanies a last day, there is a party atmosphere.

With outfits ranging from zombies and superheroes to Donald Trump and cheerleaders, students in fancy dress were treated to a

buffet lunch in the gym, with students choosing the accompanying music.

Each student received an autograph book to record good luck wishes, and many spent the day getting friends and teachers to sign.

After lunch, a farewell assembly was held, with awards handed out by each of the year's tutors and a number of musical performances. Shannon Paris, Aeryn Sedgwick, and the duos of Hollie Kiely and Catherine Williams and Lucy Kevern and Tiegan Aire, performed in front of their peers, bringing many to tears. All of the performers were surrounded

by friends after they had finished, and there were a number of standing ovations.

Following the performances, Headteacher, Mrs Bryce, commended the class of 2016, praising all they had accomplished at the school and wishing them the best for the summer and their futures beyond it.

Although a day of farewells, the year group will be coming together again for their prom which will be held at Boringdon Park Golf Club on the 1st July, and many will also be returning to study for A Levels in the 6th Form with Induction Days taking place at the end of June.

Conundrum Answers:

Answers: 1 Ornithology 2 Liver 3 Fern 4 Lulu 5 Italy 6 Aniseed 7 North 8 Timmy. Re-arranged the letters spell the Village of Pilton

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