

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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July 2017 - Issue 304

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Public May Comment on Cornwall's Plan for Saltash

Public consultation is open now on Cornwall Council's plans for the development up until 2030, of ten Cornish towns including Saltash. "Creating healthy, sustainable and attractive communities for our residents," is what Cornwall Council considers it's objective in laying out the Cornwall Site Allocation Development Plan Document released in March 2017. This may be accessed online (www.cornwall.gov.uk/allocationsplan) or perused in the local library.

The plan shows that from a population of 16419 living in 7281 dwellings according to the 2011 census, Saltash is projected to have an increase of 1200 homes by 2013. This will be matched by 6917 square metre of office accommodation and 10583 square metres of industrial space, intended to address the current local imbalance between the number of jobs and level of housing.

Since the majority of new housing is aimed at Broadmoor and employment growth at Stoketon Cross, both north of the A38, plans

will require major investment in the town's infrastructure including education, open space and transportation, especially linking the existing town centre to the new development to the North West. The plan does not allow for new retail space other than local shops, serving the Broadmoor community. Broadmoor has already received planning permission for mixed use, including a thousand houses subject to Highways issues being resolved.

Local schools are already near capacity the plan notes,

with the four primaries taking 1360 pupils and a forecast surplus of only a hundred places in 2017. With new housing anticipated to create demand for an extra two hundred places in 2017, a new four class school will be required. Meanwhile the town's secondary school is predicted to reach capacity of 1360 next year and with an extra 250 places required as the town grows by 2030, it is anticipated that expansion of the existing school can cater for this.

With two surgeries

currently servicing 19000 residents, by 2030 a further 640 square metres will be needed to meet practice guidance levels. The plan notes that the Broadmoor development proposals include a new healthcare facility on site.

There are currently over nine thousand daily commuter trips between South East Cornwall and Plymouth, largely from Saltash where 43% of the working population commutes to Plymouth. Despite the frequent bus service, 67% of journeys are

made by car and only 1% by rail. The cycle routes in particular are targeted for improvement and the plan stresses a need to invest in walking, cycling and public transport improvements, especially to cater for the new Broadmoor population. Road improvements are also targeted, especially at junctions currently filled to capacity, together with enhanced rail and bus services and a town wide cycle network is proposed. It is noted that Cornwall Council is working with Plymouth City Council for a western corridor park and ride facility.

Green infrastructure figures largely in the plan with the need to preserve biodiversity, public open spaces and rights of way. It identifies sites to be protected and stresses the importance of maintaining and expanding "green links" for cyclists and walkers. Areas where flood protection work is required are also identified.

Comments and representation on the plan document are invited and must be submitted by

7th August, by email, by post or by hand to any One Stop Shop, including Saltash Library. The form, which may be downloaded or collected in paper format, provides space for individual comments and modification on any one town. Those, whose representations are seeking a change, are invited to say whether they wish to participate in the oral part of the examination in public.

Once consultation closes on 7th August, Cornwall Council will review all representations received and decide whether the project should move on to the next stage which will be an 'examination in public,' independently undertaken by the planning inspectorate. They will decide whether the council can adopt the document. As and when adopted it will be of significance in the consideration of future planning applications in Saltash and other towns covered, and all such application will be considered on the basis of whether or not they comply with the Cornwall development plan.



Regatta report pages 4/5

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Boundary Commission Proposes a Big Cut to the Size of Cornwall Council

Right now, there are 123 councillors on Cornwall Council. It sounds like a lot, doesn't it? But let's do some number crunching here. Before 2009, when there were six district councils and one county council, the total number of councillors representing the people of Cornwall was 331. Then the County and districts were amalgamated in to one authority and the number of councillors was reduced to 123. With a population of 549,404, it means each councillor is looking after the needs of, on average, 4,467 people. Compare this to Wales. If you take in to account the Welsh Assembly, which adds another tier of government we don't have in Cornwall, each councillor there is representing roughly 2,330 people. So already it seems



CORNWALL
COUNCIL



and our PL12 community
For Observer readers
From Councillor Hilary Frank
Saltash South

there is a democratic deficit in Cornwall compared to our Celtic cousins in Wales.

Last year, the Boundary Commission gave clear guidance that it wanted to see a reduction in the number of councillors on Cornwall Council, and asked Cornwall Council to suggest a number it thought appropriate. After much debate and extensive research the Council proposed 99, partly because it relates well to existing community network boundaries.

But at the end of June this year, the Boundary Commission proposed that the number of councillors on Cornwall Council be cut by a massive 29% to 87. This will mean each councillor will be looking after

an average of 6315 residents! The precise details of how this will impact on Saltash aren't clear yet, but it is likely to mean 3 councillors instead of the current 4.

There are various reasons this worries me.

First: all councils ought to be representative of the people they serve. But any cut in the number of councillors will increase the workload, and this is likely to discourage younger people, people with busy careers, or people on lower incomes from considering standing for election. It is highly likely to lead to a 'silver' council, where most of the councillors are retired because they are the only ones with the time and financial means to be able to become a councillor. Surely Cornwall deserves a gold council, not a silver one!

Next: overloading councillors on Cornwall Council will inevitably mean that an increasing amount of work will get passed on to town and parish councils. At least Cornwall Councillors receive an allowance to offset loss of earnings and expenses. The allowance is just under £14,000 at the moment. Most town and parish councillors, though, are volunteers – here in Saltash the allowance for a councillor is £200. It doesn't seem fair to increase the workload of volunteers, does it?

Also: there is the question of why Cornwall is being treated unfairly compared to other areas where the Boundary Commission has conducted a review. Here are statistics from other county council boundary reviews between the 2013 and 2017 elections: Cambridgeshire – cut by eight to 61; Cumbria – no change; East Sussex – increased by one to 50; Hampshire – no change; Hertfordshire – increased by one to 78; Kent – cut by three to 81. None have suffered the same level of cuts as the proposed reduction in Cornwall. Why is Cornwall being singled out for unfair treatment?

The Local Government Boundary Commission has launched a consultation on its proposal of 87 councillors, with a closing date of 7th August. It will consider the representations and publish a formal decision on councillor numbers, after which it will start work on dividing Cornwall up in to geographical areas that will fit that number. The main question the Boundary Commission is asking is if a council size of 87 would enable Cornwall Council to represent the interests of all Cornwall's communities and take decisions effectively? In my view it would not, but please log on to www.lgbce.org.uk to find out more and to give your views. Alternatively, have a chat with one of the 4 Cornwall Councillors in Saltash – we hold a surgery on Saturday mornings at the library from 10am to 12noon. No appointment necessary.

Plastic Pots, Tubs and Trays for Recycling

From the end of July, Cornwall Council is adding plastic pots, tubs and trays to the recycling items collected from houses in Saltash.

Over the last couple of years, the Council has been running a trial with 46,000 properties in central Cornwall to get a better understanding of the environmental benefits and costs of collecting these additional plastics. The results of the trial have been so positive that Cornwall Council has taken the decision to invest in expanding the scheme to cover the whole of Cornwall. The expanded recycling service was extended to cover areas like Newquay and St. Austell earlier this year, with Saltash, Liskeard and Callington due to be covered from the end of July as part of Phase 3. Bude,

Launceston and Bodmin will follow in Phase 4, before Phase 5 sees the service extended to places in the west of the county like Penzance and Hayle, so that eventually the whole of Cornwall will be covered.

So what can be put out in the recycling collection in Saltash from the end of July? The lasers used for sorting can't 'see' black, so no black plastics, but Cornwall Council will collect all other colours of plastics such as yoghurt pots, margarine tubs, biscuit box inserts and food trays. No pet food pouches, crisp packets or cling film, though, because currently they cannot be sold for recycling. Remember to wash and squash the plastics first, but there is no need to remove the labels. Then add them to the same recycling bag as the one you already use for plastic bottles, tins and cans. New bags are free and can be ordered by going online www.cornwall.gov.uk/potstubs rays or by ringing 0300 1234 141. Use those same details to check your recycling collection day.

The extension of the recycling service was welcomed by David Pemberton, Chair of Saltash Environmental Action Group, who said: "We are pleased that Cornwall Council is at last responding to requests to improve their recycling offer. We all share responsibility for the future wellbeing of our planet, so we hope Saltash residents will embrace this initiative and recycle, recycle, recycle."

It costs Cornwall Council about £185 to collect and dispose of a tonne of household rubbish, but only £110 to deal with a tonne of recyclable rubbish. Cornwall Council estimates that if everyone in Cornwall uses the recycling collection service nearly £3million could be saved every year. So as well as helping to save the planet, people who recycle their pots tubs and trays will be helping to save money.

Council Seat Falls Vacant

There is a vacancy for a Saltash town councillor following the resignation of Mike Woolford, who was newly elected to the town council in May.

This will require a bye-election if ten voters in the Saltash East Ward demand it, at a cost to the local tax payer estimated at around £2500. If there no such demand the town council can co-opt a new member, and if more than one person is put forward can select which candidate may join council for the remainder of the four year term.

Observer Telephone Numbers
07971484872
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Peter Ryland Chamber Chairman keeping us Updated...

Christmas (yes Christmas) is coming and although still 5 months off the Chamber is working hard to put together the Christmas Festival in Fore Street.

This year the Chamber has taken on the event and has secured funding through the S.106 Panel to help stage the event.

Under the leadership of the Vice Chairman, Danielle Frith (Truly Scrumptious) with the help of other Chamber members including Aaron Monk (Diverse Events), Mike Parker (Saltash DIY) we are looking to hold the event on the 1st Saturday in December and are not looking to have any major changes to previous years. We do, however, want to make this a community event and are looking for ideas for additional activities from community and sports clubs in the town. We are also looking at sponsorship as we need to raise funds to ensure that the event continues for years to come as this year's S.106 funding may not be available.

So, if you have any thoughts on an activity you would like to put on, on behalf of your club or on ways of securing funds for the future, please let us know through Facebook or direct to Danielle, Mike, Aaron or myself.

We propose to have a meeting of those people with ideas in the near future and will publicise date/location soon. Chamber members are also concerned, in general, that footfall in the town centre seems to be declining and we are looking at ways to attract shoppers. If you have any ideas then please let us know? But the Chamber is not just an organisation for town centre retailers as it also represents all business types from the single person working from home to regional businesses and is always open to new

members. On this basis I have had meetings/ discussions in the last few months re. Brexit, the impact of the new rateable values on business premises, the effect of the foreign currency exchange rate on imports/exports and how to improve communication links (rail/road/plane) to the rest of the country.

Once again reverting to Christmas I would once again ask everybody to think about what they can do to make the Festival a real community event.

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Letter to the Editor...

From Chains to Warden

I was interested in your article, 'Further views sought on Mayoress' Chain' in the June issue of Saltash Observer. It appears the public are deemed to be most likely to hold no opinion on this issue. I believe that anyone who reads the Saltash Observer is most likely to have an opinion on everything. □

I would therefore like to offer my view, for what it is worth, on this issue. An Internet search quickly revealed that there are mayoral chains for consorts around the country (Warrington for example). Saltash has mayoral chains for its mayor and mayoress. Since the world has moved on from being totally male-dominated, surely we should use the 'mayoress' chain for the partners of our mayors, whether they be male or female?

Warden

AND, rather than writing a separate letter regarding the article 'Waterfront Warden Gains Base' which followed the above, surely we can get a local merchant to build or provide a unit for the warden for less than the £1,500 for 50 weeks' rental – perhaps with advertising incentive? He/she may even accept payment on monthly terms.
Denise Watkins,
Saltash resident

Letter to the Editor...

Bottle Tops

Dear Editor,
A network of people locally have been collecting and recycling milk bottle tops for a nursing home to obtain wheelchairs. The home no longer takes the tops and, so, we are looking for a charity or group able to take on and use the large quantities we have collected. The firm who recycles them is on the south coast, with a nearest collection point of Yeovil. The main collection point in Saltash has been Saltash DIY & Home Decorating shop in the town. If anyone is able to help with this please respond through the Observer.

Nancy Franklin
Saltash

Conundrum Corner

Taking the initial letter to the one-word answers to the following eight questions can you re-arrange them to make a Cornish place name?
1 Which musical instrument is named after its shape? (8)
2 In C. S Lewis's Chronicles of Narnia what sort of creature is Aslam? (4)
3 What is the name of the large mountainous island in the Firth of Clyde? (5)
4 Daffodils belong to which genus of bulb? (9)
5 Which famous Battle took place on Senlac Hill? (8)
6 To what was Henry Ford referring when he said: If you are healthy you do not need it and if you are sick you shouldn't take it? (8)
7 What is added to Scrambled Eggs to make the dish Scotch Woodcock? (9)
8 Which European City is known as the Eternal City? (4)

Answers on Page 7

Bishop Cornish Primary School Achieves a Bronze Award for Promoting Active Democracy Loudly

On Friday 23rd June, pupils from Bishop Cornish School were among children from 14 primary schools across Cornwall who were presented with a Promoting Active Democracy Loudly (PADL) Award, recognising their school council's work in promoting effective student voice and student leadership.

School councils are an important and useful way for schools to provide leadership and development opportunities for their pupils, helping young people learn about democracy, local and global citizenship and accountability. The PADL project was set up by members of the Cornwall Youth Forum in 2001 and run by children's charity Barnardos until 2012, when the work was taken over by the Cornwall Healthy Schools team. It provides a set of standards for primary school councils to guide and measure effective student voice, and celebrates their achievements through annual award ceremonies.

At this year's ceremony, which was held in the Council Chamber at County Hall in



Truro, each school gave a short presentation about their activities before being presented with their PADL Award by Council Chairman Mary May and Vice Chairman Hilary Frank.

"All of the schools have done a great job in developing the confidence and skills of their pupils to become responsible citizens for the future, and I'd like to congratulate all the young people, along with their teachers, parents and

carers", said Vice Chairman Hilary Frank. "On a personal note, I am absolutely thrilled that one of my very first duties since assuming the role of Vice Chair is to present this prestigious Award to a Saltash school."

The Award Ceremony was followed by a question and answer session where Cllr. May and Cllr. Frank fielded a string of questions from the children, keen to use the microphones. Questions ranged from "Who inspires

Adults pictured in the photo, from left to right, are:

Cllr. Hilary Frank, Vice Chair Cornwall Council
Andrea Edwards, Teacher,
Bishop Cornish School
Cllr. Mary May, Chair Cornwall Council

you?" through to "Did you actually pay for this building?". The eloquence and confidence of the children impressed everyone in attendance.

Mayoral Matters

Please allow me to introduce myself as the new Mayor of Saltash. I was voted in as Mayor in May and Cllr David Yates was made Deputy Mayor. We are both delighted to be given the opportunity to work for our wonderful town of Saltash.

There are some very positive and great things that have happened in the last couple of weeks. The station building and adjacent land now belongs to The Town Council, and The Station Working Party, led by Cllr Richard Bickford is beginning the task of the refurbishment process. We are working hard on this but it is likely to be a long process. We first need to clean the building out; lots of pigeons have called it home for quite some time!

Secondly Cornwall Council has given us a tenancy at will for the pontoon on the Waterfront. It is refurbished and ready to go. This means we can go ahead and begin taking bookings. Our Waterfront and Town Warden Mr Jeff Diamond is taking care of this and can be contacted via the Guildhall.

Exciting times!

Recently one of our new councillors sadly decided to resign from his position as an East Ward member. This means that The Town Council has to find a replacement. If there is more than one candidate there are two ways of achieving this. Firstly if ten residents of the ward sign that they want an election then an election will go ahead. Secondly if this does not happen then the Town Council will look to co-opt a new member. We look forward to welcoming a new member of The Town Council.

Cllr Jean Dent
Mayor of Saltash

Hopper Bus Trips

July/Aug 2017

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Bicton Botanical Gardens & Exmouth
9.30am - 18.30pm £10.00

Sunday 16th July

NGS Gunnislake Garden Walkabout
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Sunday 23rd July

Sunday Lunch at Smugglers Inn Seaton
11.30am - 16.00pm £5.00

Friday 28th July

Seaton & Lyme Regis
9am - 19.00pm £14.00

Sunday 30th July

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Wednesday 2nd August

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10.00am - 16.00pm £6.00

Sunday 6th August

Sunday Lunch at Carriages Exeter
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10.45 am - 17.30pm £10.00

Friday 11th August

Friday Fish at Port & Starboard then to Truro
11.00am - 18.00pm £12.00

Tuesday 15th August

River Dart Round Robin
River, Rail & Road
Times to be confirmed - £11.00

Friday 18th August

RHS Rosemoor's First ever Flower Show
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Tuesday 22nd August

Newton Abbot Races Ladies Evening
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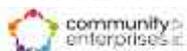
Sunday 27th August

Sunday Lunch at Whitsand Bay Hotel
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Darran (left) and Mike after finishing the ride in Plymouth.

Colleagues Cycle to Raise Funds for Local School

St. Mellion School in Saltash are celebrating after receiving funds for new gym equipment.

Electricity company Western Power Distribution (WPD) colleagues Darran Witton and Mike Keay after completing Mouth To Mouth, an 80-mile cycle ride from Exmouth to Plymouth raised the funds.

Darran, whose daughter is a pupil at the school, said: "It was hard work, but we are so pleased to be able to give back to such a great school."

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With the warm June sunshine sparkling on the Tamar, a colourful variety of stalls spread along the shoreline and non-stop entertainment afloat and ashore, the crowds soon flocked to Saltash Waterside to share the fun on regatta weekend. The weekend began with a grand civic parade down through the town, the town band leading the mayor and councillors, followed by a host of children dressed up for the theme 'Under the Sea.' As they reached the Waterside, the fun was soon to begin with live music in a variety of venues and other entertainment, varying from performances by Wreckers Morris to the magic of Billy Wizz. Meanwhile gig boats sped along the water, including a Breton crew specially invited from our twin town of Plougastel. Later forty dinghies took part in a spectacular race above the bridge.

Sunday morning opened with a combined open air service in the sunshine from Saltash Churches Together, conducted by baptist and methodist ministers Tim Parkman and Jonathan Budd. Then the throaty growl of a dozen or so sports cars announced the arrival of the Tamar Valley MG Owners club.

The day was so warm that most of the fifty wild swimmers who braved the crossing of the Tamar to England and back at high tide also braved dispensing with wet suits in favour of swimming costumes. All returned safely and soon many of our local youngsters were enjoying bathing from the sandy beach at Ashtorpe.

Highlight of the day for many, was the Cardboard Boat Race. Highly inventive designs were incorporated into the five entrants that were first blessed by the Reverend Brian Anderson who recalled that all the boats that he blessed last year quickly sunk. This year's entrants were more fortunate and all more or less completed the course despite some skulduggery at sea. First boat back was 'Dadadventures' crewed by



Pictured above: Breton Boatmen - Among the scores of pilot gig boat crews was one representing Saltash's twin town. Six crewmen and a cox were specially invited to cross from Plougastel, to compete in an international event.

While some had previously rowed a pilot gig boat, for others it proved a new and interesting rowing experience - but all confirmed that they enjoyed the competition and the fellowship.

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dangerous dads, overall winner was the all-women crew of "Pegasus" who also won the Brunel award for creativity judged by the High Sheriff of Cornwall and the Mayor of Saltash. A special ward for the most spectacular sinking went to the maritime cadets, the judges being impressed at their saluting as the ship went down.

Meanwhile Saltash Rowing Club was busy on the water running their one day regatta, while Saltash Sailing Club was offering a "try a sailing yacht experience" from their own premises. The town's newly renovated

pontoon, re-installed just in time for the weekend, was in constant use. The final event on shore was a new experience, a colourful "paint party" in which the young and young at

heart of Saltash, (including several regatta committee members) were encouraged to paint bomb their peers with environmentally friendly coloured corn starch. As the hard working and

paint bomb splattered committee set to the long task of clearing up, with many visitors remaining to enjoy the evening sunshine, they were happy knowing that they had helped maintain and

build upon the reputation that Saltash Regatta, established since 1835 has enjoyed for bringing fun and entertainment as well as water-borne sporting activity to the Saltash community.

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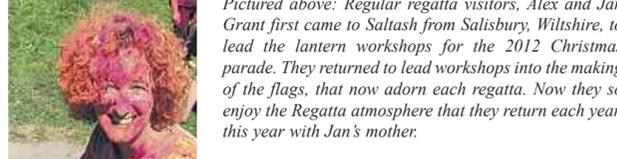
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Pictured left: Colourful committee members - Susie Khan relaxed after the regatta having fully participated in the paint party finale.

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Cream Tea in Delightful Setting



On Saturday 24th June a Cream Tea was held in the garden of Derek and Margaret Holley. This was in aid of the Saltash/Mbare in Zimbabwe Partnership.

The partnership between Wesley church and Mbare church has existed for over twenty years and helps with school fees for the children, help given to orphans at the Matthew Rusike Children's Home and food for those who have very little.

A party of seven members of Wesley church will be visiting Mbare in July.



Children who came along enjoyed playing in the garden whilst their parents had a relaxing tea.

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Pictured above is the committee, which organised the afternoon where £550 was raised.

Firstly I would like to thank the over 55% or 29,493 people from South East Cornwall who have put their trust in me. It is a great honour to represent the people who I grew up with, work with and live amongst. I do know that receiving the highest majority ever in Cornwall is not just down to me. My staff in Liskeard work incredibly hard trying to sort out constituents issues and I would like to thank them for their hard work. I would also like to thank all the Conservative Party volunteers who went out banging on doors, delivering leaflets and putting up posters. It was a real team effort. Another election also took place on the 4th May when the number of Conservative Councillors in South East Cornwall went from 4 just before the election to 10 representing the constituency. In particular I would like to congratulate Cllr Sheila Lennox-Boyd on her successful election to Cornwall Council as the new member for Saltash North. I know she will make an excellent champion for local residents.

During the General election there are no MPs. This has meant I have not been able to offer the service to local constituents that I would like to. Having been now re-elected I ask constituents to contact me in my Liskeard office on 01579 344428 or emai@sheryllmurray.com or write to me at The Office of Sheryll Murray MP, The

SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...



Parade, Liskeard PL14 6AF. Unfortunately I cannot deal with casework over social media due to confidentiality so please use the above contact methods and do not get offended if I remove your comment.

The Queen has formally opened Parliament outlining the Government's programme. Brexit was a key part of the speech and one that I continue to monitor closely. I want to ensure that what South East Cornwall and the country voted for actually happens – that we leave the European Union and I will be examining the detail carefully. I was pleased to hear the importance of strengthening the economy so investment can be made in health, education and other services. I am keen to ensure that no school in South East Cornwall loses out and want to see a fairer funding formula. I am also keen to see improvements in health care and want to see better Social Care for those in need. It was good to see a firm commitment to developing innovation and ensuring that we have the infrastructure to support growth. I also want to ensure that South East Cornwall is at the forefront of this. With recent tragic events in mind I

look to the government to ensure that we have adequate policing to fight terrorism and that we have adequate safety laws and that lessons are learnt.

I am pleased that a deal has been done with the DUP to give the UK the stability we need as a country as we Brexit. The Conservative Party won 318 seats to Labour's 262 and with almost 800,000 more votes than Labour was clearly in the far stronger position to form a Government. In 2010 Labour had also approached the DUP with the promise of a block grant. I would also like to assure anyone who is concerned about scare stories regarding issues like gay marriage and abortion rights in the UK after this deal. These are devolved matters and in no way will be affected by the agreement.

Lastly I joined students, parents and tutors at Cornwall College Saltash for their annual awards ceremony. It was a fantastic event and it is so good to see these young people attain such good vocational qualifications. It was also good to hear that many are about to start on their chosen career path through the apprenticeship system.

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Essa Files

A few different things, none of them directly connected, have made me think about tradition quite a lot this month. I am, in general, fairly fond of tradition: quite apart from the fact that change for change's sake is rarely worth the increased stress, tradition itself has value.

It contributes to a sense of national or community identity, it's often comforting or reassuring, and often traditions have evolved because they either function well or they represent something important. When I did my year as Mayor I enjoyed a lot of the tradition – the mayoral chains, the tossing of pennies and hot fruit at mayor choosing, the conferring of the freedom of the town on Colin Breed. Equally though I'm not averse to changing tradition where it doesn't serve an obvious purpose and may cause some harm – for example I never liked the assumption that male councillors were always just

Cllr X, whilst females were always Cllr Mrs X. I had no problem with people choosing to be called Cllr Mrs (or Cllr Mr), but the automatic assumption bothered me as it seemed to smack of a time when the 'normal councillor' was male, and a female Cllr was a deviation. Therefore, when a female councillor wanted to drop the 'Mrs' (without forcing anyone else to) I was fully behind her right to do so.

This thought occurred to me in conjunction with two particular events. Firstly, because of the unexpected election, the state opening of parliament had a lot less pomp and circumstances than normal – no full parade with the royal carriage, no state crown and no royal robes. Although in some ways this was a shame, a friend of mind made the point that it made the occasional more accessible – people could focus more on what was being said, or not said, without the ceremony overshadowing everything. I'm not entirely sure I agree, but I see their point – tradition can, by its very

antiquity and elaborateness, sometimes act to exclude people, not always to include them.

The other event was Germany's vote to legalise same sex marriage. If I mention that I spent my Saturday at Exmouth Pride then you'll probably have a fair idea of my view on this issue. I'm quite happy for people to have their own concept of what marriage should be, and to choose that for themselves, but a tradition that excludes a large chunk of people based on others' disapproval is to me the epitome of a tradition that needs updating.

Which I guess brings me back to my point. I generally like tradition, and I don't think we should change things just for the sake of change. Equally though we shouldn't accept traditions just because they are traditional. It's important to look at traditions afresh from time to time and to ask ourselves whether they are inclusive or exclusive, and if they are exclusive then we should not be afraid to change them.

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More than 50 hardy swimmers took to the water on Sunday as part of Saltash Regatta weekend to swim across the River Tamar to England and back and raised £1000 for Little Harbour Children's Hospice at Porthpean near St Austell. The swimmers were all members of Devon and Cornwall Wild Swimming and the swim was organised by the club's founder Pauline Barker and partner James Vickery. Devon and Cornwall Wild swimming has grown in numbers from just 5 swimmers at its outset in 2010 to more than 5000 today and has regular swims in and around Plymouth as well as all over the two counties. The Tamar Swim swimmers took up to 40 minutes to make the crossing across and back with many stopping on the slipway on the Devon side of the river to 'do a little dance' to celebrate their achievement. Members of Tamar Canoe Association, Saltash Sailing Club and Devon Kayaking Group were on hand to escort the swimmers and ensure everyone completed the swim safely. The Tamar Swim has become a regular feature of Saltash Regatta weekend and if you wish to take part next year or find out more about Wild Swimming then check out the group's website here <http://www.devonandcornwallwildswimming.co.uk/> Pauline Barker 07429296760

Dropping into School by Sea King

A dramatic visit was paid to a four year old pupil at Brunel Primary and Nursery School, when her uncle was invited to pay a call by helicopter.

Millie had asked her Uncle Ian to call by in the Sea King rescue helicopter that he piloted, based at RNAS Culdrose, near Helston.

Saltash residents were treated, on a Friday morning, to the dramatic sight of the large aircraft hovering over the town, losing height before landing on the school playing field. The whole school was able to experience the thrill of the dramatic landing and to inspect the veteran Augusta Westland Sea King, one of a number that have served in the Royal Navy for over forty years in a number of roles including some dramatic air

sea rescues. Pilot Ian chatted to his niece and her school friends before they witnessed the equally exciting take off later that morning.

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Tea Party for Toc H Recalls a Century of Service



The two Saltash branches of an international Christian charity founded during World War I and dedicated to easing the burden of others and bringing together disparate members of society, were remembered at a tea party given by Saltash Heritage in the town museum.

Former members of Saltash and Burraton Toc H had been invited to share memories, with local historians in the presence of the Mayor Cllr. Jean Dent and heritage members.

They were all being professionally filmed on behalf of the Heritage Lottery Fund as part of a promotional film, Saltash museum being one of just ten museums given lottery grants as part of a scheme "Raising the Standard." The Saltash and Burraton Toc H banners had been donated to Saltash Heritage and are being conserved using lottery funding.

"This project is typical of Saltash Heritage which works with local people, to ensure that a large part of our town's heritage never gets lost to us," commented Mayor Jean Dent.

"This is a really exciting project in which volunteer commitment, dedication and increasing skills are being put towards ensuring that more of our heritage is to be preserved, well into the future," said Victoria Harding, part of the team interviewing and filming the event for the lottery fund.

Among the photographs and exhibits on special display was a Toc H bible and lamp.

"Where I see a Toc H lamp I always feel it lighting up a life," said former member Phil Rundle MBE. "The aim at Toc H was to always think of others before oneself and always to think of ways to give service to others."

He joined Saltash Toc H on moving to the town in 1945, his parents both being dedicated members and his father having recently returned from war service in the Royal Artillery, which took him from the D Day beaches to Belgium. Phil remembers meeting Toc H founder "Tubby" Clayton at a meeting in the Saltash Wesley

room. "A very humble, unassuming man," he recalls.

Toc H members would constantly look around for ways in which to help others, for example on seeing an elderly lady struggle with shopping they would arrange to take her on shopping trips. Many members involved themselves in such tasks as gardening, housework and dog walking, while two members paid a weekly visit to St Barnabas Hospital to thoroughly scrub out the operating theatre.

Others would travel to Plymouth where they screened films for patients at the isolation hospital. "They would always break down or something go wrong but it added to the fun," Phil recalled. One of his favourite duties was the Saturday helping in the afternoon wheeling of six trolleys with patients, all the way from Mount Gould Hospital to Home Park and back. "It was hard work but we got free tickets to see Argyle," he recalled.

Toc H was asked to supply volunteers to help in the founding of a new youth club and Phil's father volunteered himself and another young member, Vic Harding (later to be Mayor of Saltash.) This for Phil was the beginning of a life long commitment to Saltash Boys club, which continues on with it under its current name of Livewire. The Toc H spirit of service to others has never left him, or fellow surviving members of an organisation that began in the war shattered fields of Flanders, as a club where all army ranks could meet on equal terms and share shelter from the war around them.

Once the Toc H banners are restored, former Toc H members will once more be

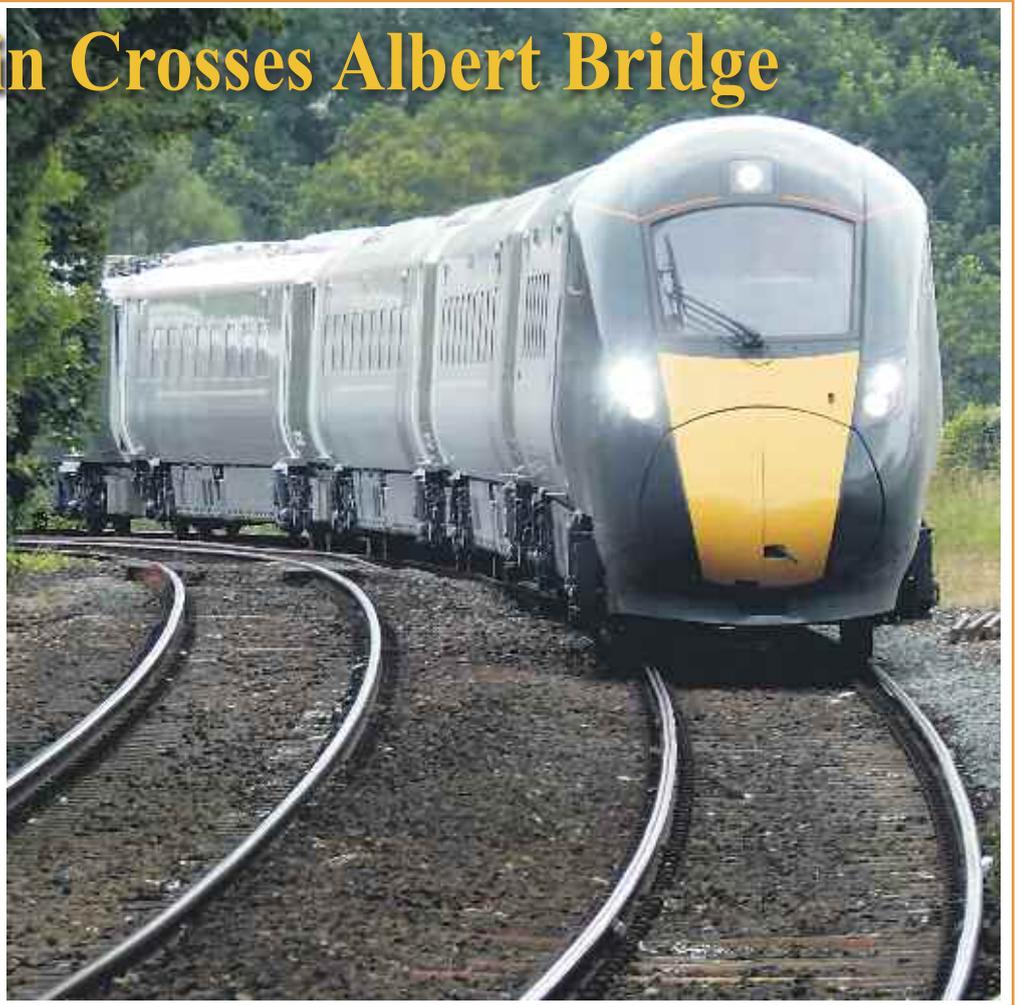
'Bullet' Train Crosses Albert Bridge

Man of vision though he was, even Isambard Kingdom Brunel could hardly have imagined the sight of the futuristic bullet style train that crossed his 158 year old Gateway to Cornwall and passed through Saltash on it's first test run to the far South West.

This was the first of the Class 802 Inter-City Express trains, that are anticipated to become a familiar sight on the Paddington to Penzance line as they take over from the current units which have served the South West for over forty years. The Trains are equipped to use electric power between London and Reading, and will rely on powerful diesel engine beyond there.

While due to speeding restrictions they will only share a few minutes off the journey time, they have many other improvements on existing stock. There is added capacity, up to a fifth more seating to reduce overcrowding, there is more space per seat, extra luggage capacity, improved headroom and better disabled access.

Whether they will be stopping to serve passengers from Saltash is yet to be announced. However it is anticipated, that following improvements in signalling through Cornwall, there will be a more regular and frequent stopping service connecting with Inter-City trains from Plymouth, and the Inter-City trains currently running to Paddington will be used to give enhanced comfort to passengers, from Saltash and other intermediate stations on the Cornwall stopping service.



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welcome to an official unveiling in September, when families will be welcomed to the museum to learn more of Toc H and children to join in a flag making day. The banners will then be put away but brought out again next year as part of the museum's

commemoration of the ending of World War I. Former Toc H members are invited to share their memories and any photographs or mementos they may possess, and can contact Heritage through the secretary on 01752 847800

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