

# SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

July 2020 - Issue 340

Established 28 years

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## The Station Building Refurbishment is Nearing Completion

The station building refurbishment is nearing its completion. After the contractor Cormac shut the site down during lockdown, work has recommenced and the main refurbishment works are very nearly complete. The roadside aspect of the building now supports a canopy that closely resembles the original, with the colour scheme fitting of the Victorian station building.



can admire the slate roof, rebuilt chimneys and stunning skylight.

The project is being led by Saltash Town Council, and is supported with funding from Cornwall Council, The Railway Heritage Trust and Great Western Railway. Richard Bickford, lead councillor commented "Without having these three great organisations on board we would never have been able to achieve our goal. However, without the support and enthusiasm from the people of Saltash we would never have taken up the challenge".

Externally, Great Western Railway have installed additional bollards on the pavement to prevent pavement parking, and Cornwall Council are installing some additional lighting columns to make sure the area is better lit after dark.

Peering through the windows you can see a light airy space that will welcome visitors and passengers alike. Looking up the roof trusses are exposed along with the original timbers on show. Modern lights are hung high in the roof to shed light throughout. The open plan main space will be available for a variety of activities, including meetings, markets, and

The windows and doors are coloured in a dark brown, almost black, also fitting of this era. They are obviously of a very high standard with good quality fittings. If you stand back you

conferences. The passenger waiting room is at the end closest to the station entrance, with an accessible toilet and a small kitchen that will provide refreshments.

The original poor-quality extension to the north east has been demolished and replaced with a new build. This new extension will provide business space to help provide a sustainable income. Looking at this from the outside you would never know that it wasn't part of the original building with the roof windows and doors all matching very closely to the main building, even the render work around the windows and doors matches exactly the original structure.

Councillor Bickford added: "Once the main building is complete and handed over, we can concentrate on some of the external works which include the car park and removing the fence between the building and the platform. We are working very

closely with Network Rail and other funders to bring this about in the very near future."

Having seen the outside the Observer is now looking forward to going inside once the finishing touches are complete. We very much hope it is worth the long wait.

## A Digital Success

The first ever online meeting of the full Cornwall Council took place on 7th July.

Meetings of Cornwall Council committees and emergency response groups have been held online throughout the pandemic, but this was the first to enable all 123 councillors to meet from their own homes.

Among the reports discussed were Cornwall Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and an update on the council's capital programme. One of the most heated debates centred on a proposal to lower the voting age to 16 in Cornwall. The motion was approved by 54 votes to 50 and Cornwall Council will now lobby Westminster to be allowed to pilot a scheme to extend the vote to 16 and 17-year-olds in Cornwall.

Speaking after the meeting, Cllr. Hilary Frank, Chairman of Cornwall Council and councillor representing Saltash South, said: "These meetings are a vital part of our democracy and I am delighted to see them return to our diaries in a format that we can use going forwards. Chairing an online meeting with over 100 participants was certainly nerve-wracking, so I am particularly grateful to the staff who worked hard to make sure it was a technical success."

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### Community Enterprises PL12; Director Vacancies

We are a community-led CIC for the PL12 area, run by volunteers.

**We currently have vacancies for 2 new Directors; if you have good organisational skills and can work as part of a team, we would love to hear from you!**

As a Director, you would gain great satisfaction from working in a dynamic, friendly organisation, benefiting the PL12 community.

As a Director you will be expected to:

- \* Attend monthly board meetings
- \* Bring additional skills to the current board
- \* Help identify new opportunities
- \* Play an active part in the running of CEPL12
- \* Promote Community Enterprises PL12 locally

Roles currently available include helping run Dementia Voice, our Community Transport scheme (not currently operating, but it will be back soon!), Marketing, & continuing with the community help our volunteers provided during lockdown.

Please register your interest by sending an email to [hub@cepl12.co.uk](mailto:hub@cepl12.co.uk) or apply in person at our **Community Hub** at number 4 Fore Street. We will invite you to an informal discussion with current Directors, and identify a role where you would be most suited.

Successful candidates will be elected by our Members. Closing date for registering your interest is Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

We look forward to hearing from you!

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# Town Messenger

Working for the People of Saltash

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## From the Mayor of Saltash

*Dear Saltash Residents,*

I have been privileged to serve Saltash as Mayor for the years of 2019/20, and as I enter into the 15 months as Serving Saltash as your Mayor, at times there have been challenges trying to balance work, family and Council commitments however; with the support from my family, friends, community members and fellow council colleagues, we have together made it through the other side with smiles on our faces, and love in our hearts.

I have served the Civic role as Mayor with enthusiasm, compassion, and devotion as I am committed to serving the people of Saltash.

In June, I was honoured to be invited to walk around the Lynher View Estate by resident Mrs. Mary Wills, where social distancing took place.

Lynher Estate, celebrated its 50th Anniversary, which now is named, Killigrew Avenue, Wearde Road, and Ridgeway, many residents came out of their houses to mark this special anniversary.

Representing Saltash in a Civic capacity I have always done so with pride and to date, I have attended more than 100 engagements.

Unfortunately, we're still in unprecedented times but I was heartened to see the local businesses reopen and some new businesses too, to our high street, and I wish them all well.

The NHS Flag is still flying from the Guildhall, Library, and Brunel Bust flagpoles



within Saltash, which shows that Saltash cares.

Saltash Town Council reopened the library on the 6th July following Government and Public Health England advice. The library is providing a staff managed online / phone click, collect, and return library service as part of Phase 1.

Customers have access to the entrance of the library where a staffed lobby service only is available for our customers to reserve and return books between 10am and 2pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. At this stage there is no Wednesday or Saturday service.

A telephone service is available Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday between 09:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. for phone Library enquiries or at staff discretion a selection of staff picks with certain genres.

There is a queuing system outside the library in the direction of St Anne's Care Home. Customers are served one at a time whilst others remain outside to allow social distancing to be adhered to at

all times.

Our friendly staff are here to assist and would love to see more of our customers. We kindly ask our customers to follow the safety measures put in place to protect our staff and the community.

Many residents that I have met have commented by saying they very much welcome the reopening albeit a limited service to ensure everyone's safety.

The tender for the library building works and windows is under way with a closing date of midday Tuesday 4th August. The Town Council have received a good response from contractors so far.

The Public Consultation for the community library refurbishment works and provision of café facilities is underway and leaflet / questionnaire is to be delivered to households in the

PL12 area w/c 10th August. There will also be an opportunity to collect a leaflet / questionnaire from the library and when opened the Guildhall. The Town Council welcome your feedback on these developments that are designed to provide a better library experience for our customers.

Saltash Train Station project is looking amazing and this project has been led by Saltash Town Council but has been funded by other partners such as, Great Western Railway, Cornwall Council, Network Rail, and many other funders.

Saltash Town Council is waiting for the final touches then the doors will be open for all to see, but due to the Pandemic, this will not take place as soon as we would have liked.

Saltash Town Council is

continuing to hold Virtual Zoom Platform meetings and some of these meetings are open to the public and press to zoom in.

Town Council service delivery team have been working to help keep Saltash within guidelines of the Covid19 regulations.

I with community support, have helped to set up an independent committee to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Saltash Blitz 1941-2021

This new committee's aims are to remember, pay tribute and respect the Saltash price serving their communities in Saltash and to our neighbours in Plymouth during those fateful times in April 1941.

We shall remember them all with gratitude and thanksgiving.

This may be my last message from the Mayor, as by the time you read this, I will have passed over the batten to the new Mayor.

Due to the Government restrictions and guidelines, Saltash Town Council kept the civics and chairs of committees in situ until appropriate to re-elect new chairs.

I would endorse my previous thanks to my deputies over the past 15 months – Councillors Pete and Brenda Samuels, and all the wonderful people that embraced me and my family, and helped me during some of the most challenging times. Thank you too, once again Mary and the Saltash Observer for the platform to communicate with the lovely people of Saltash each month.

*Thank you, one and all!  
Yours sincerely  
Councillor Gloria Challen*

## Your Town Council

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Deputy Mayor:  
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## Saltash Town Council Awards Citizens Advice Cornwall

And Community Enterprises PL12 £9,700

At its recent virtual meeting, Saltash Town Council awarded Citizens Advice Cornwall (CAC), and Community Enterprises PL12 (CEPL 12 -Saltash Gateway CIC) £9,700.

The funding is to support urgent and essential building works that need to take place at 18, Belle Vue Road.

"Citizens advice has been based at Belle Vue for over 30 years and provides a much needed support to the community." Gill Pipkin, CAC Chief Executive stated in a letter to Saltash Town Council.

"CEPL 12 has been working with CAC to develop some plans for the area we occupy and in return we are working to ensure that we can provide a more consistent service from those premises, but in order to carry out these works, CEPL 12 requires the funding.

"Since the outbreak of COVID19 and lockdown, we have had to move all our services online with our advisers working remotely, but we are keen to get back to delivering face-to-face as soon as it is safe to do so.

"Time is the essence in this

as we can't plan our return to Saltash until this work has been carried out.

"We are working hard to ensure we have the capacity to deliver our services when the need is greatest."

Saltash Town Council, felt that CAC and CEPL 12 services to the Saltash Community was a vital part of the town's wellbeing, and was satisfied with the criteria to grant £9,700 to the essential building work.

## Slow Down for Waterside

The traffic speed controls on Old Ferry Road will be extended to cover the Waterside area according to current Cornwall Council plans.

Residents' views have been sought on the proposed changes intended to make life safer for residents and the crowds who visit Waterside especially on fine summer days.

It is intended to introduce a twenty mile per hour speed limit to cover Tamar Street as well as the lower end of Old Ferry Road and to create speed humps to enforce the slow down. 'No Waiting' stretches of road would include behind the 'Union Inn' and opposite 'Just Be'.

## Cornish Cross Created by Local Boy

Keen to be creative during his enforced absence from St. Stephens School, nine-year-old Nicholas Anderson has built a replica of Saltash's iconic Cornish Cross.

Nicholas has observed the cross alongside the Tamar Bridge while out on family walks. Noting in the 'Saltash Observer' a town council competition for children to replicate it in Lego, and being himself a keen Lego fan he set to and made a colourful copy of it. Unfortunately, he found that he had missed the competition closing date, but we felt that his artistic efforts deserved an audience. 'I made it to be colourful to represent 'Hope' during lockdown,' said Nicholas.



## Meet Your Councillor

Councillor Mike Parker  
East Ward Saltash.

Councillor Mike Parker moved to Saltash from Oxfordshire in 1994, together with wife Norma and their two sons, Lewis and Ashley, who have both grown up and been educated in Saltash

Mike has served the Saltash community in various ways, including more than twenty years as an on-call Firefighter and more latterly as one of four Councillors for Saltash East Ward, which includes the Waterside, Waterfront and Fore Street. Mike also runs Saltash Fire Cadets.

Having previously worked for the Ministry of Defence and in the building supplies trade, including running his own business, Mike brings considerable expertise and enthusiasm to his current role as Chair of the Saltash Town Council



Services Committee, which oversees much of the day to day provision of services provided to both residents and visitors to the town he is proud to call home.

The role of the Services committee has expanded and continues to expand under the stewardship of Cllr Parker, as services have been and continue to be devolved from Cornwall Council. Mike oversees an enthusiastic team of Service Delivery Operatives, often referred to as wardens, who can be seen working around the town, on a daily basis.

Mike can be contacted via the Town Council website.



# Scrapstore

Reduce - Reuse - Recycle

Fore Street has changed a bit since we first 'locked down' in March... The pavements have arrows to keep us safely in line and bus stops are altered to keep us safely apart. There are fewer people on the Street - but those that are, walk with purpose.

Businesses which were closed have reopened, a few sadly haven't, and others are transforming under new ownership.

Some shops used the closure to reorganise, like the local charity Saltash Scrapstore, which has reopened with a new, spacious layout. Its rear workshop/learning area is gone, the shop floor has expanded, and the displays are totally transformed. Customers now have more space to safely browse and previously hidden 'treasures' are much easier to find.

The 'reduce, reuse, recycle' concept had a boost during lockdown, when people weren't able to shop freely and had to make do and mend. Cupboards were sorted, family games were unboxed, and crafts revisited. Since the Scrapstore reopened in June it has never been busier, both with donations and sales. Customer feedback is very positive, and membership (£5 a year) is increasing.

Perhaps you need a piece of Velcro, a brass tap, a length of fabric or an old tin... or maybe you're hunting for art materials, hand tools or knitting patterns like your granny used to make. Perhaps you're just on the lookout for a bargain - though you're not sure what that is yet, but you'll know it when you see it! All these things and more turn up at the Scrapstore, where they try to never turn anything useful away.

Joint managers Toni and Lizi usually have a team of volunteers helping out behind the scenes but due to the Covid restrictions the number of people in the store, including volunteers, has had to be restricted. Opening hours have been reduced (the Scrapstore is now closed on Wednesdays), space has been cleared to allow for social distancing, and contactless payments are now accepted. But the result of all

the changes means more stock is out on display and available to buy.

Charity Trustee and founder Rosie Waters is amazed and grateful for the support from the local community. She said: "The closure in March was a blow, and of course we worried we may not survive. But the team used the time to rethink and reorganise and we have emerged with a bigger, better and much more inviting shop floor.

"While we were shut we sold more items online, and created craft kits which we delivered on foot. Our popular workshops like the wreath rings and beeswax wraps may have been put on hold, but we are developing kits to replace them where we can. I'm so grateful that we continue to receive good quality donations from homes and businesses. The more we can keep out of landfill the better."

She added: "At the moment there is a huge demand for face masks, which we've managed to keep affordable at £3 by using donated fabrics. We have made over 400 so far. My favourites are the vintage fabrics and Cornish Tartan, which fly out as soon as they arrive!"

The success of the charity means there will be more cash to distribute to local causes. Last year, donations were made to Kalan Gwav, Dementia Voice, Children in Need and others. Recently, £200 was given to help purchase sand for the slipway at Waterside for local children to enjoy this summer. A sandcastle competition is running until the end of August - upload pictures to the Scrapstore Facebook page for judging.

If you haven't found it yet, the Scrapstore is next to the Brunel Inn, in the middle of Fore Street. Pop in next time you're in town, you never know what you might find.

# Sand in Saltash for Summer

Each year the Saltash Regatta Committee raises funds to bring in the money needed to move 27 tonnes of Padstow sand to a small beach alongside Ashtorre Rock in Saltash. This stays throughout the summer holidays and is a legacy of the Regatta waterside event. Yet without a Regatta due to Covid the slip remained empty!

The Regatta committee however had other plans. With usual funding routes unavailable to help until September Karen Lilley, Chair of Saltash Regatta encouraged by local Mayor Gloria Challen, decided to set up a Go Fund Me page with the target of £800 to fund the venture. Little did she know that it would not only be reached but exceeded within one week of going live!

Donations came from many different members of the community including residents, neighbours, Saltash Waterside Residents

Association, friends and family. Local building firm LMH boosted the fundraiser quickly followed by local Saltash town councillors and generous support from the Saltash Scrapstore. Money was even pledged to Karen as she was walking in Fore Street.

"It's so heart-warming to see the support we have had to bring the Regatta sand in again this year. It's become a real tradition and the kids just love it. We have spent every penny of the money we received to make sure the children of the town can enjoy this strip of sand throughout the summer holidays", said Karen.

CBL Saltash who always provide amazing support to the Regatta once again sent a digger to distribute the sand free of charge as a kind gesture to the children of the town. Karen handed out buckets and spades to children which were bought with the money left over.

To coincide with the arrival of the sand Saltash Scrapstore is running a sand castle



Thank you, CBL



Children enjoying the new sand

competition and encouraging families to upload a photo or selfie to their Facebook page by 31 August. Local Truly Scrumptious Sweet Boutique has donated the prize.

Karen adds: "We have to say a massive thank you to everyone who donated, big and small as well as those who shared and supported this local fundraiser. It shows the strength of community spirit in our wonderful town."

## My Apologies

I am truly sorry if your copy has not made the pages of the Observer this month

We are continuing to publish as a Community Service, Covid 19 has to take priority

Editor Mary Crawford  
Stay Alert

## It's Costa Del Saltash This Summer!

The regatta may have been cancelled for this year but the crowds still come to Saltash's attractive Waterside on the hot summer days, that we have been enjoying. Local residents report seeing more visitors than in previous years, following the easing of lockdown, both beside and on the water. Families and friends gather to picnic and play games on Brunel and Jubilee Greens as well as on the green area beside the 'Union'. Children and teenagers paddle and swim while others ride the water on canoes or paddleboards. The public toilets have been reopened by Saltash Town Council, with posters advising on hygiene and staying safe and limiting use to one person at a time.

Although Saltash residents are now permitted to travel, clearly many local families are coming to appreciate and enjoy the attractions on their doorstep.

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Telephone 07395 332799

## Keep it Cornish

Has your business adapted to meet the challenges you've been facing during the pandemic? Have you changed the products you sell or how you sell them? Did your business support vulnerable people during lockdown? Cornwall Council is encouraging you to share your stories on Keep it Cornish, a new online engagement platform where businesses can discover and share inspiring ideas on ways to increase sales, move in to new markets using e-commerce, find out where to access training, and learn about the best places to go for business advice.

Working in partnership with organisations such as the Cornwall Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Small Businesses, Cornwall Council has developed the online platform to support business owners explore new ways to evolve, upskill and thrive post-lockdown.

Cornish businesses are discovering that procuring more products and services from within Cornwall can lessen their reliance on wider supply chains. Not only does this boost resilience, but with less production miles involved 'keeping it Cornish' also contributes significantly to lowering the carbon footprint of goods.

Cornwall Council is also keen to give credit to businesses who stepped forward to help the vulnerable during the Covid-19 crisis, so please share your stories at: <https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/keep-it-cornish>

## Tamar Bridge Update

Works to replace kerbs in the local traffic lane are nearing completion, and as soon as they are finished vehicles will no longer need to merge with traffic coming out of the tunnel. Work will then continue on the main deck with the southern cantilever converted to a lane for vehicles. A free 24-hour bus service will operate between Fore Street and the Tamar Bridge Car Park for walkers, cyclists and mobility scooters.

The number of vehicles using the Bridge and Torpoint Ferry has not recovered to pre-lockdown levels and is lower than what would normally be expected at this time of the year. As a result, the income from tolls is not enough to cover the operating costs and the emergency reserve of £2m that was held before lockdown has been depleted. Urgent discussions are taking place with government on how to ensure the Crossings continue to be self-sufficient.

## Renters Urged to Get in Touch

One in five households in Cornwall rent their home privately. At the beginning of lockdown the government established measures to protect tenants from eviction. Those measures are due to end on 23rd August, and Cornwall Council is urging people who rent their home privately and are worried about being evicted to get in touch by ringing 1300 1234 161 and asking for the Prevention & Engagement Service.

Cornwall Council has already been able to give 25,000 households an extra £150 off their Council Tax after the Government announced a further contribution to the Council Tax Hardship Fund, and the Prevention & Engagement Team will be able to offer support and advice to try and prevent people from losing their homes.

If you are living in a Cornwall Housing home and find you are struggling to pay the rent, please contact the Rent Management Team on 0300 1234 161.

## Cornwall's Local Outbreak Management Plan

Cornwall's residents have acted with great sense and responsibility throughout the Covid-19 crisis, resulting in a comparatively low number of outbreaks here. As national lockdown measures are eased and responsibility for providing a fast response to any future outbreaks shifts to local authorities, Cornwall Council has published its own Local Outbreak Management Plan.

The Plan is a blueprint for action that sets out how Cornwall Council will work with organisations including the NHS, Public Health England and the police to protect Cornwall's residents.

The science behind it is precise but the principle isn't new: this is what local authority public health departments have been doing for decades with food poisoning outbreaks, measles or TB. A new element is the need to work closely with the Test and Trace programme to take a place-based approach. Postcode-level data on cases of Coronavirus was made available to Cornwall Council earlier in July, and Government is expected to make household-level data available in the near future, which will significantly help to contain local outbreaks.

There are three definitions of a local outbreak within Cornwall's Plan: two or more cases that are connected in time to a specific place (not a household); an area or cohort of people with rate of infection that is significantly higher than expected; and a single laboratory-confirmed case within a very high-risk setting such as a care home.

Oversight of the delivery of the Plan is the responsibility of the Local Outbreak Engagement Board, which is chaired by the Leader of Cornwall Council and met to discuss Coronavirus measures in the beginning of July. Stakeholders will work together to analyse cases and identify action plans, but each case will be unique and the action taken will depend on many factors. It might mean an outbreak in a school or care home leading to the building being quickly closed down. Or, in a more tricky scenario, it could mean spotting that an uptick in infections has suddenly appeared in a corner of Cornwall - perhaps around some particular streets. It might then lead to people in that area being asked to self-isolate to prevent the virus spreading to the wider population.

The full 41-page Plan can be found on Cornwall Council's website. Importantly for Saltash, it was developed in close cooperation with Plymouth City Council and Devon County Council to make sure it fits in with the work of neighbouring authorities. This type of partnership working is crucial in ensuring that Cornwall has the necessary capacity and capability to provide a fully coordinated, agile approach to containing and managing local outbreaks of Covid-19.

## COVID 19 Local Outbreak Management Plan (LOMP)



[www.cornwall.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/coronavirus)  
[www.scilly.gov.uk](http://www.scilly.gov.uk)

## The Cornwall We Want

In June, Cornwall Council published the results of a survey of residents about the impact of the pandemic and about hopes and fears for the future. It shows how Cornwall's communities have pulled together during lockdown - and it shows that Cornwall is calling for change.

Almost half of Cornwall's residents say their wellbeing has been adversely affected, with 45% worried about the future. 44% have seen their working hours reduced, with more than one in ten residents saying they are struggling to pay bills. On the positive side, nearly three quarters say their community has pulled together through the pandemic, underlining the strength and depth of community response in Cornwall.

Looking to the future, only one in ten residents wants things to go back to the way they were before Coronavirus, and top of the wish list for things they would like to see changed are a cleaner environment, closer communities and reduced traffic. Seven in ten are willing to continue some home working and/or reduced travelling.

In response, Cornwall Council is using a new online engagement platform and has launched its biggest ever listening project: The Cornwall We Want. Determined that Cornwall should bounce forward - not just back, the Council is keen to harness the tremendous community spirit that was so apparent during lockdown and generate discussion about how people can work together to address the biggest challenges facing Cornwall.

The Cornwall We Want was launched with a Facebook debate that was livestreamed on 16th July (the recording is available to watch on the engagement platform), and in the week after the launch over 7,500 residents went online to have their say. The aspirations will be shaped in to a plan between September and October, and debated at the November meeting of Full Council.

Please add your voice to the campaigns, share your story and be part of the discussions and dreams. Together, we can build a more sustainable, healthy, safe, vibrant and inclusive future for One and All.

Go to: [letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/the-cornwall-we-want](https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/the-cornwall-we-want)

## Carbon Neutral Cornwall Hive

A buzzing new web platform called 'Carbon Neutral Cornwall Hive' has been developed by Cornwall Council to support residents and community groups aiming to live low carbon lives.

In January 2019 Cornwall Council declared a climate emergency, recognising the need for urgent action to address the climate crisis. The Carbon Neutral Cornwall Hive is a project that provides an online space for people to share ideas and chat about how individuals can play a role in tackling climate change. It aims to encourage 'hive mind' thinking with an Ideas Bank and an interactive map for listing low carbon initiatives and schemes. It has information about funding for low carbon and environmental projects, and features a blog post with articles from guest writers.

The Coronavirus pandemic has been one of the biggest challenges we have faced in recent times. We have helped each other adapt to new ways of living, and now we must adapt further to help our planet endure and survive climate change. Cornwall Council is making changes: vehicles are being replaced with electric and low carbon models; most Council-owned premises have been fitted with renewable energy; verges are being mowed less frequently to improve habitat; and in December 2019 the first 105 trees of the ambitious Forest for Cornwall were planted in Tincombe, here in Saltash.

To be part of the 'buzz' make a beeline to: <https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/carbon-neutral-cornwall>



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



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



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

## Useful Contacts

- Cornwall Council's COVID-19 information page: [www.cornwall.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/coronavirus)
- Queries relating to Coronavirus: [covid19@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:covid19@cornwall.gov.uk).
- Cornwall Council's Helpline for advice on employment: 0333 0150699
- To book a Coronavirus test: [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)
- For guidance for businesses [www.ciosgrowthhub.com](http://www.ciosgrowthhub.com)
- For community safety: [www.safercornwall.co.uk](http://www.safercornwall.co.uk)
- For people affected by domestic abuse: [www.saferfutures.org.uk](http://www.saferfutures.org.uk) or 01872 225629
- Worried about a child? Ring 0300 123 1116
- Worried about an adult? Ring 0300 1234 111
- For mental and emotional distress: [www.valuedlives.co.uk](http://www.valuedlives.co.uk) or 01209 438 option 1
- If you see someone sleeping rough: [www.streelink.org.uk](http://www.streelink.org.uk) or 0300 500 0914
- For help with alcohol or drug issues [www.wearewithyou.org.uk](http://www.wearewithyou.org.uk) or 0333 2000 325
- To report a scam, ring Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040
- If you smell gas, ring Wales and West: 0800 111 999
- To report a water leak, ring South West Water: 0800 230 0561
- To report a power cut, ring Western Power: 105 or 0800 6783 105



## New System for Urgent Care

There's a new system in Cornwall if you need urgent - but not emergency - care. Just contact NHS 111 at any time of day or night. The service is staffed by a team of fully trained advisers, supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. They will ask you questions to assess your symptoms, then give you healthcare advice or direct you to the local service that can help you best. That could be a hospital emergency department, a minor injury unit, an out-of-hours doctor, an emergency dentist or a pharmacy.

This is a new way of accessing urgent care in Cornwall to make sure everyone stays as safe as possible during the pandemic. It will help manage the flow of patients at a time of reduced capacity in waiting rooms, help maintain distancing and reduce the risk of infection.

It means patients will get the right treatment, more quickly. And it means visitors to Cornwall don't need to look up details of NHS services to get urgent treatment - just phone 111 or go online at [111.nhs.uk](http://111.nhs.uk).

Arrangements have not changed for people with serious or life-threatening illnesses or injuries. Please continue to dial 999 as before.

# Praise and Thanks for Saltash Schools

As the schools break for a well-deserved summer holiday, your Observer wants to join with Saltash families in showing appreciation to the teaching and non-teaching staff at the town's secondary and primary schools, who have all worked tirelessly to support Saltash families throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

Although schools were officially 'closed' back in March, the work of the schools actually intensified as they devised ways of supporting learning for children at home, keeping children in school safe, and supporting the wellbeing of children who were particularly vulnerable. Saltash schools have remained open over Easter holidays and bank holidays, with staff putting their own health at risk to care for children of key workers. Every Monday, minibuses left Saltash Community School with 100 care packages for families who needed food.

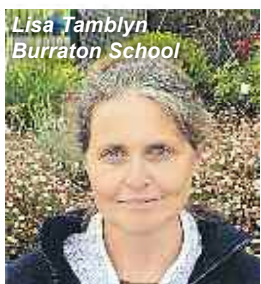
The Observer spoke with the heads of the schools, and each one tells a similar, inspirational tale of resilience, caring and community spirit. Their poignant stories of the dedication of people such as Julie who cleaned the Bishop Cornish buildings from top to bottom several times a day, Jane who cooked up delicious dishes to keep staff and children at Brunel well fed, and Bev who was inspirational in supporting parents at St. Stephens are testament to the utter dedication of all non-teaching staff. Heads also spoke of their appreciation for the support they'd received from families, with Mrs. Tamblyn of Burraton School talking enthusiastically about



Top left: Mrs. Heather Landers St Stephens School



Sue Green  
Bishop Cornish School



Lisa Tamblyn  
Burraton School



Suzanne Cooper  
Brunel School



Kate Littledyke  
Saltash Community School

the parents who had dropped off cake for staff and treats for Bramble, the school's puppy in training, and Mrs. Cooper talking about the beautiful rainbow picture handed in by a parent at Brunel School. Kate Littledyke spoke warmly of the Saltash Community School staff who made scrubs for the NHS.

All heads praised the

creativity and flexibility of their teachers and teaching assistants. Mrs. Landers spoke about the Chrome books St. Stephens had given to families to access home learning and Google hangouts. And Mrs. Green spoke with joy of the two wedding marquees that local company Hine Marquees set up on the school field, enabling Bishop Cornish to bring in all

the Year 6s for their final weeks at primary school and introduce a creative curriculum that included a Great Bishop Cornish Bake Off and an outdoor Leavers' Service.

It has been an intensely challenging time, but our secondary and primary schools have risen magnificently to the challenges. We wish you all restful days over the summer.

My article last month was at the start of the re-opening of non-essential shops and now a month later many of the shopkeepers are reporting that customers are returning, so I am starting this article with a thank you to the people of Saltash for supporting your local shops. It is also good to see that five of the empty units are now re-opening with new occupiers. These will bring additional trades into Fore Street.

Social distancing is continuing and will no doubt do so for some time so we must all do our bit to ensure the safety of ourselves and others. The Chamber is part of the Town Team that has recently been formed to look at all measures to help with post-Covid economic recovery, and I would always welcome any thoughts that anybody has relating to this. Although personally I don't represent the Chamber on this team, I am one of the two Community Enterprises representatives so can pass on thoughts.

With my Community Enterprises hat on I would like

Chamber Chairman Peter Ryland  
Keeping us Updated...

to thank Saltash Town Council for giving us a grant so that we can refurbish part of our Belle Vue Road offices to help Citizens Advice Cornwall who occupy this area. Both ourselves and Citizens Advice recognise that there is likely to be a greater need for their services in the immediate future and we are therefore making their offices more post-Covid useable to keep all users safe.

With yet another hat on, as a Trustee of Saltash Scrapstore I would like to thank those volunteers and staff who have totally revamped our shop at 89

Fore Street to make it post-Covid friendly. Although we have had to stop our craft classes at present, we hope to be able to reintroduce these in the near future. I'd also like to thank the people of Saltash for making it a record week recently with turnover in excess of our previous pre-Covid record.

Thanks to your support we have been able to contribute £200 towards the cost of the sand on the Waterfront and we look forward to seeing entries to the sandcastle competition. We hope you enjoy the Summer.

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## SALTASH TOWN COUNCIL Working for the People of Saltash

### COVID 19 UPDATE REPORT FORE STREET RECOVERY



HM Government

#### Town Centre Support:

European Regional Development Funding has been committed by Cornwall Council to Saltash Town Council to support us in implementing safety measures to help businesses get back on their feet after a period of closure. Making sure our businesses are able to operate safely for their staff, customers and visitors.

STC staff and councillors have been working hard in conjunction with Cornwall Council and Cormac to enable Fore Street to open for business.

After consultation with independent traders, businesses and the public the following actions have been taken to ensure a safe environment for all.



#### Social Distancing:

- A pedestrian flow zone has been created within the town centre.
- Blue arrows have been marked on the pavements to indicate a one-way flow to avoid any head-on meeting and allow for better social distancing.
- Metal signs are in place in Fore Street as a reminder with regard to social distancing in line with government guidelines.
- Two large planters on the left of Fore Street have been removed to avoid pinch points which would have left less than 2 meters available on the pavement.
- Bus stops at the bottom and top of Fore Street have been coned off to prevent buses using the lay-bys and thereby increasing social distancing to 2 meters at these points.
- Signs are in place to warn motorists that pedestrians may be in the roadway in order to comply with the 2 metre guidelines. STC staff are checking to ensure that cones and signs are in place each morning

For further information please visit <https://www.saltash.gov.uk/edit/stuploads/6671.pdf>

## Fore Street Recovery

Our service delivery team are all working tirelessly to make our Town a safe and welcoming place to visit and shop. During the past couple of weeks, we have seen our new bunting appear, our hanging baskets, already looking superb, brighten our Town and encourage people to visit and primarily feel safe.

This week you will see 6 new hand sanitiser units in place so that you are able to keep your hands clean while shopping. Our team of very dedicated staff work 7 days a week on a rota basis to keep everything ship shape. With the help of ERDF funding we have been able to make sure that residents and staff are kept as safe as possible while we all go through the unlocking of our various shops and outlets in the Town.

We have had an extremely successful week with our Library re-opening, although on a limited basis at the moment, in the near future we hope to provide a wider service subject to safety measures.

Our staff at Saltash Town Council are an incredible team of people and it is credit to them all that we have managed to progress our re-openings of various facilities and keep them safe for our residents.

See Poster on Page 5

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## Shoppers Welcomed to Visit with Confidence

Shopping in Saltash should once again be an enjoyable experience following re-opening of most businesses including cafés, bars and restaurants. Saltash Town Council staff and councillors have worked hard with Cornwall Council and Cormac to make Fore Street shopping a pleasant and a safe experience.

Returning shoppers have noticed some changes aimed at encouraging social distancing in the town centre – blue arrows mark a pedestrian flow zone, while two large planters have been removed to avoid pedestrian ‘pinch points’.

The bus pull-ins have been closed, also to allow pedestrians to use the full width of the pavements. Signs warn motorists of possible pedestrians in the street.

Hand sanitisers are erected at the end of the street between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. and are foot-operated for extra safety. All benches are sanitised three times a day.

The toilets owned by Saltash Town Council are also now open from 8.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. and constantly cleaned.

Business toolkits have been distributed to act as a checklist for businesses seeking to re-open. These include advice on such topics as contactless payment and health and safety,

including advice on social distancing within shop and office premises. There are also suggestions on how to boost newly re-opened businesses through online and other marketing, layout planning and general communication. European Regional Development Funding, committed by Cornwall Council to Saltash Town Council, is being used to help businesses get back to pre-Covid levels while ensuring they can operate safely for staff, customers and visitors.

Fore Street is once more looking its summertime best with the bunting, described in your June ‘Observer’, hanging baskets, and the bollards repainted in the Cornish colours of black and gold. All is now ready to welcome returning shoppers and revive the local economy and our friendly, largely locally-owned small businesses.

## Town Pays Tribute to Hazel Cotton

Fore Street was lined with dozens of socially distanced friends and customers of Cottons’ Taxi Services as the horse-drawn cortège moved slowly through the town to ‘The Gables’, the home of Hazel Cotton and her family for over sixty years. Here, family and friends gathered at a distance in the spacious gardens for a service in remembrance of Hazel, who was known and respected by many generations of residents for whom ‘Cottons’ was synonymous with taxis.

Hazel was born in Stonehouse, Plymouth in 1932, only child of William Tallack, fruit merchant of King Street, and his wife Ivy. She attended Lamb’s School in Plympton, then Priors’ Secretarial College before her first job with the Indian Tyre and Rubber Company and a lifelong connection with the motor trade.

She married Harold Cotton, then in the Royal Navy, and the couple moved to Saltash where, together with Hazel’s mother, they purchased ‘The Gables’, a Victorian property overlooking the River Tamar and where Hazel was to watch her family grow. In 1959 she took on the tenancy of the Tamar Filling Station in New Road, which was soon to become busy following the opening of the Tamar Bridge in 1961.

Hazel began to hire wedding cars from the garage and this was to develop into the large fleet of ‘Cottons Taxis’ that were to be seen all about Saltash. Later, the business developed further into buses and coaches.

Hazel enjoyed ballroom dancing and holidays around Britain, but her main pleasures were to see the family business flourish and watching her large family grow up. Her seven children William, Brian, Keith, Harold, Andrew, Kevin and Hazel all became actively involved in the business at some stage. All of her children and most of her ten grandchildren



and six great grandchildren were present to say farewell at the garden service conducted by Prebendary Brian Anderson. The horse-drawn cortège, which had led a convoy of taxis through the town, then continued to Weston Mill crematorium for a family committal service.

The Cotton family has been overwhelmed with cards and messages from those who knew Hazel as a friend and many who felt that they knew her as a friendly voice on the telephone as she continued to run the switchboard until shortly before her death at home, surrounded by family.

The Cotton family would like to thank in particular Tamar House Nursing Home, Carol Spinks Homecare, Ayesha Slader and Pengelly Funeral Service, Prebendary Brian Anderson, and all who turned out to say farewell to a much-loved and well-remembered local businesswoman, mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

## Saltash Refuses to Support Tourist Ban

A petition to encourage Cornish MPs to maintain the enforcement of lockdown precautions by halting an influx of tourists and owners of second homes to Cornwall was discussed by Saltash Town Council.

The petition is supported by those concerned that increased visitor numbers will lead to an increase in the cases of Coronavirus, which have been relatively limited in Cornwall in comparison with more densely populated areas. A draft petition prepared on behalf of Luxulyan Parish Council was debated at Saltash Town Council’s July meeting held using ‘Zoom’.

It was agreed that Saltash Town Council should refuse to support the petition.

## SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...



We have now opened up the vast majority of places as the Pandemic subsides in our country. It is important to remember to stay alert to how the virus is transmitted as it is still with us. Whilst there is good news with regards a vaccine we are still a long way off and must continue to be careful whilst we get back to our lives as normal as we can be.

I have been very busy both in Parliament and in the constituency dealing with the many concerns and questions people have raised with me. My Liskeard office has now re-opened. I only have a small office so to allow one metre plus distancing we will only allow one person in at a time and please follow the guidance beside the front door. It would be helpful for you to make an appointment by ringing 01579 344428.

Please continue to contact me on Sheryll@sheryllmurray.com. Please do ensure you spell my name correctly with one ‘r’ and two ‘l’s otherwise I will not receive this email. Please include your physical address as I can only deal with constituents. You can also write to me at The Office of Sheryll Murray MP, The Parade, Liskeard PL14 6AF.

Recently it was good to return to the Forest Holidays Chalets at Deerpark to see their preparations for the return of visitors. I last visited the site 3 years ago to open their new Forest Hub at their location near Herodsfoot. I would like to thank Stuart for showing me the extensive precautions they have made to ensure that their guests are as safe as they can be. I was particularly impressed by the fact that the chalets were given a very

deep clean and then sealed until guests arrive. I know that many businesses are taking this much care before they open and I would like to thank everyone for all their efforts in helping to beat this virus.

It was good to get regular updates from the local police as organised by our Police & Crime Commissioner Alison Hernandez. Alison has been incredibly active over the coronavirus period.

I have had a meeting with other MPs with Alison and senior Police Officers on a regular basis. These meetings were initiated by Alison and were really useful as we were all able to feed in the issues which were being raised and she was able to give us the issues the Police were dealing with. It is great to have someone in this position that is so proactive.

It was really good to go along to HMS Raleigh last Friday and see for myself the plans that they have had in place to continue with vital Royal Naval Initial Navy Training since the lockdown. I was really impressed at how the seriously recruits and staff were taking the social distancing and how each division was treated as a family bubble. Of course, as has always been the case, new recruits are confined to the base and do not go out in the community and this made it possible for a lot of the measures necessary to be put in place. I was pleased to attend the ‘Passing Out’ ceremony.

This was the first time that a limited number of Families of those recruits who had successfully completed their Initial Training had been allowed to attend and view the Ceremony in person.

### Observer Contact Details

07971484872 or

01579 345699

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w: saltash-observer.co.uk

## Conundrum Corner

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

- 1 Where in the human body is the Helix situated? (3)
- 2 Pugh, Pugh, Barney Magrew, Cuthbert, Dibble and Grub were characters in which Children’s animated programme? (8)
- 3 How many Greek Muses were there? (4)
- 4 5 Which Staffordshire Cathedral is famous for having three Spires? (9)
- 6 Iraq’s invasion of which Country, in 1990, led to the Gulf War? (6)
- 7 Which is the main River to flow through Hamburg? (4)
- 8 Which species of Whale was formerly known as a Grampus? (4)
- 9 Which village in the Lake District was the home of William Wordsworth and his Sister Dorothy? (8)
- 10 What name is given to the protein that surrounds the yolk of an Egg? (7)

Answers on Page 7

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## Wartime and 'Wreckage of War' Recorded at Wearde

A little-known part of Saltash's recent history has been commemorated on a site adjacent to Saltash Community School's main gate and the public footpath. An information/story board recently erected here stands near the centre of what was the last home in Britain for many thousands of soldiers en route to the battlefields of World War I. Established in 1914, soon after the outbreak of war, this training camp is now commemorated with illustrations of the numerous tents, and later huts, which covered the ground where the school, the housing estates behind and the open fields in front are now spread. Similar boards at the train station and by the former ferry slipway at Waterside illustrate some of the soldiers who trained at Wearde Camp setting off on what, for many, would have been their last journey.



Wearde Camp was subsequently converted to become the Queen Alexandra Convalescent Centre between 1918 and 1927, treating those who returned, often physically and mentally maimed by four years of war.

The board at Wearde includes a quotation of the time: 'Among the poor fellows who constitute the wreckage of war are a certain number who find themselves unable to follow their former peacetime occupations and are making a courageous bid to fit themselves for a fresh trade'. The Saltash World War I Commemorative Events Committee thoroughly researched the history of the site, and pictures on the board illustrate the hutments which included a four hundred seat theatre/kinema.

Extracts from local press are also displayed, referring to the fleet of boats on the Lynher for recreation and a 1921 football match against Argyle Reserves at Home Park to raise funds for a horse and carriage for disabled ex-servicemen. The board also features an illustration of an Alexandra Medal awarded in 1921 as 'First Prize for Commercial Subjects' to H.J. Thomas.

In 1923 it was proposed that the site be converted to a garden suburb for Plymothians where 'larger families living in rooms would have the opportunity of living under healthier conditions and becoming valued citizens'.

Instead, in the 1930's, the land was given over to the Saltash Miniature Rifle Club and the Plymouth Juvenile Association. A camp was set up for young people, and it was recorded that boys from Ilminster, Somerset, much enjoyed spending 2 weeks bathing and boating.

Later it reverted to farmland, much of which has since been built upon. Just one memory remained: one of

## Town Team to Bring Back Life to Fore Street

A newly established 'Town Team' representative of all groups involved in promoting business in Saltash has been set up to bring back life to Fore Street in a post-Covid era.

There have been other such groups previously having the same intentions. However, Town Team spokesperson Cornwall Councillor Derek Holley told the Observer: "This is the first time that all interested parties including Saltash Town Council, Saltash Chamber of Commerce, the Community Interest Company and local Cornwall Councillors have come together with a mutual objective - to try and improve the customer experience and make visiting Fore Street shops a pleasurable experience." He added, "We are in it for the long term as a 'can do' group, both positive and practical."

One advantage of such a co-ordinated forum representing all interested parties is that it will enable Saltash to access funding to improve the vitality of the town centre. Already the group has benefited from advice from Cornwall Council's community liaison officer Catherine Thomson.

While many local businesses have re-opened post lockdown there is concern that some will never re-open. On the more positive side, some of the vacant premises have been taken by new businesses and, while many regular shoppers have become used to shopping online, they are starting to return to enjoy the experience of physically shopping within our friendly

local shopping centre, subject to safety precautions.

Eager to encourage more to return to Fore Street, the Town Team has set up a number of small working groups to work and report back on individual issues on which the full team can consider and seek funding where appropriate. Such issues include seating and cover in Fore Street, outside selling and market spaces, vehicle movements and advertising.

"Cornwall Council is keen to get all of our Fore Street living again and plans to do so have been stimulated following the Covid-19 experience as funding becomes available", Cornwall Councillor Holley told us.

## Lockdown-Free!



Lockdown twice delayed the marriage of Saltash residents Nisani Wijayakanthan and M a r u t h a m u t h u Chandrakumar. Originally from Sri Lanka, they eventually tied the knot on July 5th at Liskeard Register Office. Although only four were allowed into the ceremony, a big crowd of guests witnessed proceedings through windows from outside! We wish the happy couple a successful future together.



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the huts was removed to St. Stephens to serve as a community hall until the 1970's. That now has gone and the Saltash World War I Commemorative Events Committee has been pleased, as one of their last projects, to ensure that the memories of the thousands of soldiers and disabled ex servicemen who passed through Wearde Camp are not to be forgotten.

The information/story board project and its co-project, 'Lowena' - the musical story based on Queen Alexandra's Convalescent Centre, Wearde Camp, performed at St Stephens Church last November, were funded by Heritage Lottery.

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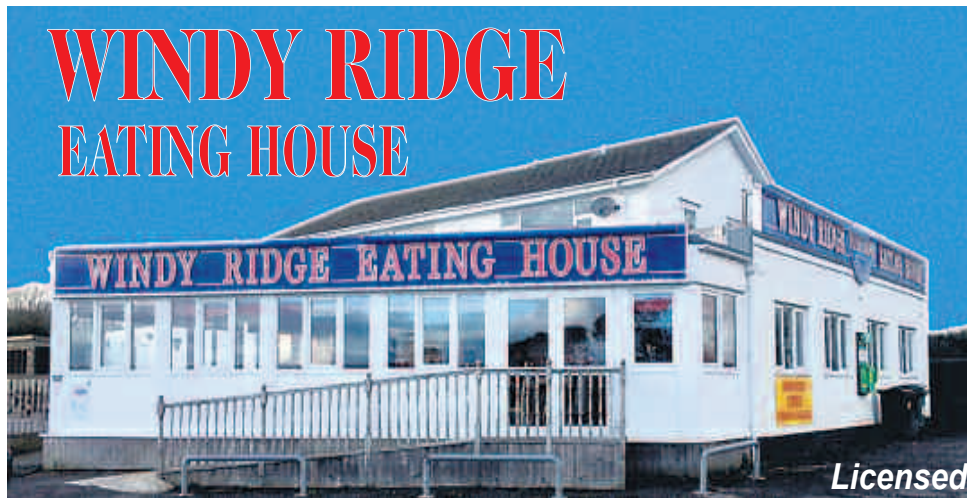
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