

# SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

July 2021 - Issue 352

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## Safe38 Targets Prime Minister Boris Johnson

*In Open Letter on Social Media*

In an open letter to the Prime Minister Boris Johnson being shared on social media, local campaign group Safe38 are asking for his help in averting a disaster and gaining support for real investment in the A38 in SE Cornwall.

Chair of the Safe38 group James Millidge said: "We have written to our local Cornwall MPs, and our local town and parish councils. Now we need the Prime Minister to understand fully the issues with this road, and why we have no choice but to declare a Road Safety Emergency on the section of the A38 between Saltash and Trerulefoot. "The case for action on the A38 showed that a new dual carriageway bypass would contribute to boosting the local and regional economy to the tune of £900m in induced economic growth securing livelihoods, and will slash the collision rate saving the most amount of lives. "Surely the residents of Cornwall and its visitors deserve better than the current scope of proposals which only hints at sections of single

carriageway bypasses and no dual carriageway at all. It does not represent a levelling up and does not appear to be building back better.

"We know that building new car parking spaces at Newquay airport to the tune of £7.8m in time for the G7 summit was treated as 'project speed' by this government, so where there's a will, there's a way.

"We are asking the Prime Minister to support us in this bid to get a dual carriageway option back on the table."

Proposals from Highways England that have been discussed within council stakeholders groups have so far ruled out this option in the pipeline projects to be

consulted on in 2022 despite officers from Highways England themselves saying it would be the best solution.

James Millidge added: "In a fortuitous introduction to the now Prime Minister Boris Johnson during the delivery of the Case for Action on the A38 to Westminster in October 2018, he stated to the group that he fully supports the need for investment in the A38.

"That investment is now vital for this stretch of road. We know it will take many years to develop plans to get a dual carriageway delivered but we must push for the best solution and we must push for that now."

See open letter to PM on page 6

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

## Is it Too Late to Return to a Stable Climate?

Marianne Beale, former Saltash Environmental Citizen of the Year, has denounced the Conservative Cornwall Councillors who blocked a motion to support the Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Bill at a meeting of Cornwall Council.

Speaking soon after the vote Marianne said: "This planet is in the most precarious situation – just look at the fires in Canada. It may already be too late to return to a stable climate. The CEE Bill tabled in the House of Commons by Caroline Lucas MP has been crafted by eminent scientists, and presents the clear, precise proposals we need to drastically reduce carbon emissions and restore biodiversity."

The CEE Bill has cross-party support from 100 MPs, but none from Cornwall. Supporters of the motion in Cornwall Council, including Cornwall Councillor Hilary Frank, talked passionately about how bold new thinking was needed, and were hoping that Cornwall Council would join 81 local authorities, including Devon County Council, who have passed motions supporting the CEE



"This planet is in the most precarious situation – just look at the fires in Canada..."

Bill. Instead, the motion was lost with 33 votes in favour, 39 against and five abstentions.

"Not one Conservative councillor voted in favour of the motion. I don't understand how the Conservatives on Cornwall Council claim they want to build back greener one minute and then reject the CEE Bill the next," said Marianne. "It is bitterly disappointing and dishonourable, especially when there is every good reason to support and none to reject."

**SALTFEST**  
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For more information see Page 5

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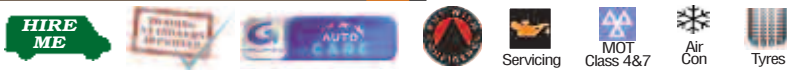
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# Town Messenger

Working for the People of Saltash

News from Saltash Town Council  
Konsel an dre Essa



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Email: [schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk)

**Education Welfare:**  
Telephone: 0300 1234 101  
[educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk)

**Housing Department**  
Telephone: 0300 1234 161  
Email: [info@cornwallhousing.org.uk](mailto:info@cornwallhousing.org.uk)  
**Social Services Department**  
Telephone: 0300 1234 101  
Email: [children@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:children@cornwall.gov.uk)

**Social Services Department**  
Telephone: 0300 1234 131  
[adultcare@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:adultcare@cornwall.gov.uk)

**Highways Department**  
Telephone: 0300 1234 222  
Email: [customerrelations@cornwallimited.co.uk](mailto:customerrelations@cornwallimited.co.uk)

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(Bus Pass) Telephone: 0300 1234 222  
Email: [schooltransport@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:schooltransport@cornwall.gov.uk)

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*Town Messenger  
news is supplied  
by the Town  
Council*

## Cornwall Councillors/ Wards

### Saltash Essa ED

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

### Saltash Tamar ED

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

### Saltash Trematon & Landrake ED

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

### Cornwall Councillors Cover such services as:

Housing – Education  
Social Services  
Highways  
Waste & Recycling  
Tamar Bridge

## From the Mayor of Saltash

As I write this column, we receive the news that most of the Covid-19 restrictions that have controlled or influenced our lives for the past sixteen months, are to be removed from 19th July. This will be most welcome news to many businesses who have struggled for so long and is certainly a step in the right direction on the road to normality. It has been emphasised, however, that we need to take greater personal responsibility for our own actions and I do suspect that face coverings will be around for some time to come. I



know that I will still exercise caution during the coming months, as I'm sure will many residents.

### Richard Bickford Deputy Mayor



*Thank you to my Fellow Councillors & the Residents for your Support...*

This is my first opportunity to thank both my fellow councillors in supporting me in taking on the role of Deputy Mayor for the following year, but also the residents who have offered support over a number of years. I am in no doubt about the amount of work required from fellow councillors and myself in the coming months to deliver benefits to Saltash. The need to ensure the Library and Station buildings are well used, and that the Town Centre is supported and promoted to ensure its vitality for years to come, these are just a few of the tasks ahead of us.

I have spent a considerable amount of time over the past few years driving the station project forward, and look forward to opening the doors for a variety of events as restrictions are eased. One of the first events being the Drawn to the Valley Art Show, from August 28th to September 5th, five Saltash based artists will be showing their works as part of a wider programme throughout the Tamar Valley, it has always felt that the building would make an excellent venue for such shows. Please drop in and see their work and I hope you will think we have made a good job of the building.

As the former Vice Chair of our Services Committee, I have been 'looking after the show' since the elections until the committee meets again, and elects a new Chair and Vice Chair. I have enjoyed working with our Service Delivery Team and trying to help them find the right balance on things like frequency of grass cutting and watering given different

pressures. I am so impressed with the whole team who have coped admirably during the last year, taking on new responsibilities along the way. The team have now installed the new 'Waterside cabin' at Jubilee Green, this provides a higher quality accommodation, and I very much hope will allow the town council to better manage the Waterside area, and where appropriate, take on responsibilities from Cornwall Council.

My personal view on Devolution, a process or taking over assists and responsibilities, primarily from Cornwall Council, is that it needs to be right for Saltash, and where additional costs are likely they should not be significant, or that they should be funded or recoverable in the longer term. This needs to be a true partnership where everyone sees a benefit, not simply a cost saving exercise for Cornwall Council.

Councillor Richard Bickford  
Deputy Mayor 2021/22

Saltash Town Council recently welcomed two new Councillors to the team, filling vacancies that have existed since the election in May. Cllr Matt Griffiths was co-opted to fill the vacancy in Essa Ward, whilst a familiar face re-joined the team, in the form of Cllr Jean Dent who is one of six Councillors now representing Tamar Ward. I look forward to working with them over the coming months. Fore Street is looking

really good with the hanging baskets now in position and the flower beds amply filled. Residents may also have noticed the appearance of a 'new' Rotary Club boat, between the bridge slip road and Fore Street, just alongside the traffic lights. This is in fact not a new boat, but one that has been rediscovered after the removal of some shrubbery that has kept it hidden for years. Indeed, there were several members

of Rotary that didn't know it was there, but it is now repainted and suitably planted up, looking quite splendid.

Residents may also have noticed the NHS flags that appeared around the Town, in time for NHS day which was on 5th July. I would like to thank our Service Delivery Team for putting up those flags, which were funded jointly by Saltash Rotary Club and by private donation. Another example of how

Saltash Town Council can work so well with outside bodies and organisations for the benefit of the Town.

A shorter than usual column this month, as some column space has been given over to Deputy Mayor Richard Bickford who has some interesting updates.

Until next month, take care and stay safe.

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

## Your Town Council & Wards

### Saltash Essa:

1. Cllr Richard Bickford  
[r.bickford@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:r.bickford@saltash.gov.uk)
2. Cllr Rachel Bullock  
[r.bullock@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:r.bullock@saltash.gov.uk)
3. Cllr Gloria Challen  
[g.challen@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:g.challen@saltash.gov.uk)
4. Cllr Matt Griffiths  
[m.griffiths@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:m.griffiths@saltash.gov.uk)
5. Cllr Averil Pinckney  
[a.pinckney@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:a.pinckney@saltash.gov.uk)
6. Vacancy

### Saltash Tamar:

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

### Saltash Trematon:

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

### Mayor:

Cllr Pete Samuels  
**Deputy Mayor:**  
Cllr Richard Bickford

### Town Clerk:

Ray Lane  
T: 844846  
E: [enquiries@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@saltash.gov.uk)

**Councillors' Telephone Numbers can be obtained at The Guildhall.**

**Saltash Town Council, The Guildhall, 12 Lower Fore Street, Saltash PL12 6JX**  
Tel.: 01752 844846 Email: [enquiries@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@saltash.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.saltash.gov.uk](http://www.saltash.gov.uk)

## Ex Mayor and Labour Candidate Co-Opted to Council

A former Mayor of Saltash and a previous labour party candidate for Cornwall Council have both been co-opted onto Saltash Town Council.

In the May elections there were nine candidates fighting for four seats in Saltash Trematon Ward but only five candidates standing for the six seats in the Essa and Tamar Wards. Accordingly the elected councillors held a special town council meeting to interview and choose from the seven local residents who sought to be co-opted onto the two vacant seats.

Following the interviews and questioning of the seven candidates a vote was held. The Essa seat was awarded to Matt Griffiths, who had stood for Labour in the May Cornwall Council election.

He has lived in Saltash for twenty-five years, where he and his wife have raised their two adult children. As Chief Executive Officer of Youth Music, the largest youth and music charity in Britain, he told councillors that he was especially supportive of young people who had been having a particularly bad time over the past year, and believed that Saltash Town Council needed a strategy for recovery from the pandemic.

He wanted to be part of an ambitious council encouraging visitors to stay in the Gateway Town to Cornwall, and to work collectively to make the

Waterfront an even more attractive place to visit.

After eight years on the Town Council during two of which she served as Mayor, Mrs Jean Dent had stood down at the May election due, she explained, to fears of bringing Covid into her household while campaigning. She now wished to continue making a difference to the town and its residents. Councillors voted for her to be co-opted onto the vacant Tamar Ward seat.

Mrs Dent foresaw many exciting projects during the council's four-year term, in which she wished to play a part, including continuing the upgrading of a Fore Street for people to be proud of. If

## Saltash Town Council Tree Wardens

At the Meeting of The Planning and Licensing Committee held on Wednesday 26th May 2021, it was resolved to approve a group of up to 4 Volunteer Tree Wardens for Saltash Town Council, to improve the level of recommendations to the Town Council, liaise with the residents of the town, and assist in promoting the protection of existing trees and planting of new trees throughout Saltash.

The Town Council is grateful to the Tree Wardens for giving up their time voluntarily to assist with the preservation and enhancement of the arboricultural heritage of Saltash.

The Town Council is committed to conserving the natural environment of our historic, beautiful town and remains determined that trees and the biodiversity which they support, should be maintained and encouraged for the enjoyment of both present and future generations of Saltash.

## G7 Conference Camera for Waterside

One of the high-quality security cameras acquired by Cornwall Council for the security of the world leaders who attended the G7 conference at Carbis Bay is to come to Saltash.

The camera is on loan to the town and will be sited at Waterside to monitor and hopefully prevent anti-social behaviour thereabouts this Summer.

## Saltash Town Council

At an Extraordinary meeting of Saltash Town Council held on the 24th June, 2021, applications for the office of Town Councillor to fill the existing vacancies in Essa and Tamar Wards were heard and a vote took place.

The result of the voting process was: Councillor for Essa Ward is Matt Griffiths – [m.griffiths@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:m.griffiths@saltash.gov.uk)

Councillor for Tamar Ward is Jean Dent – [j.dent@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:j.dent@saltash.gov.uk) The co-opted candidates signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The Town Council would like to congratulate the successful candidates and thank all other candidates for their applications.



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[www.saltash-observer.co.uk](http://www.saltash-observer.co.uk)

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

As we move into the summer holidays, the biggest issue for Chamber remains the ongoing resurfacing work on the Tamar Bridge. Last Friday, 8 July, the Joint Committee held a key stakeholder meeting to allow questions to be asked regarding the project. As could have been expected, the majority of them concerned Saltash as the impact of the works is felt most keenly here by our retailers, our taxi drivers and our hauliers.

Much is being done to mitigate the delays we face with just three lanes open and 3000 cars per hour crossing the bridge. One particular change is the heavier use of 'tidal flow' traffic management to respond to queues and heavy traffic with around 35 lane changes a day compared to 10. Keeping traffic moving through the tunnel is also a key concern for safety reasons, and why it's prioritised. Traffic needs to continue to merge in turn from Saltash.

Bluetooth sensors at Carkeel and St Budeaux keep track of journey times but without any in Saltash, and visibility restricted to just the bottom half of Fore Street from the bridge control centre, it's difficult to track how gridlocked the town becomes. Additional sensors are on their way and locations will include Fore Street and North Road. CCTV is a further option which will future-proof the town for other pipeline projects on the bridge.

Any readers who would like to submit questions for the next stakeholder meeting can write to:



chair@saltashchamber.co.uk. In the meantime, the updates on the Bridge Authority website and Facebook page very often contain explanations for a lot of the questions we all have.

### SaltFest 2021

Chamber meetings are held the first Monday of each month and this time, we had the important decision to take on whether we continue with plans to hold the new SaltFest event or postpone. The decision to continue was unanimous but we are working hard to make sure that this first community event since Covid struck is the success we all deserve it to be. That said, it all needs funding and we have 6000 raffle tickets to sell with great cash prizes! Please dig deep and make this an event to remember. Get your tickets from The Bookshelf, Eclectic at Home, Nicky's Glow Beads and CEPL12 at 4, Fore Street.

### Networking event in August

It was exciting to meet back in person for July's meeting at China Fleet which became a 'Hybrid' meeting with some remote attendees - it worked very well and we will continue to offer Zoom access to our meetings. Rather than break for August, we will be holding a networking event on Fore Street. All businesses are welcome and we will update our Facebook with the details to:

## Museum Awards Presented in Tudor Garden



Two prestigious awards were presented to Saltash Heritage and one to the Tamar Protection Society by the Cornwall Museum Partnership, in a ceremony held in the gardens of Mary Newman's Cottage. The ceremony should have been held at the Royal Cornwall Showground in Wadebridge but due to restrictions these were presented locally. The Cornwall Heritage Award for "Wellbeing" celebrates "initiatives and activities that encourage healthy and active lifestyles" and Saltash Heritage achieved first place for its work with the volunteers who man our friendly town museum. The award was in recognition of the Heritage "Jigsaw" initiative in which each volunteer was given a silver jigsaw piece to attach to their lanyard and also a piece of a picture which was put together at the stewards' 2020 party, symbolising how they all fitted together as a team.

Highly commended in category "One to Watch" was Robert Barrett. The award is to commend "young people who bring their skills and enthusiasm to Heritage". Robert's award reflected his tireless and systematic work in recording changes in his local town centre.

The Tamar Protection Society won an award for "Best Festival Event or exhibition" in appreciation of their Mary Newman's Cottage Tudor Afternoon, held with music, period costume and authentic refreshments in a Tudor house and garden.

The award ceremony was hosted by Tamar Protection Society, custodians of the cottage, and the presentations were made by Stephanie Clemens, Cornwall Museum Partnership's Museum Development Officer.

They were accepted by Lizzy Sharpe-Asprey and Gerry Sweet on behalf of Heritage and the Tamar Protection Society. Heritage also arranged for a special certificate of appreciation to be given to Robert Barrett by Mayor and Mayoress Peter and Brenda Samuels who were also present as invited guests. The ceremony was followed by a cream tea and period music from Ilow Splann.

## Grant Applications Approved

At a recent meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee of Saltash Town Council, applications for both the Community Chest and Festival Fund grants were heard.

The following applications were approved:

Community Chest Saltash United Juniors FC relaunch project £970  
Coombe Woods Regeneration Project £700

Festival Fund Royal British Legion Annual Festival of Remembrance - Saltash £700  
Saltash Regatta Committee - Saltash Regatta 2021 £2,929.43  
Cornwall Pride £500  
SaltFest £1,477.75

Saltash groups and organisations are welcome to apply for both Community Chest and Festival Fund monies. For more information and application forms please look at the Saltash Town Council website: Request Forms (saltash.gov.uk)

## Fire Cadets Gaining Fire Engine

A new fire engine with all the latest in equipment and facilities will benefit fire crews as well as the town. An enhanced water supply of two thousand litres, as against 1650 litres will improve firefighting capacity.

The eager young people who make up Saltash Fire Cadets will also benefit as the town's former fire appliance is targeted to be retained at Saltash fire station to be utilised by them for training purposes.

## Join us at SaltFest!

By the time this goes to press, and if everything goes to plan, Community Enterprises PL12 should have taken over the old Barclays Bank building at 24 Fore St. to turn it into a vibrant new Community Hub.

Jo Baskott, Chair of Community Enterprises PL12, explains "we've been exploring options to expand our activities for some time, but the Covid crisis has been a catalyst for us. During the past 17 months, our amazing team of volunteers have spent many hours helping our community in whatever way they can. Now that there is some light at the end of the tunnel, we decided that now would be the perfect opportunity to open a larger, more central Community Hub, with lots of activities, events and classes, and opportunities to socialise and make new friends.

Join us at SaltFest on Saturday 31st July, for an Open Day and tour of No. 24, and chat to our volunteers about the exciting plans we have for the building; bringing a neglected, empty building back into use as a vibrant, welcoming Community Hub. We'll be on the lookout for new volunteers to help with the Hub, community shop, digital inclusion, activities, mobile fridge, community kitchen; but first we need to give the place a lick of paint!"

Call Community Enterprises PL12 on 01752 848348 for further details, or to have a chat about volunteering.

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26th Year

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## Health And Hospital's Future Will Be Further Reviewed

The future of health services in Saltash and of Saltash's St. Barnabas Hospital were being reviewed prior to the covid epidemic, and this review will be resumed to include consideration of the effect of the epidemic.

A series of workshops had been set up to review the usage of the Victorian hospital building but the review was paused as NHS services were diverted to the covid programme, Cornwall Councillor Hilary Frank told Saltash Town Council in response to a query from the League of Friends of St. Barnabas.

Prior to the epidemic the building was being used largely as offices for NHS and other staff, since the closure of the inpatient wards, though a number of clinics were also being held in the building.

Since covid the clinics had been reduced to two and office use has decreased due to working from home and concerns as to the old building providing a safe working environment.

Meanwhile local GP services had been increased with six extra consulting rooms added to the Saltash Health Centre and a wider range of services such as mental health treatment available locally.

The pandemic had in Saltash, as elsewhere, enforced different means of consultation including through video, telephone and text. These were likely to continue, though it was accepted that they were not suitable for all patients.

Once the review of health service in Saltash resumes there

## Date for your Diary



Get to know your local artists when Drawn to the Valley comes to Saltash for Open Studios  
A Free Exhibition at:  
Saltash Station,  
28th Aug – 5th Sept 2021



## Rooftop Rescue for Stranded Seagull

A dramatic rescue on Saltash Waterfront saw a fire engine speed down the hill and its ladder soar to the roof of an apartment block overlooking the river.

Crew climbed up the 135-foot ladder to effect the rescue of a seagull reported as trapped beneath netting, erected to discourage the birds from nesting.

Avid watchers of the early evening drama saw a fireman cut away a section of the netting and use a water spray bottle to encourage the gull out from under. Rescue duly accomplished the fire crew drove off and the gull flew away apparently none the worse for the ordeal. The experience could be relived through the Saltash Fire Brigade's Facebook site.

will be further discussions on which services may be better provided closer to home than from Derriford, Councillor Frank assured.

## Bridge Delays Improved but Still Cause Concern

Tamar bridge delays to traffic caused by the ongoing resurfacing work have been reduced by reactive management control but are still causing concern.

Joint Chair of the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Committee Martin Worth, who is also Deputy Portfolio Holder for Transport on Cornwall Council told town councillors of his personal experience of problems in his capacity as volunteer Hopper Bus driver.

Since work commenced there have been workshops held between users, councillors and MPs from both sides of the bridge and communications on updates as well as sharing of information from transport companies have been effective.

It is claimed that the average delay to Eastbound traffic is five minutes but transport companies have claimed it to be more like twenty-five minutes. The Go South West Bus Company reported significant delays, especially to its 5 and 5A services during the first week, and these and other services still experience delays, though the situation has improved. Traffic levels during June were reported as 85% of pre-covid and there was concern as to how the situation will be during summer holidays with staycationers expected to pack into Cornwall.

Some improvements, Councillor Worth advised, have resulted from bridge management monitoring and changing lane priorities sometimes over 45 times a day, the normal practice being around eight times daily.

Signs on the A38 discouraging drivers from turning off onto the North Road "rat run" have also proved effective, Councillor Worth advised. This in turn has helped relieve congestion in Fore Street. He was intending to hold further discussions with the bridge management teams as to how to improve access from Saltash onto the slip road to the bridge.

## Farewell to Former Waterside Inn

The face of Saltash's Waterside is changing for ever with the demolition of the historic "Waterside Inn". Originally named "The Wheatsheaf" it has been derelict for many years and local residents are welcoming seeing it knocked down, having been concerned as to trespassers endangering themselves and others.

Planning permission for it to be replaced by a residential development with parking facilities was granted some years ago but no action was taken as the building deteriorated. At the request of Saltash Heritage it was a planning condition that an archaeological survey could take place before a replacement structure is built.

The building is part of the ancient heart of the town close to the site of a 17th century civil war battery. The date of the former "Wheatsheaf" is uncertain, though the date 1740 has been put forward for part of the structure. It did play a role in the town's history when landlord Henry Goodman led a group of local fishermen in a famous legal battle against the Borough of Saltash to maintain their oyster fishing rights. This continued from 1876 to 1882 resulting in the House of Lords finding for the fishermen in what is still regarded as an important legal precedent. A plaque commemorating Henry Goodman and his fellow fishermen was on the wall of the former inn and is now held in Saltash museum.

## Four Hundred Homes Given Go-Ahead

The first stage of the thousand homes being built on the large triangle of greenfield site between Carkeel, Stoketon Cross and Hatt is due to commence this Summer.

Just under four hundred homes, 387 in total, have been granted planning permission after decades of consideration as to how the area should be developed. Early plans included bringing employment to the area through a science park or attracting visitors through a shopping village and both schemes attracted considerable support. However, with housing targets rising and Saltash being obliged to provide around a thousand more homes it was decided to create most if not all of them on the one larger site, formerly known as Broadmoor but now given the more Cornish name of Treledan.

Outline permission for the major housing development was granted in 2017. However, plans submitted in 2020 for the first 430 homes were rejected by Cornwall planning officers as characterless, too densely packed, and "Un-Cornish" in appearance.

The amended plans for 387 homes followed meeting

between the developers and Design Review Panels. The proposals are, they claim, "Greener", with more ancient hedgerows preserved, green space maintained and cycle and pedestrian links opened up. Garden size has been increased and the houses designed to be more in character with a Cornish town. Materials, colours and styles will reflect a distinctive Cornish character, developers Barratt David Wilson Homes, claim.

Work is already underway on a new roundabout between Carkeel services and Carkeel village. This will give access to the housing development which will begin hereabouts.

The total development will stretch out alongside the A38 to Stoketon Cross and is intended to include school, sheltered housing, shops and light industrial units. However, it is probable that the first 387 houses of Phase 1 will have to be built and sold before work on the next phase can be commenced.

## Cigarette Butts Contain 4000 Poisonous Chemicals

Saltash Environmental Action (SEA) is launching a 'Bin the Butt' campaign to alert the public to the dangers of throwing cigarette butts on the pavements and public areas of Saltash. Chemicals from cigarette butts get washed into the sea and poison marine life when they end up in drains after being dropped on the ground.

Chair of SEA Adrian White said: "Most people do not appreciate that cigarette butts are highly toxic. They contain over 4000 poisonous chemicals including nicotine, arsenic, carcinogens and heavy metals like lead.

"When it rains these chemicals end up in the sea, either directly when the butt is washed down a storm drain, or via a sewage treatment works where the poisons cannot be removed. So every cigarette butt thrown onto the ground can poison marine wildlife. To add to the problem the butts also contain microplastics."

Saltash Environmental Action committee members were appalled to read of laboratory research in the USA where putting just 2 cigarette butts in a litre of water in fish-tanks killed virtually all the fish.

The Bin the Butt campaign will feature posters at bus stops and on lamp posts in prominent places in the town, as well as targeting radio and social media. SEA is also making 500 pocket ashtrays available from several sites in Saltash throughout the campaign to encourage people to dispose of their butts appropriately and to not drop them on the ground.

Adrian added: "The handy sized tin will hold a quantity of cigarette butts, cool down quickly to allow them to be put in pockets and handbags, and can be emptied easily at a bin or at home."

Follow the campaign which is being funded by Clean Cornwall's 'High Street Heroes' on the Saltash Environmental Action Facebook page.

## Essa Voices

We breathed a collective sigh of relief to see that there was no mention at all of 'Devonwall' in the recent proposals for new parliamentary boundaries. It means Cornwall will keep its six parliamentary constituencies wholly within Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, there will be no constituencies straddling the Tamar, and we can 'Keep Cornwall Whole'.

The proposals were released by the Boundary Commission for England, and reading through them reminded me of the protests on the banks of the Tamar the last time the spectre of Devonwall was raised, back in 2011. It prompted me to look through my scrapbooks. I unearthed some cuttings about the anti-Devonwall protests, and found the front-page photo that had accompanied one of the newspaper articles: our eldest daughter with a Cornish flag emblazoned on her cheek. A lot of time and a lot of water have certainly passed under the Tamar Bridge since then – the little girl in the newspaper was four years old, but she is due to sit her GCSEs next year! We've also seen the landmark decision in 2014 to recognise Cornish people as a national minority under the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. The legal protection this affords will surely anchor the expectation that the integrity of our Cornish borders will be protected in the future.

At the time of those Devonwall protests a decade ago David Cameron famously remarked: 'It's the Tamar, not the Amazon, for heaven's sake'. How misguided he was. It's one of the oldest borders in Europe, and a clearly visible, meandering line between Saltash and Plymouth, Cornwall and England.

I had always thought that looking out over the watery

border each day might encourage Saltash residents to be more aware of, more proud of their Cornish identity. I was surprised, then, by a map I came across the other day, colour coded to show how strongly residents of different areas of Cornwall identify as Cornish. The darker the colour the stronger the 'Cornishness'. The map shows a marked east to west gradient, with profoundly dark areas in Cornwall's old central mining district of Camborne-Redruth, but areas all along the 'border with England' a lacklustre pale.



The map and the Boundary Commission have got me thinking about what it means to be Cornish. I've heard that you need five generations of Cornish to be 'proper' Cornish. Well, my little girl with the Cornish flag on her cheek protesting against Devonwall was born in Cornwall, is fiercely proud of her hometown of Saltash, and has a Cornish mother. But, actually, neither of my parents was born in Cornwall, and her father is Japanese.

As a family, we celebrate the fact that although her Dad is not Cornish by birth he is now



Councillor Hilary Frank  
c1r.hilary.frank@cornwall.gov.uk

Cornish by choice. He is a belligerent in Cornish churches and sings Trelawny louder than many. He wears a Cornish tartan tie, though he knows it is a recent invention. He has a Cornish sense of place and a Cornish state of mind.

I grew up in that central mining district of Camborne-Redruth, but my mother was born in Rotterdam. Her working life was dedicated to supporting young people in Cornwall, first as a youth worker then in a primary school in Penzance. And here I am now, as a member of Cornwall Council's Constitution and Governance Committee, helping to shape Cornwall's response to the Boundary Commission's proposals for the parliamentary constituencies Cornwall will have from 2023.

Cornwall's identity and socio-economic development are being shaped and steered by a rich, cream tea diversity of people. Many may prefer jam first, some may prefer splits to scones, but we all appreciate the togetherness of a good cream tea.

The Boundary Commission's consultation runs until 2nd August. Visit their website to see how the boundaries for South East Cornwall and the other five parliamentary constituencies will shift to make sure we can Keep Cornwall Whole. You're welcome to comment on the proposals, too. And always remember: the whole is greater than the sum of the parts.

## Saltash Mobile Fridge & Larder Returns

August sees the return of the popular Mobile Larder, which redistributes surplus food to anyone who will use it, saving good food from being wasted. Timed to coincide with the summer holidays, the Mobile Larder will follow 2 alternating routes throughout August.

Sam Gardner, Community Fridge Director explains "The Mobile Larder is run by volunteers from Community Enterprises PL12, and funded by donations. It was very popular during Lockdown, and we've brought it back for the summer holidays, running every Monday. It helps save good food from being wasted, and we hope it will help families during what could be a difficult few weeks.

We are continuing to run the popular Community Fridge based at 4 Fore St, which is currently open 3 times a week; Tuesday and Friday 3pm – 5pm, and Saturday 10.30 – 12.30.

The Community Fridge redistributes surplus food which would otherwise be wasted, and we never know what we're getting; we could have dozens of eggs one day, boxes of bananas the next, loaves of sourdough bread, or dozens of jammy donuts. The food is free to anyone who will use it, helping to reduce food waste. If food waste was a country, it would be the third largest producer of greenhouse gases, behind China and USA. So helping to reduce food waste also helps the environment".

Call our Hub on 01752 848348 for details regarding the Mobile Larder routes & times, or to have a chat about volunteering and helping to run the Community Fridge and Mobile Larder.

Due to Covid uncertainty & timing of events it is possible a few papers might not reach everyone before the event takes place. We will of course do our best as always.

## Fore Street Cameras Reconsidered

The siting of CCTV cameras in Fore Street has been raised again as a result of public concern following the Sarah Everard tragedy. A long-term resident's request that cameras be mounted in the town, in Fore Street as a minimum, was considered by town council members at their June meeting.

It was suggested that this would help with safety, vandalism, and demonstrate the town's commitment to improving safety for all, in particular shopkeepers, shoppers and public transport users.

Historically there were once

cameras in Fore Street, monitored part time in Liskeard, but these proved inadequate to identify suspects. Technology has improved considerably since then and the issue has been discussed over recent years.

"This has been discussed

before and we need to look at it again" stated Mayor Peter Samuels.

"The organisation Safer Saltash will include the issue in its report to the next meeting when we will have more information to fully consider the matter".



Saturday 31st July

Music in Longstone Park 12 noon to 10pm  
Market on Fore Street from 12 noon to 6pm

Brilliant Event Band I Love Amp will be playing in Longstone Park on Saturday 31st July, headlining

## SALTFEST

The Community's First Major Festival in Two Years

The decision to introduce the one-day festival was taken back in March by volunteers in the Chamber of Commerce who organise the annual May Fair, disappointed that Covid was forcing them to cancel the popular community event for a second year.

"In our initial planning meetings we settled on 31st July for SaltFest as we thought we'd be clear of restrictions by then," says Sarah Martin, Chair of the Chamber of Commerce and one of the event's organisers, "but then we put our plans on hold as we saw Covid cases in Cornwall rising after the Half Term break and the G7 summit." This changed, however, after the government's announcement that Covid restrictions will be lifted on 19th July.

"We carefully reviewed the data at our Chamber meeting in the beginning of July," says Sarah, "and while we're mindful of rising cases, we also recognised that more than 65% of people over 18 in Cornwall had received two doses of the vaccine by the end of June. And with community groups who booked a stall for the street market super keen for SaltFest to happen, we took the decision to go ahead! We haven't left ourselves much time, but we know the community will rally round."

## I Love Amp

According to organisers, SaltFest will essentially be the same as May Fair, but without a Parade and with just one row of stalls on Fore Street to allow for social distancing. Acts from Livewire will start the day's music at 12 noon in Longstone Park, the same time the market opens on Fore Street. The music will carry on after the stalls have packed up at 6pm, though, with the band I Love Amp, who won Book Entertainments Award for 'Best Function Band in the UK' in 2019, finishing off the day's music playing a 2-hour set from 8pm.

"Social distancing has meant we've been in our own boats in this Covid storm, but our community has pulled together and stayed strong. Now we've weathered the storm, we can get together once again," says Sarah, "and I Love Amp is the perfect event band to help us celebrate our community and the lifting of restrictions."

More details can be found on the Saltfest Facebook page.



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Victoria Road (King Edward Road TO Wesley Road) - Eastbound only  
Belle Vue Road (Car Park junction TO Fore Street)  
King Edward Road (Essa Road TO Victoria Road) - Northbound only

SAT 31ST JULY 2021 09:30 - 21:30

Parking Restrictions for:  
SaltFest 2021

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

SAT 31ST JULY 2021 09:30 - 21:30

## Conundrum Corner

Taking the initial letter to the one-word answers to the following ten questions can you re-arrange them to make the name of a well-known celebrity? 4,6  
 1 Which everyday English word means "and the rest" in Latin? (8)  
 2 What type of Dog is a Bedlington? (7)  
 3 Miranda and Oberon are Satellites of which Planet? (6)  
 4 Which Country was divided at the 38th parallel in 1945? (5)  
 5 What was the Christian name of the long-suffering wife of Frank Spencer in Some Mothers Do Have Them? (5)  
 6 The Skerries lie off the north-west corner of which British island? (8)  
 7 What name is given to the nest of an Eagle? (5)  
 8 Which Composer is the central character in the stage play Amadeus? (6)  
 9 Which is the largest Gland in the Human Body? (5)  
 10 To which Fish family does the Sprat belong? (7)  
*Answers on page 7*

# An Open Letter to the Prime Minister

Dear Prime Minister,

We hope your recent journey to Cornwall for the G7 was good. You came by air along with other G7 leaders attending the summit. You might well have also used the A30 but considering how precious your time is, possibly not. One thing, we are sure we know, is that you wouldn't have chosen to come via the A38 through South East Cornwall. But for most of us living here - using the A38 is not a choice but a daily necessity. Yet this road has a terrible safety record which impacts most on the people that live here.

A road that has a killed and seriously injured rate over 3 times the national average for a road of its type, which operates over capacity leading to chronic congestion, cutting communities in half, with toxic air quality in Tideford, impassable to the tallest vehicles, liable to heavy flooding, steep inclines and extreme bends and regular unplanned closures. One would be hard pressed to find another section of the Strategic Road Network that is in such desperate need of investment due to the myriad of deficiencies with it. So, we are writing to you today because we need your help to avert a disaster. We want to ensure that the residents of Cornwall and its visitors get the infrastructure investment that is required and not a cheaper less than ideal solution. And to that end, we, the Safe38 committee are **Declaring a Road Safety Emergency** on our stretch of the A38 from Saltash to

Trerulefoot.

It is not for purpose as a road that is part of the strategic road network, and the current plans to address the problem fall well short of what is needed. Highways England themselves have said that a dual carriageway bypass as planned in the 1990s would be the ideal solution however they are not able to put that forward as an option to the public to be consulted on in 2022 as the Department for Transport have defined the project in such a way that prohibits this. As the 2018 A38 Case for Action showed, a new dual carriageway bypass would massively contribute to boosting the local and regional economy to the tune of £900m in induced economic growth securing livelihoods, and will slash the collision rate saving the most amount of lives. You have said recently that the

investment your Government is making will benefit 'all corners' of our great country and that funding needs to be levelled up. The current scope of the RIS3 pipeline project does not appear to do this. So now, more than ever, SE Cornwall needs the right investment in our infrastructure in order to ensure a safe, prosperous and healthy future for generations to come. In a time where £millions is being spent in Cornwall to send people into space, we think it's high time that our entire strategic road network for our daily commute is just as future-proofed as our route into space.

Yours most respectfully  
 James Millidge, Chair of Safe38 and the Safe38 Committee  
 Linda Davidson, Gerith Eden, Tim Fleckney, Steve Jackson, David Landers, Sarah Martin

## The Day the Wheatsheaf Wilted



Photo Ian Robinson

On June 28th 2021 a Saltash landmark vanished into rubble, and rats, bats and cats lost a secure hideaway, already fast becoming a vandal target. A good few years after last orders were called, the long-derelict, Tamarside Wheatsheaf pub, finally came down, foreclosing on a host of family memories relived by the few spectators. One watcher had his first teenage pint in there with dad in 1967; another reflected on the bar-room camaraderie and some good live bands, a Sunday lunchtime pianist was also mentioned, some memorable banjo playing by another's dad, and even an uncorroborated topless barmaid pulling pints! Annual darts team charabanc outings were legendary (with a bucket for a toilet!), many excellent meals consumed, and a wedding anniversary with complimentary champagne from one landlord.

As Ashcroft Demolition's brand new £140,000 excavator earned its keep, throughout the final day under a blue sky and the watchful eyes of fluorescent, hard-hatted guardians, hungry hydraulic jaws clawed at once-proud masonry and staircases... even an empty safe! Despite a token waterhose, dust rose as debris rained down... a hole became a crater and then a chasm of broken masonry as unremembered doorways reappeared; entire roof sections were torn down and erect, sentry-like chimney stacks held out stubbornly against the overpowering orange arm of the mechanical assailant. They then fell like skittles as the tracked attacker scaled broken brick mountains to get better purchase. Its avaricious predatory advance continued to topple, and satisfy regular hungry hoppers carting away spoil once built by long-dead stonemasons of another century. At one point a drone appeared over the river, apparently filming, to be quickly chased off by angry gulls! Holidaying occupants of passing beach-bound trains continued all day, oblivious to the activity below. By late afternoon, when experienced operator Richie shut the Macy down for the night, no wall stood

upright... job done. Said Richie, modestly and calmly, "It was a messy one, but we've been doing this a long time."

Come Friday, everything was gone and residents were relishing their new, albeit temporary, view of the river across a flat earth patch, ahead of the inevitable sprouting of an apartment block (and shop/cafe) scheduled to germinate this side of Christmas.

Ian Robinson.



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## Tamar Reflections

### A Town Dominated by Two Famous Bridges

October this year marks 60 years of the building of the Tamar road bridge, so I thought it would be most fitting to peep into the past of bridging the Tamar and an historic Saltash journey.

Saltash is the Gateway of Cornwall and for over 160 years the most dominating feature of Saltash has been I. K. Brunel's famous Royal Albert Bridge, the main railway link between Devon and Cornwall, familiar to us all in its majestic structure and to all those who have travelled by rail.

The Royal Albert Bridge surely must be one of the most photographed bridges in the country.

This year 162 years of the completion of the Brunel masterpiece, a new anniversary is dawning, that of the building of another masterpiece, which came 100 years later; the Tamar road bridge completed in October 1961.

Situated 200 feet north of the rail link the new road link was every bit as remarkable. A suspension bridge then supported by suspension cables 18 inches thick, situated over giant cast-steel saddles on top of hollow concrete towers, at 1,600 feet long, and the three-lane 33 foot roadway rising 145 feet



above the river level; at a cost of £1,729,000. Saltash is a town dominated by two famous bridges.

One thing is certain, the Tamar road bridge with its annual multi millions of commuters popularised Saltash as a dormitory town for Plymouth, as well as increasing its population by tens of thousands over the past 60 years and we have seen an Independent borough become an integral part of Cornwall's unitary authority.

Tamar crossings has historically been in existence for many hundreds of years, for Saltash existed even before the time of Edward the Confessor, when it was known as Aissetone (the town on the water), and its charters date back before 1246. Ferry rights were granted to the

borough in 1386, but the Saltash ferry eventually became one of the victims of other means of Tamar crossings namely the two majestic bridges in more recent times.

Originally it was a horse ferry, but later turned over to steam, the first of the ferries being of wooden construction, and passengers had many a lucky escape at times, and felt relieved to reach the Saltash banks.

One of the first things that passengers saw on reaching the Cornish shore was the last of the ancient borough's arch houses, the old archway over Tamar Street, which was painted by Turner in 1812, and where Sir Francis Drake and many other famous seamen walked and lodged. These old buildings are now pulled down, the latest being the old and very interesting Wheatsheaf Inn.

Of course, our beloved chained ferry ceased operating around the same time as the opening of the Tamar road bridge, and we still remember some of the marvellous characters like Gerald Truscott and others who worked the ferry in the mid-20th Century.

For its size, Saltash has a greater water boundary than any other town. The Tamar and its streams form the east and most of the north boundary, and the River Lynher the south and west.

Brunel's bridge brought Saltash its title "The Gateway of Cornwall;" the following Tamar road bridge has made it doubly true.

These two living monuments have not only witnessed such mammoth changes in Saltash's way of life, but indeed were very instrumental and proved to be a real benefit to travellers from far and wide for many decades.

*What will come next I wonder?  
Sue Hooper MBE*

#### Conundrum Answers:

Kate Humble arranged the letters spell  
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Anglesey 7 Eyrte 8 Mozart  
Urnus 4 Korea 5 Betty 6  
1 Eteetera 2 Terrier 3

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## Saltash Town Band

Saltash Town Band that has been established for over 110 years are looking for a new home, and is looking to the Saltash community to help.

Due to the pandemic, the band has not been able to play together and have therefore met each week on Zoom each Friday.

To keep up the momentum and interest and to keep their lungs exercised members have also each week played outside their homes, at the same time helping NHS and other charities like Captain Tom Moore's.

Despite the pandemic the band membership has remained strong, with people making enquiries to join when restrictions are lifted, new members are always most welcome.

Chairman Matthew Thomas stressed: "The band is proud of its history of supporting local and other worthy charities, and wish to continue and build on its success and popularity, and indeed making a difference to community life.

"We are building on the training facilities and in doing so will guarantee an excellent

band both now, and for the years ahead.

"Sadly however, our current rehearsal venue at St John Ambulance Hall, due to the pandemic is not able to accommodate space, which has left us homeless.

"If we can't find accommodation, we could be forced to relocate from the town which would be a drastic measure for the band members.

"Many brass bands have their own venue but unfortunately this has never been the case for Saltash, although is very much an ambition of the band to increase its ability to provide training for young and old alike, as well as continuing to support local organisations and civic



Saltash Town Band members proudly displaying 10 coveted trophies that they won at the Saltash Music Speech and Drama Festival during 2020

events.

The band desperately wants to find a home and stay based in Saltash, but this is proving to be a great challenge.

The band has looked at various options including the Maurice Huggins building but was informed on contacting the town council that it would not be suitable.

Matthew continued: "Some members have driven around Saltash searching for any

space or land for a potential band room, or a building that may be available to be used.

"As covid restrictions start to ease the band hopes to start having meetings with various people and organisations to discuss potential venues."

If anyone can help with the band's situation, please email band manager Alison Ellis at [alison.evans1986@hotmail.com](mailto:alison.evans1986@hotmail.com) or by calling 07718 906335

## Travellers Evicted from Salt Mill

A travelling community who set up camp on local authority owned open land at Salt Mill prompted fast action from Cornwall Council. The land they used is adjacent to football pitches and a BMX track well used by local children.

The travellers being classed as a minority ethnic group, all local authorities have to offer residential sites for them. The nearest of these is at Pensilva, while there is also temporary accommodation near Liskeard for which a rental fee is chargeable.

Salt Mill being an unauthorised encampment, those setting up there were trespassing. At any such unauthorised camp Cornwall's Housing Officer has a duty to attend within three days to assess needs especially of any children or pregnant women. An assessment and report are submitted and Cornwall's legal department can take speedy action based on that report. An eviction notice was served and the travellers moved on several days later, leaving a large quantity of rubbish and scars on the field from quad bikes.

There had been complaints from local residents regarding noise and intimidation from dogs on the camp site. While trespass is a civil matter any complaint regarding anti-social behaviour can be reported to the police on the emergency 999 or non-urgent 101 lines, Cornwall Councillor Mrs. Hilary Frank had advised.

The travellers were reported as having moved on to a sports field at Hatt.

**Update on the travellers:**  
Authorities have confirmed

that the unauthorised encampment moved out of Hatt on 13th July after they were served a Notice to Quit by Botus Fleming Parish Council. They were seen heading deeper west in to Cornwall.

### Announcement

#### Michael Beer

With a heavy heart, we are deeply saddened to announce that after a short illness, Michael Beer passed away peacefully at Derriford Hospital on Tuesday 6th July 2021 with his daughters by his side.

Beloved dad of Kerry and Caroline, and loving Grandad to Amber, Freya, Sonny and Toby. RIP dad, you can rest well now x you will forever be in our hearts, sleep tight.

The Observer team, of which Michael was a valued member, would like to add their own tribute to the heartfelt words of his family. Michael was over many years an extremely dedicated member of our hardworking Observer delivery team. We know that many in Maybrook Drive and Latchbrook areas of Saltash looked forward to his cheerful monthly visits delivering their much anticipated "Saltash Observer".

We were shocked and deeply saddened to hear of his passing and share the grief of the family to whom we send our deepest sympathy.

Mary Crawford  
Editor/Observer

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## Film Pays Tribute to Firemen's Sacrifice

In April this year the seventieth anniversary of the heroic death of six Saltash Firemen who drove into the heart of the Plymouth blitz while citizens were fleeing the inferno was commemorated in fitting style.

The Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, the High Sheriff, the Lord Mayor of Plymouth, Mayor of Saltash and Chair of Cornwall Council were among local dignitaries who attended a memorial service in St. Stephens Church conducted by the Bishop of St Germans.

The commemoration was acclaimed by those present as a moving and fitting tribute but, as one of the organisers, Mr. Barry Brooking, a grandson of one of the deceased firemen explained, the downside was that due to current covid restrictions only the family members of the

firemen concerned could be invited to attend with the distinguished guests. He was aware that many others would have wished to be present.

To enable one and all to share in the tribute to the Saltash Six, on Wednesday 4th August at 2 pm there will be a first showing of a DVD made by Mrs. Mary Wills, featuring the fireman and their sacrifice.

This will be shown in St, Stephens Church and it is hoped that members of the congregation and others in the Saltash community who could not be fitted in to the event in April will consider this a

suitable alternative.

It will be followed by a film of the service on the 22nd April made by Ruth Edmondson in which all can hear the tributes paid that day to those ordinary Saltash men who volunteered for an extraordinary duty and gave their lives.

For further information please contact Mr. Brooking on 844050.

*Pictured below: Bishop Hugh of St Germans, Hilary Frank Chairman of Cornwall Council 2019/21, The Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall & the High Sheriff*



Photo Mary Crawford

## Master Mariner's Service Recognised by Royalty

A Master Mariner who has made himself very much part of the Forder village community has had his service to the merchant navy recognised by royalty.

Captain Colin Brown travelled to London where in a memorable ceremony in the historic Trinity House he was presented with the Merchant Navy Medal for Meritorious Service by Princess Anne. One of the Princess Royal's titles is Master of Trinity House, the body that oversees pilotage and lighthouses around the English coast.

It was in 1957 that Colin first went to sea with the British and Commonwealth Shipping Company. He travelled the world until as Master Mariner he joined the Institute of Marine Studies in Plymouth, lecturing there while continuing periodic voyages as Mate or Master until 1982.

Since then, he has served in training sailors worldwide including Guadalcanal, Hong Kong and the Solomon Islands. More recently he has acted as consultant to the offshore renewable energy industry in particular in respect of offshore wind farms.

Locally he was trustee for the Plymouth Merchant Navy Monument and previously met the Princess Royal when she dedicated it in 2019.

Colin is now one of a hundred recipients of the prestigious medal which has been awarded to twenty recipients each year since 2016. His should have been presented last Winter but covid caused his visit to London to be delayed. As well as the Princess he met Robert Courts MP, Minister for Maritime and Undersecretary of State for Transport.

Princess Anne congratulated Colin on his various achievements and he was able to confirm to her that he had thoroughly enjoyed his experiences especially in training young people in the Pacific Islands as well as furthering safety and rescue services in the offshore renewable energy field.

A cream tea with champagne followed where Colin and his wife Carole sat with the youngest recipient, 24-year-old Max Bingle who had effected the rescue of three Mexican fishermen in the Caribbean.

After a gruelling eight-hour journey back to Forder Colin and Carole were thrilled to be welcomed to a surprise garden party by friends and neighbours – as shown in our photograph.



## An Encounter with Royalty A Surprise Garden Party...

The Forder community came together to welcome Colin and Carole home from their encounter with royalty. As they turned up their drive they were greeted by upward of 25 friends and neighbours, who by arrangement with Carole but unknown to Colin had organized a garden party with plentiful food and drink for all.

Colin was able to display his award and proudly wore it throughout the evening celebrations.

Forder is renowned for its friendly community spirit and with its famous fete and Christmas celebrations having had to be cancelled the community was delighted to be coming together for the first time since the pandemic and looked forward to resuming its social activities of which Colin and Carole are so much a part of.



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