

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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July 2024 - Issue 385

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The Sun Beamed Down on a Glorious Regatta



Photo Mary Crawford

The Fans Favourite: Graham Pimlott and Ernest on Eric The Viking representing themselves also won the Best Fancy Dress.

The Saltash Regatta committee, led by Chair Karen Lilley, celebrated another highly successful Regatta and Waterside Festival, enjoying two days of glorious sunshine.

The community turned out in large numbers to support the festivities and gig rowers; local bands, including debut performer Tom Hannigan, entertained the crowds with great music; and the Cardboard Boat Race, impeccably organised by Saltash Redeemer Church, was a standout event, drawing a significant crowd highly appreciative of the soggy bottoms.

"The event would not be possible without the financial support of our local business sponsors," Karen said, paying tribute in particular to Saltash Town Council for their significant financial input from the Festival Fund.

Special thanks were extended to event organisers Diverse Events CIC, Caradon Gig Club, event partners and volunteers, especially Saltash Environmental Action, who kept the Waterside clean. "See you next year!" Karen added enthusiastically.

More photos in the next issue of the Observer.

Lola Selected for Team GB at Paris Olympics



Saltash teenager Lola Tambling has been selected to represent Great Britain in Park Skateboarding at the Paris Olympics.

Currently ranked 17th in the world, Lola credits her parents for sparking her interest in skateboarding after they built Junkyard Skatepark in Saltash. Lola's mother, Stephanie, shared her pride: "I'm in awe of how incredible Lola is and how much work she has put in. I feel super-lucky to be her mum."

Stephanie and her husband, Martyn, will be in Paris to cheer on their daughter, while the whole town stands behind Lola as she competes on the world stage. Mayor, Cllr. Julia Peggs, commented: "Lola's journey from Saltash to the Paris Olympics is a remarkable testament to her talent and tenacity, as well as to the support of her family. She is an inspiration to us all, and Saltash is rooting for her every step of the way. Go, Lola!"

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Town Messenger

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Education Welfare:
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educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk

Housing Department
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Email: info@cornwallhousing.org.uk
Social Services Department
Telephone: 0300 1234 101
Email: children@cornwall.gov.uk

Social Services Department
Telephone: 0300 1234 131
adultcare@cornwall.gov.uk

Highways Department
Telephone: 0300 1234 222
Email: customerrelations@cornwallimited.co.uk

Transport Department
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Telephone: 0300 1234 101
(Bus Pass) Telephone: 0300 1234 222
Email: schooltransport@cornwall.gov.uk

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Cornwall Councillors/ Wards

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Saltash Tamar ED
Cllr Sheila Lennox-Boyd
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Saltash Trematon & Landrake ED
Cllr Martin Worth
cldr.martin.worth@cornwall.gov.uk

Cornwall Councillors Cover such services as:
Housing – Education
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Tamar Bridge

From the Mayor of Saltash

Well, another month has passed us by, and the weather has been spectacular, at long last!

I missed about 10 days of the lovely weather because I had the dreaded COVID. I was absolutely floored with it and didn't go outside the door for a week. I felt so ill, so beware it's still around, and if you have had it, or got it, my sympathies are with you.

I've been fortunate to have been invited to many Mayor Making Ceremonies across Cornwall, where I've met some interesting people and garnered plenty of information that we might be able to use in Saltash. Most



importantly, I've been telling everyone about our fabulous town, and all the things that happen in it: our festivals, our amazing youth groups, the voluntary organisations which we are so fortunate to have in Saltash, and our success with funding applications to help enhance our town.

Hence everyone now wants to come to Saltash to see what we're doing and to visit our beautiful town that we are so proud of.

We're seeing many new visitors since the ferry

Meet Your Councillor

Cllr Brian Stoyel
Trematon Ward

Born in Tavistock my first 'real' association with Saltash started when purchasing a house in North Pill in 1972. This was to be our first real home as we were teaching in a boarding school. However, setting up our own education consultancy and tutorial college brought us to live permanently in Saltash from 1979 soon after which I joined the Saltash Chamber of Commerce and in 1981 the Saltash Rotary Club.

We needed to move to Plymouth for a few years as travel played an important part in our business life, but I continued with my Rotary commitments and on our return to live in Saltash I sought election to Saltash Town Council eventually becoming coopted as a Councillor for Trematon Ward.

My somewhat flippant answer to one of the questions posed at interview took nearly three years to come to fruition. My quest to see the Fore Street clock showing the correct time on both faces was the subject of much searching to find a competent clock engineer to put the matter right. Glad to say all is now tick-tickity boo!!!

Joining a proactive Town Council showed me the many aspects of local government and having served with three mayors I now have a much better understanding of the connection between local and county councils. A system of



colour coding might be useful during council meetings, this would alleviate questions and complaints being aimed incorrectly - who owns a piece of uncut land, potholes, road layout, parking, Carkeel roundabout to name a few.

Apart from serving on Full Council, Planning and Licensing, Services, Policy & Finance Committees I also serve on Personnel, Property Maintenance, Safer Saltash and the War Memorial - the provision of two granite seats for extra names has been delayed through scarcity of suitable granite.

The long-term plan for Saltash is crucial and together with our stake holders, residents, and businesses the Saltash Town Council's five-year business plan aims to provide stability of effort over the years instead of one-year silos. The potential layout of Fore Street and connectivity to our Waterside and Plymouth must be sorted. There are many opportunities to review and discuss all our plans so please help us to make it a town to be proud of.

Saltash has a rich heritage to be nurtured for future generations and I am proud to have the opportunity of representing you. I can be contacted via the Town Council website or by email to b.stoyel@saltash.gov.uk

service to Royal William Yard started from Jubilee Pontoon. Visitors have been enjoying Mary Newman's Cottage, Saltash Heritage Museum, Elliott's Store, the independent shops and the great new Banking Hub! Many people are stopping off on the train to see our lovely Isambard House building for hire and to visit the Trackside Café for a bite to eat or to use the public waiting area and toilet facilities. Trackside Café has been operational for about two months and is doing very well. Dawn Couch and her team are very welcoming and offer a wide choice of refreshments. The Food Standards Agency recently carried out an inspection and issued a food

hygiene rating of 5!

At a recent Meet your Councillors session in Fore Street, 90% of the people we spoke to did not live in Saltash, but came from either Plymouth, Liskeard, Callington or beyond. They said they loved coming here because of our community spirit, independent shops, leisure centre, Victoria Gardens and other facilities that we are lucky to have. Sometimes we do forget how fortunate we are compared to many towns in Cornwall.

We have an Olympian in Saltash! The lovely Lola Tambling, age 16, has qualified to compete in the Olympic Games in Paris for skateboarding. I'm sure the whole of Saltash will be

behind her, and we know that Lola will do her very best. Many congratulations to her and her family. Saltash Town Council will be supporting Lola and the Olympics by displaying Olympic flags along with Union flags in Fore Street.

By the time you read this our amazing Regatta will have come and gone. I do hope you had the chance to see me in the sludge bath and watch the Cardboard Boat Race! Having competed in it myself a few years ago, I can tell you it's one of the most hilarious things I have ever done in my life. If you haven't taken part before, I suggest you start preparing for next year. I might even have a go again

myself!

All the councillors and Town Council staff are starting to think about our precept (budget) for the year 2025/2026. A little early, you may think? But this is a huge piece of work and in next month's article I'll explain a bit more about how we do this, and how it affects you as a resident of the town.

I do love speaking to you all, wherever I am out and about, and was thrilled the other day when a group of children in the park shouted over: "Hi Mayor Julia." Love it!

*Councillor Julia Peggs
Mayor of Saltash 2024-25*

Your Town Council & Wards

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1. Cllr Richard Bickford
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3. Cllr John Brady
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5. Cllr Jon Foster
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6. Cllr Sheila Lennox-Boyd
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Saltash Tamar:

1. Cllr Lisa Mortimore
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2. Cllr Sarah Gillies
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4. Cllr Julia Peggs
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5. Cllr Pete Samuels
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2. Cllr Brenda Samuels
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3. Cllr Brian Stoyel
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4. Cllr Yates
d.yates@saltash.gov.uk

Mayor:

Cllr Julia Peggs

Deputy Mayor:

Cllr Rachel Bullock

Town Clerk:

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T: 844846
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Councillors' Telephone Numbers can be obtained at The Guildhall.

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Facebook: [SaltashTownCouncilOfficial](https://www.facebook.com/SaltashTownCouncilOfficial)
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Saltash Town Council are pleased to approve grants from a diverse range of organisations at the Policy and Finance Committee held on 14th May 2024.

Saltash Bowls Club were awarded £1,000 towards replacement railings at the club green. This will ensure the health and safety of the club. www.facebook.com/SaltashBowls/

Three cultural events in the town were awarded funding: **Salt Arts CIC** who run the popular Sea Shanties Festival were awarded £975 towards the festival in June which hosts workshops and concerts celebrating Cornwall and the Tamar Valley. <https://songsandshanties.co.uk/>

The popular **Saltash Regatta** were awarded £4,998.22 towards the two day event which attracts visitors from across the South West. <http://www.saltashregatta.co.uk/>

Tincombe Tea Party was awarded £615 towards the one day event in August which promotes the local community and the natural habitat Tincombe Green provides. <https://tincombe.insaltash.co.uk>



The Chairman of Saltash Town Council, Councillor Julia Peggs is delighted the Town Council can support such a diverse range of organisations and events and said, "Each year the Community Chest and Festival Fund grant schemes support a range of cultural events and projects in the town. The Town Council are pleased to support the community with grant funding and are often the lead funder. Saltash Town Council welcomes future applications." If you are interested in applying for a grant or to see who has received a grant please visit www.saltash.gov.uk/grants.php

PUBLIC NOTICE

Saltash Town Council have created a Crowdfunder page to fund the additional memorial to be sited adjacent to the Borough War Memorial, opposite the Memorial Peace Garden, to remember those who lost their lives in war and conflict and whose names are not recorded on any existing memorial in the town.

If you would like to make a donation please visit the Crowdfunder link: www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/saltash-borough-war-memorial or scan the QR code to donate



Any further enquiries please contact the Guildhall on 01752 844846 or enquiries@saltash.gov.uk

maryecrawford@hotmail.com
www.saltash-observer.co.uk

First letter by New MP for South East Cornwall Addresses Tamar Tolls

With the change in MP for South East Cornwall to Labour's Anna Gelderd, we are all wondering what might come next for the Tamar Toll under the new Labour Government.

Tamar Toll Action Group (TTAG) met with Ms Gelderd in the few weeks before the election and presented her with all of the facts and figures obtained from our last two years campaigning on this issue.

After listening to us attentively, we were delighted to hear that she had indeed taken note of local resident's concerns on this issue and, if elected, intended to take up the baton and write to the Secretary of State for Transport on this issue on her first day in post.

Ms Gelderd has done as she promised and written to Louise Haigh MP to meet with her to discuss how amending the Tamar Bridge Act could grant greater powers to the Governing body to both deliver lower tolls for local people and look to remove tolls for local people over the long term, which if achieved would provide a huge boost to businesses, the local economy and regular users.

Whilst stressing she would not be requesting funding from the Department for Transport to fund the Tamar Crossings, she has proposed

that cheaper tolls for local people in the short term be "delivered within the existing toll spending envelope", meaning that the proposed uplift to tolls would have to be approved in order to increase the cash (i.e non-Tag) price.

Such a 'tourist tax' has previously been ruled out by the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee, partly due to the inherent difficulties in establishing the boundaries of 'local'.

The latest toll uplift request submitted by Tamar Crossings will be subject to a public inquiry later in the year due to the large number of objections received; a blow to Tamar Crossings, who had hoped that tolls could be increased by 15.4 per cent in November.

The public inquiry is welcomed by TTAG, who have campaigned hard for this to happen, and who would like to see a full investigation into the financial management of Tamar Crossings.

TTAG hope that businesses and users most affected by the price of the tolls will be willing to speak out at the inquiry, as well as both Ms Gelderd and Mrs Murray, our previous MP, who has spent the past 12 months raising this issue in parliament on behalf of her constituents.

Please get in touch with TTAG if you would any further information on this issue, either via our facebook group or tamartollactiongroup.org
Dr Mel Priston, Chair of Tamar Toll Action Group

Chamber Chairman Peter Ryland Keeping Us Updated

Throughout my life I have learnt that timing is essential, whether it is the timing of a pass in my rugby playing days or the date of a valuation in a volatile property market in my professional days as a surveyor. Timing was precisely the question we had to discuss at a recent Town Team meeting.

We had hoped to have regular street markets this summer but the length of time it has so far taken to get the necessary approvals has resulted in street market traders resolving to go to other locations. We do not want to have 'make do' events so have decided to defer this element of our overall proposals until next

year, subject to the grant award time period being extended. We will still be pursuing other elements.

Timing was also the thinking behind the Town Council's decision to switch on the Christmas lights on the 15th November. Previous years have seen the lights switch-on being on the day of the Christmas Festival. As the Festival is always held on the first Saturday in December to tie in with the Santas on Bikes, though, this year it will be on 7th December, a date that was felt to be too late to build the Christmas atmosphere in the town centre.

The Chamber will be meeting with the Town Council to see if there is an opportunity to make an evening event out of the light switch-on with entertainment and late-night shopping, so

please put 15th November in your diaries, and we will let you know what will be happening.

There has been good news for the Christmas Festival in that Saltash Town Council has awarded the Chamber a grant towards the event, enabling us to deliver it again this year, so put 7th December in your diary as well. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Chamber to thank Saltash Town Council for their support.

Finally, as to timing, it is good to see the Banking Hub at the bottom end of Fore Street is now open. They managed to get the former Merkur Slots unit fitted out so that they could open before the closure of Lloyds (the last bank in Fore Street). When I first came to live in Saltash in 1976, five Building Societies and four big banks were represented (albeit HSBC was called Midland). How times have changed.

Town Crier Appointed to Saltash

Saltash Town Council are pleased to confirm that a Town Crier has been appointed for the town. Councillor Jon Foster has been appointed to the role after successfully carrying out the proclamation at the D-Day 80 commemoration events. Cllr Foster will revive the civic tradition at town events such as Saltash Regatta, May Fair, Christmas Festival etc. Cllr Foster said "I am delighted to be the Saltash Town Crier and look forward to delivering cries in the coming months. Saltash is a fantastic town and it's great to

be involved in reviving this tradition and promoting our rich heritage."

If you have a community or charity event that you

would like the Town Crier to proclaim please contact the Guildhall on enquiries@saltash.gov.uk or 01752 844846.



Picture - L-R Deputy Mayor's Consort Matthew Bullock, Deputy Mayor Cllr Rachel Bullock, Saltash Town Crier Cllr Jon Foster, Mayor Cllr Julia Peggs at the D-Day 80 Commemorations.

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A Warm Welcome at the Wesley

In June, Saltash Wesley Methodist Church celebrated the completion of a major refurbishment project with an event attended by distinguished guests, including the Mayor of Saltash, Councillor Julia Peggs, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Rachel Bullock, Cornwall Councillor Hilary Frank, representatives from St Petrocs and Saltash Foodbank charities, as well as members of the local community and church. The highlight was the official opening of the newly refurbished foyer and side room, made possible by a grant from Cornwall

Council's Levelling-Up fund and the dedicated efforts of volunteers.

The transformed church foyer now serves as a Warm Welcome and Community Meeting Space, designed to enhance accessibility and foster a sense of belonging. This project, completed in just over nine months, stands as a testament to the volunteers' commitment, delivering significant improvements in a short time and within budget.

Reverend Jonathan Budd, minister at Wesley, addressed the guests, emphasising that while the church has always provided flexible, community-facing spaces, the increasing needs of people experiencing challenges such as homelessness, isolation, or poor mental health required a more updated and accommodating environment.

Attendees also heard from Justin, a local man being supported by the church amid complex personal challenges. Justin spoke warmly about the ongoing assistance he receives from volunteers and staff at Wesley, highlighting the positive impact of the church's community efforts.

The celebration marked a significant milestone for Saltash Wesley Methodist Church, showcasing the power of community collaboration and the profound difference that updated, welcoming spaces can make in addressing local needs.

To Advertise in the Observer
Contact Mary Crawford
Tel: 07971484872
E: maryecrawford@hotmail.com



Anna Gelderd MP for SE Cornwall

Anna Gelderd in parliament as South East Cornwall's first ever Labour MP after securing a historic victory with a 21% swing from Conservative to Labour.

In her acceptance speech, Anna gave thanks to Sheryll Murray for her 14 years in office before saying: "Whether you live in a town or a village, make a living on a farm, from the sea or in an office, I will represent each of you and be the fresh start here."

With Labour and Liberal Democrat candidates securing victory in all other constituencies in Cornwall, there are now no Conservative MPs in Cornwall.

Scrapstore Crosses

The Border

Since opening in 2018, Saltash Scrapstore has become a bit of a destination on Saltash Fore Street! It will soon become a destination on a different Fore Street.

Scrapstores have been around for a long time now but the Saltash version is a bit different to the norm in that it focusses on domestic scrap, is very craft orientated, is on the high street and gives grants to projects in line with its Charity Objects. Recipients of grants include Saltash Repair Cafe, The Core, Liskeard Community Treasure Chest, Saltash Community Shed, Saltash Environmental Action, Saltash Lantern Parade and Christmas Festival, and

Friends of Tincombe Park, to name just a few. All this in addition to keeping ¼ million pounds of donated scrap out of landfill!

Rosie Waters, who set up Saltash Scrapstore, believes that there should be a Scrapstore like this one in every town. It seems that her wish is starting to come true: after being inspired by what Saltash has achieved, Mel will be opening Torbay Scrapstore on the Fore Street of the St Marychurch area of Torbay on 3rd August, spreading the recycling and repurposing message. Saltash Scrapstore has been delighted to help with a grant, donations of stock and advice.

So, if you are passing either Saltash or Torbay Scrapstore please pop in – you never know what you might find!

Saltash Scrapstore & Too

Our mission is to minimise the amount that goes to landfill we provide an outlet for our supporters to

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle & Re-purpose
Discarded materials.

Local people and businesses generously donate all our stock to us.

Donations & Sales

Bring your unwanted STUFF along to us!
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66 & 89 Fore Street Saltash or

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Recycling for our future Charity No 1120268

Patient Care in Saltash: An Urgent Call

St. Barnabas Cottage Hospital opened in May 1889. Among the Sisters of St. Margaret who came to work there was Sister Helen, the daughter of a Major-General, born near Launceston.

By 1896, Sister Helen was Head Nurse. At the time, St. Barnabas relied entirely on philanthropy and fundraising

for its upkeep, and in addition to managing the nursing side of St. Barnabas, Sister Helen was also in charge of finances. In between nursing duties and applying bandages, she would apply to councils, businesses and individuals pleading for funding and supplies. This led to events like a fundraising carnival in 1898 organised by the Mayor of Saltash and a Valentine

Dance at the Guildhall.

Sister Helen retired in 1951. By then, St. Barnabas was no longer reliant on the goodwill of patrons, but volunteers in a group called the League of Friends of St. Barnabas have continued with Sister Helen's fundraising efforts delivering legendary summer fêtes and raising many thousands of pounds to provide equipment and comforts for patients and staff.

Outpatient clinics and District Nurses still operate from the site, but St. Barnabas stopped receiving inpatients in 2016. A few years later, fundraising events were brought to an abrupt halt by COVID-19. Despite this, the League of Friends has remained committed to supporting the staff and patients, and has played an active role in the Saltash Health Action Group, which is bringing stakeholders together to improve patient care.

Now, as League members age and the health landscape changes, new volunteers are urgently needed to build on the proud legacy forged by Sister Helen and the League of Friends, and to help shape the charitable initiative into one that will be well placed to support, enhance and expand healthcare provision, ensuring that challenges and opportunities are met effectively and collaboratively.

An Open Morning will be held at St. Barnabas on 28th September to harness ideas. If you have time, skills or simply a passion for patient care please come along, or contact Peter on 07813 890416 or patient.voice@icloud.com.

to Reform UK, who didn't quite poll enough to gain many MPs, but instead gifted the election to Labour, whilst benefitting the Lib-Dems also.

This surely came about by Reform UK offering policies that were more conservative than the Conservatives offered. Yet there are those inside the Conservative Party who believe that it should be more centrist to win back voters. Really? Why do you think voters deserted in their droves to vote for Reform? Unless a long period of opposition is felt desirable, it is my opinion that the Conservatives need to re-group under a strong leader who can speak with conviction and ultimately deliver policies that appeal to the electorate.

Of the possible leadership candidates, there is at the moment only one that talks the talk with passion and conviction. I won't put a name to that potential candidate here, but let's just say 'Cometh the hour, cometh the woman'.

Regrettably, South East Cornwall has lost an MP that I know to have worked extremely hard for local people, something that is so much easier if you live 'on the patch'. I wish Sheryl Murray, who now wishes to be known under her married name Sheryl Davidson, all the very best in her retirement from the House of Commons.

On the subject of elections, but in a very different field, I am delighted to say that my fellow Rotarians have elected me to become President of Saltash Rotary Club for the year 2024-25 and you can expect to hear a lot more about Rotary in next months' column. I will take the opportunity to thank Mike Phillips who becomes Vice President and also my good lady, Brenda, who will be supporting me as Club Secretary. **Pete Samuels**

Pete is a former Mayor of Saltash and current President of Saltash Rotary. Any views expressed are personal views and not that of any organisation with which Pete is associated.

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This July sees the end of an era at Brunel Primary and Nursery Academy as Suzanne Cooper retires from her role of headteacher. With her heart firmly rooted in family values, she has built an ethos of inclusivity and excellence into the very core of Brunel, leading to Good with Outstanding judgements from Ofsted. For the past three decades, Suzanne's positive influence across generations of families has meant that she is a much valued member of the school and wider Saltash community. It is with great sadness that we say farewell, but we wish her a restful retirement and thank her for her dedication and service.



Free Fall Faye Doubles Sky Dive Target

Interviewed in the May Observer, Faye Carroll described herself as 'terrified' of her prospective sky dive. As it turns out, not only did she successfully complete the dive, but she also managed to raise almost double the sponsorship money she had been aiming for as she plunged ten thousand feet in support, fittingly, of Cornwall Air Ambulance.

"The Cornish Parachute Club of Perranporth had an excellent team who made us all feel at ease in our pre-dive briefing," Faye told us when safely back to earth. She suffered last minute nerves in the airplane, but said: "I loved it when I was free falling, with all of Cornwall seemingly spread below me in clear sunshine." At five thousand feet she pulled the parachute cord and managed to control it, even performing a few spins before a perfect landing on the air base field.

She was even more thrilled to find she had smashed her £500 sponsorship target, raising £922 from Newells' customers and colleagues as well as from friends and family. The total raised by the twelve ladies' Travel branches who participated in the dive amounted to an amazing £9,432. Faye thanks everyone who supported her, and in particular her fiancé Alex Stribley, who came along to cheer her on.

Memory Box

'Do You Mind If I Sing'
Wednesdays
10:30am to 12:00pm

At: Saltash Wesley Methodist Church
Callington Rd, Saltash PL12 6LA

For those affected by a mild to moderate cognitive impairment, especially dementia.



www.cepl12.co.uk



Community Larder in Oaklands

Since 2019, volunteers from Community Enterprises PL12 have been collecting surplus food and bringing it to the Community Kitchen on Fore Street to share locally free of charge. Starting on 14th August, the Larder will travel to Oaklands Community Centre (PL12 4EZ) every 2nd Wednesday in the month, with sessions opening at 10:30. Come and help save food from landfill.

Essa Voices

But What is Fairness?

As a mum, I've often heard the howl: It's not fair! As a Cornwall Councillor, I hear similar outcries on various political levels, too. Just last week, Cornwall Council sent a letter to the new government requesting 'fair' representation on the new Council of Nations and Regions outlined in the King's Speech. Soon afterwards, another letter was sent calling for 'fairer funding' for Cornwall.

But what is fairness? It seems there are three key dimensions:

- 1. Sameness:** Where everyone gets the same resources regardless of need. Through this lens, Cornwall would receive the same funding as other regions, which would apparently lead to an extra £47 million per year. But we'd receive no more than the average funding, either, so rurality and other challenges unique to Cornwall wouldn't be taken into account.
- 2. Deservedness:** Where you get what you earn. If you work hard, you receive more; if you don't, you get less. By this measure, regions with higher economic output would receive more funding. But Cornwall's hard-working communities are hindered by systemic issues like high housing costs, making it hard to deliver the same outcomes as more prosperous areas.
- 3. Need:** Where those with greater need receive more support. Cornwall, being one of the poorest parts of the UK, has significant need.



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

To secure a fair deal for Cornwall, we can't just howl 'It's not fair'. We need to provide evidence examining all these three dimensions. Meanwhile, fairness and transparency should be a golden thread running through democratic procedures if we want to promote confidence in Cornwall Council and drive better results. Sadly, this principle has been compromised recently. For example: Launceston Councillor John Conway was removed from a committee after refusing to vote along Conservative party lines in the election of Chair. This is not how a fair democracy should work. Then there are Cornwall Council's devolution proposals, created spending £35,000 on consultants, that have not been seen by the public or backbench councillors.

Mistrust is being voiced by the business sector, too, in regard to the Newquay Airport negotiations. In her open letter to Councillor Taylor (Conservative Leader of Cornwall Council), Thelma Sorensen, Chairman of the Cornwall Business Partnership and Saltash resident, calls for a pause in airport negotiations citing a "lack of any meaningful, prior consultation with the business community."

Balancing sameness, deservedness and need while ensuring transparent and inclusive decision-making processes is essential for delivering fairness for and within Cornwall.

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Sustainable Saltash

A regular column on changes Saltash residents are making to confront climate and ecological breakdown.

The lightness I feel after the refreshing news of the election results is in stark contrasts to the weight of misery I have been carrying of late. The past fourteen years has mostly been a battle against wilful political ignorance of the nature and climate crisis. The weight of worry over when, if ever, the tide will turn positively towards nature and away from fossil fuels and corporate green washing had completely swamped me.

In need of a moment with like-minded Earth caretakers, on June 22nd, Mr P and I set off at the crack of dawn to catch a coach to London, which is probably not what you were expecting me to write. The weather forecast was for a fine day, so we travelled light. Water bottles, essential snacks, sunscreen, 4 ft long appliqued banner, telescopic poles, and two oversized pieces of headwear. A whale fashioned from paper mâché, and a beautiful Cornish mackerel made from skilfully adorned cardboard. Five and a half hours later we stepped into Victoria greeted by half a dozen starlings pecking on the ground. I miss the starlings in our garden, amongst many wild visitors that have declined hugely in number over my lifetime.

A little girl ran up and tugged at Mr Ps trousers. "Is that your fish?" she enquired. There followed a conversation, and a proud show and tell of her carefully made placard. "I've drawn all the insects I look after in my garden and at school." Her parents apologised for her forwardness. We responded with warmth and appreciation for her love of caterpillars. We

were all heading in the same direction.

Strolling through Belgravia, the air was breathable. Birds sang. The mainly traffic free streets had a village feel. We passed artisan bakeries, patisseries, chic boutiques, and pavement cafes. The street trees looked resplendent. The 'big smoke' is not the grubby, noisy, congested city it once was.

Along the way we picked up a small throng of fancily dressed individuals. A group of tree wardens, a large butterfly, multiple wide-brimmed hats adorned with fresh flowers, sporting insect pins and colourful fungi.

At park lane we merged with 70,000 nature lovers, all heading to Parliament Square. Celebrities and strong, pro-ecological voices at the front, flanked by a forest of walking trees and an orderly crocodile representing the whole of the food chain through water, land and air.

Stewards ushered us to the rivers and seas section where we hastily caught up with our South East Cornwall Shoal. Our mission backed by multiple conservation chari-

A Great Pleasure to Support the Worthy Beneficiaries

At its recent AGM the Sue Hooper Charitable Foundation was able to record with great pleasure the worthy beneficiaries that the Trust had supported over the past year.

All the beneficiaries had a close association with the performing arts in all their

Studios (towards travel and dance wear for their Prague trip to compete in world dance) Erin Wilton (towards dance wear and travel to a national drama and arts school) South East Cornwall Bach Choir (towards their piano and musical and singing workshops) Saltash Arts CIC

(towards cultural music platforms and workshops in schools and public venue) Katherine Phillips (towards dance workshops at a national ballet school).

The Trust had also recently platformed a former beneficiary, a local vocalist and composer Florence Hope Bonner. Florence Hope

was a guest singer with one of Plymouth's leading big bands the Carlton Big Band (led by Elaine Keith-Hill) at the Duke of Cornwall Hotel, Plymouth.

Separately, Florence Hope was also the guest vocalist at the Saltash Town Council's (Councillor Julia Peggs) Mayor Making ceremony and sang during a short break and then led the guests and Corporation in Harry Glasson's popular Cornish folk song 'Cornwall My Home.'

Officers elected for the ensuing year of the Trust were, Sue Hooper (chair/secretary) Rose Bonner (vice-chair) Ken Martin (treasurer).

The objectives of the Sue Hooper Charitable Foundation (established 2000) are to administer funds to promote, develop, and maintain public and private education in, and appreciation of, the arts and science of musical education. It aims to do this partly by the promotion and funding of projects, groups and individuals in all the disciplines of musical, dance and dramatic artistry.

Applications for grants, donations or proposals of projects and general enquiries should be sent to the chairman/secretary Sue Hooper MBE
E: suehcf@msn.com
T: 01752 843073
www.suehcf.org.uk.



disciplines and several hundreds of pounds were shared between ... Maia Arulasagam (for national drama schools auditions) Hazel Lightley (part 2 of her grant towards national ballet workshops) Moondance

ties and spearheaded by Chris Packham was to make clear that nature matters and critically we need to act now to restore it.

The speeches were inspirational, the colour and the costumes, the sun glinting on the newly restored big ben, the blue sky, everything felt so positive. We called for MPs to come out fighting for all that underpins our lives. The speeches briefly halted, and we fell silent as Peregrines swooped high above the crowd. Then there were cheers of joy.

Were the politicians listening? Early signs are good. The announcement of a permanent ban on neonicotinoids is promising.

Dr Rebecca Pearce

This column is a conversation starter for our whole community. If you have comments on the subject, ideas of your own or suggestions for future content, please do get in touch at sustainable.saltash@protonmail.com

Disgust at Theft of Defibrillator

In 2017, thanks to a local donation, a grant from Saltash Rotary Club, and fundraising efforts, Ashtorre Rock Community Centre was able to purchase a defibrillator.

Initial discussions considered placing it inside Ashtorre Rock. However, since the Centre is only open from 10am until 4pm, it was felt that

this important piece of potentially life-saving equipment should be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There was also an option to have the defibrillator in a locked cabinet, which would require calling 999 to unlock. This was dismissed, as it could take valuable time when every second counts, so the

defibrillator was mounted on the wall outside Ashtorre Rock in an unlocked cabinet.

It has been used during the intervening years, but on 24th June at approximately 8.15 pm, it was stolen.

Lynn Marsh, Chairman of Ashtorre Rock, expressed deep sadness and disgust at the theft, saying, "It is beyond comprehension that someone would steal something so vital to public safety. The incident has been captured on CCTV, and the police are currently in the process of identifying the suspect."

When the theft was reported on social media, the response from the community was heartening with many people offering financial support. The immediate priority for the committee, however, was to ensure a replacement defibrillator was in place in time for Regatta, so it was decided to purchase a defibrillator from Ashtorre Rock's own funds. Lynn emphasised the urgency by noting, "It was too horrid to even think of there not being possible life-saving equipment available during the Regatta weekend when the Waterside is at its busiest."

A new defibrillator was installed in time for Regatta, unlocked and ready for use. Ashtorre Rock hopes it will remain in place and not be needed for many years to come.

Voice of Saltash Patients

Latest news from our Health Action Group...

The Action Group has continued its meetings with local NHS leaders to secure improvements in local provision. And although "action" to bring these improvements has not yet been realised, there are some good signs.

At our last meeting, we met a senior team from the NHS Trust that runs Derriford Hospital, including one their Executive Directors. A coup! The interesting thing is that they are advocating "care closer to home" and wanting to locate some services outside the hospital wherever possible. In this sense, Derriford is on our side, with proposals that mirror our Vision "Patients First".

Their team is coming back with a progress report in September, and they are looking like becoming enthusiastic partners for us. We expect that they will also partner more directly with Cornwall Foundation Trust (CFT), which runs St Barnabas Hospital and local community health teams. This should be helped by now having the CFT Area Director on the Group. We are told that more local patients discharged from hospital can be monitored at home by Derriford nurses on a "virtual ward" using digital links to the hospital. The Practice Managers of our two GP surgeries remain involved in the Group.

Councillor Julia Peggs is now the chair of the Action Group, as Mayor. Other Councillors are Rachel Bullock, Matt Griffiths, Hilary Frank and Richard Bickford. This gives the Group a lot of clout in our negotiations. Other community members are the chairs of the Patient Groups at the two Surgeries, and the secretary of the St Barnabas League of Friends. We are united in our resolve to get things done, and will engage our new MP in our plans.

At our next meeting on July 24 we will be joined by the new Area boss (North and East) of the Cornwall Integrated Care

Board, which holds the purse strings for the investment we are seeking. She is called Tryphaena Doyle, and we are hoping she will prove a staunch ally like Dr Andy Sant whom she has replaced. We are going to be pushing for immediate action: to use spare space at St Barnabas hospital for specialist out-patient support and better diagnostics; to set up NHS contracts for beds in local care homes to replace those lost from St Barnabas years ago; and to deliver enhanced NHS dental care locally.

Since we are told that St Barnabas Hospital is not scheduled for closure, we want it used fully before our long-term aspiration of a redevelopment of the Saltash Health Centre into a single NHS multi-purpose hub for the town.

Recycle Unused medications! Please do not to discard unused medications by throwing them down the toilet or drains, or putting them in their household waste which ends up in landfill - they become dangerous to the environment. Our pharmacies are very happy to receive unwanted or out-of-date medications and dispose of them safely.

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The Changing Face of Saltash Over 61 Year's

At their 2024 Mayfair Film Show the Saltash Video Group which was formed in 1963, excelled in their showing of the changing face of Saltash over the past 61 years.

The award winning group delighted the audience that had packed the hall to capacity at Ashtorre Rock, with stunning reflections of times past in Saltash and further afield.

There was a variety of films from each of the past six decades, which included Mayfair 1979 with the colourful carnival of dozens of floats, teams of majorettes and street dancing, where crowds of people lined the streets from Warfelton Field circling the town.

There was a most touching film of Princess Diana's visit to Saltash to open the newly built SHADO Centre in 1989, where virtually every community and youth organisation turned out to see the beautiful Princess. The group also featured quite a remarkable film of the famous Rolls Royce 46-PK which was owned by the late Dick Coombe of Antony Passage. The Rolls Royce played a significant role during the Second World War, which was used as an ambulance by the Red Cross at East Midlands Airport, Donnington in Leicestershire.

The film took the audience from start to finish through the Silver Ghost's amazing journey from Antony Passage to its auction sale at Sotheby's -the Rolls Royce eventually sold for £110,000. The other highlight of the evening was the Newsreel which took the audience through past times of

Regattas, Donkey Derbys, Emergency Services days, Field events, Pageants and Concerts. Further, there were colourful town events over the past 60 years featuring well known characters; much to the enjoyment and amusement to all those present.

Moreover, the group transported their audience to Burrator Reservoir during near drought conditions, but also when it was near full.



Left to right: Alan Barrett (chairman) Sheila Barrett (treasurer) Anne-Marie Turner and Gerald Dinnis (press officer)

Furthermore, there was a fascinating visit to Addicroft Mill; a 19th Century Watermill at Linkinhorne, near Liskeard. The Mill has a waterwheel which the audience absorbed the Mill owner baking bread, with the primitive oven powered by the waterwheel, which was quite riveting to watch.

Although over the

Centuries the Mill House had been altered and enlarged, the Mill building and its machinery were still complete and most unusually being in full working order.

It was an gripping evening of reflection and watching and listening to people with voices from the distant past, and many sadly no longer with us such as Pat May, Arthur Dawson, Brian Whipp and so many others, which made the evening even more intriguing.

In her vote of thanks to the Saltash Video Group (formerly Saltash Cine Group), long standing supporter for over 50 years, Sue Hooper said that the whole evening was a merry-go-round of history, fun,

laughter and nostalgia. Sue thanked the small team that has kept the Saltash Video Club running for many decades - (Alan and Sheila Barrett, Gerald Dinnis and Anne-Marie Turner).

Sue added that without their joint commitment to the documenting and recording of Saltash and further afield events, there would be nothing to celebrate and remember of all the wonderful community occasions - for this Sue said we were all truly grateful. Chairman Alan Barrett concluded the evening by thanking everyone present and past for the many years of supporting the group and indeed, their work in preserving Saltash's history for generations to come. At the same time Alan put out an appeal for people to join their group and to learn the art of film making, editing and enjoyment.

He also emphasised that it was imperative to attract new membership to ensure the continuity of the Saltash Video Group in perpetuity, as this current group could not thrive without new blood.

For more details of the Saltash Video Club - please contact Alan Barrett telephone 01752 212078

Saltash Memory Box: A New Name A Broader Mission

Community Enterprise PL12 are delighted to announce the re-launch and rebranding of Dementia Voice as Memory Box this month, an inclusive enterprise that supports the wider community affected by mild cognitive impairments.

This significant change reflects Community Enterprises' commitment to providing vital services, support, and companionship to all individuals facing cognitive challenges, not just those with dementia.

The re-launch event took place at the Wesley Methodist Church in Saltash during the group's special 'Do You Mind If I Sing' session this month. This joyous occasion featured a performance by the Do You Mind If I Sing group, followed by a lunch provided by the Community Enterprises PL12 Community Kitchen. The event was a tremendous success, showcasing the strong community support and the essential services they offer.

"Memory Box is a Saltash-based organisation dedicated to supporting and engaging individuals with mild to moderate cognitive impairments, particularly dementia," said Marketing Director Melanie Cowie Smith. "Our amazing team of dedicated and experienced volunteers and helpers with Rose Edwards and Carol Emmett leading the group supported by volunteer

Pauline Newman are all integral to all our activities. The singing sessions are also supported by Theresa Stevens, our Facilitator, who, although not a volunteer, does an amazing job helping to run the group."

The name change reflects a more inclusive approach, recognising that many people in the community face cognitive challenges beyond dementia. The event underscored the strong local support for these vital services and the sense of companionship they foster.

Do You Mind If I Sing were joined by special invited guests, including Mayor of Saltash Cllr Julia Peggs and her consort husband Geoff Peggs along with Community Enterprises PL12 volunteers, Directors and the Memory Box Team.

"It was an amazing morning," added Melanie. Rose, Carol, Pauline and Theresa all have a wonderful way of engaging everyone in the group and everyone feels included and supported. We are looking forward to more events like this

Short Mat Midsummer Mayhem

Saltash Kernow Short Mat Bowls Club, based at the Core Youth and Community Centre, hosted its inaugural Midsummer Mayhem Fun Day on 30th June. Clubs from East Cornwall were invited to participate in this unique event, taking part in unconventional games such as Cricket and Killer.

Teams from Dobwalls, Callington, Calstock, and Landrake competed for titles such as Best Bowler, Best Batsman, and the last player standing in the Killer event. The team from Callington Short Mat Bowls Club emerged victorious overall. Brenda from Dobwalls claimed the title of Best Bowler after a playoff against Diane from Landrake, while Julie from Callington was recognised as Best Batsman.

The event raised approximately £150, with all profits going to the Core, which offers numerous activities for young people in Saltash and surrounding areas. The prizes for the day were generously donated by Ideal Homes Property Group, based in Torpoint, and the ice cream to keep participants cool was provided by Yarde Farm.

For people interested in trying Short Mat Bowls, sessions are held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at the Core. For more information, please contact Paddy on 07841 585590.



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Saltash United Fixtures List 2024/2025

Saltash United is excited to announce our fixture list for the 2024/2025 season in the Jewson Western League Premier Division. This season, we will traverse a total of 3,118 miles across the length and breadth of the Westcountry, proudly representing our town in every match. Below is the complete list of our 38 league fixtures. We look forward to seeing our supporters at both home and away games as we embark on another thrilling season.

<p>July Sat 27 - Brixham AFC (H) Wed 31 - St Blazey (A)</p> <p>August Sat 10 - Shepton Mallet (H) Tue 13 - Buckland Athletic (H) Sat 17 - Ivybridge Town (A) Tue 27 - Ilfracombe Town (H) Sat 31 - Paulton Rovers (H)</p> <p>September Sat 7 - Oldland Abbotonians (A) Tue 10 - Ilfracombe Town (A) Sat 14 - Portishead (H) Tue 17 - Brixham AFC (A) Tue 24 - St Blazey (H) Sat 28 - Nailsea & Tickenham (A)</p> <p>October Sat 5 - Brislington (A) Sat 12 - Barnstaple Town (H) Tue 15 - Buckland Athletic (A) Sat 19 - Clevedon Town (H) Sat 26 - Bridgwater United (A)</p>	<p>November Sat 2 - Wellington (H) Sat 16 - Paulton Rovers (A) Sat 23 - Oldland Abbotonians (H) Sat 30 - Ivybridge Town (H)</p> <p>December Sat 14 - Welton Rovers (A) Sat 21 - Portishead (A) Thu 26 - Torpoint Athletic (H)</p> <p>January Wed 1 - St Austell AFC (A) Sat 11 - Welton Rovers (H) Sat 25 - Street (H)</p> <p>February Sat 1 - Wellington (A) Sat 8 - Bridgwater United (H) Sat 22 - Barnstaple Town (A)</p> <p>March Sat 1 - Shepton Mallet (A) Sat 15 - Brislington (H) Sat 22 - Clevedon Town (A)</p> <p>April Sat 5 - Nailsea & Tickenham (H) Sat 12 - Street (A) Fri 18 - Torpoint Athletic (A) Mon 21 - St Austell AF</p>
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Season Ticket Prices:
Adult: £115 *
Concession: £65

General Admission:

Jewson Western League Premier Division (First Team): Adult: £7 * Concession: £4 * U16: £2

St Piran League Premier Division (Reserves): Adult: £4 * Concession: £3

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The Saltash Ferryman

The sculpture that has overlooked the old Saltash ferry slipway for 11 years has had a facelift. The Saltash Ferryman was commissioned by Ashtorre Rock community centre following the 50th anniversary of the final ferry crossing, when the increase in traffic led to the opening of the Tamar Bridge in 1961 and the Waterside changed forever. The Corten steel structure includes 64 brass panels, some of them etched by 10 Saltash artists to tell the story of the ferries and events of the past, and others preserving the memories of the last generation who recall growing up alongside the ferry.

The salty waterside environment tarnished the brasses more than anticipated, making the panels difficult to read, and previous attempts to clean them have had limited success. Ashtorre Rock was therefore very grateful that Osprey Metal Finishers, an award-winning specialist metal finishing company based in



Photo Roger Smith

Borehamwood in Hertfordshire offered to help and to sponsor the work, alongside local fundraising covering the costs of removal, transportation and renewing the security fixings. Osprey has now cleaned and renovated the brass surfaces to restore a mirror finish and applied a resilient stove baked protective lacquer that should keep the panels bright and readable, so that passers-by can continue to understand the part the ferry played in the origin and growth of the town. Osprey's Managing Director, Daryl Lewis said, "It's been such an honour to be part of restoring and maintaining a piece of Cornish history and for

Ospreys to be able to give something back for the community. It was a wonderful piece to be involved with and we are proud to be part of an incredible project."

Lynn Marsh, Project Lead and Chair of Ashtorre Rock said, "I would like to add my personal thanks to Daryl and his Osprey team. Without their generous sponsorship, and the supporters of our October talks programme, the refurbishment would not have been possible. The sculpture, which has been adopted by Saltash Town Council, highlights the importance of the ferry crossings in Saltash history and will, we hope, inform both

locals and visitors for many years.

Created with the support of Heritage Lottery Fund, local businesses and public donations, The Saltash Ferryman was designed by Saltash artist John Forster. The artists who designed the illustrative panels were Bethan Crane, Chrissie Russell, Gillian Sweeney, James Thompson, Jo Beer, Lyn Douglass, Neil Mawdsley, Shari Hills, Stephen Beer and Vivienne Screech. The oral history project quotations were gathered by Stephanie Norgaard. Some of the team and members of the Ashtorre Rock committee came together to view the refurbished brasses.

Just Thinking Aloud

Are you glad it's all over, and that you won't have to suffer it again for another five years? Or are you one of the increasing minority who have decided not to take part whether by post, proxy or in person? I'm sorry if you belong to that minority. I take the view that if you don't use your ballot paper then you have no right to complain about outcomes. You don't actually have to vote. You can do what I did and spoil your paper! Why did I do that? Because I do not believe that our eccentric first past the post system of voting in general elections favours truly democratic outcomes. Anyway, you don't have to wait for another five years. Next May you will have an opportunity to vote in Cornish local elections – both town and county. Go on, make a difference – increase the embarrassingly low turnout which characterises such affairs. And you could go one step further. Instead of grumbling about existing councillors, offer yourself to a discerning electorate. But if you do, please do your homework first. Learning about facts is always helpful – much more so than being found out when it becomes obvious to your interlocutor that you haven't the least idea what you are talking about. No, this is not aimed at any particular individual. It's just that, over an adult lifetime spent in community stuff, I know a bit more than I did when I began being an adult some sixty odd years ago.

My children chuckle at what they see as their father somewhat overdoing the business of being organised. I can't help it. That's the way I am, and increasingly so as the years go by and my memory goes into hiccup mode. I don't put everything in my diary, but looking at it first thing in the morning does give me a start at least. Today's had four reminders and at noon I am already well on the way to

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dealing with them. I am usually out of bed not long after six, and normally back in bed mid-evening, listening to the wireless (that shows my age, doesn't it?) and waiting for my beloved to arrive with our cuppas. In between? First thing in the morning is to hit my study and learn things from my trusty computer. Then I make our morning coffees and we discuss things before getting up properly. Recycling is sorted. I read a lot. Sunday morning is usually church at St Nicks. Saturday morning is Fore St. One evening I might spend an hour in the Essa Club. Wednesday afternoon is coffee with a couple of pals, plus a bit of shopping. Am I ever bored? Certainly not!

Just one little grumble this time – why do supermarkets keep changing where they put stuff, and confusing me?

Let's I forget – all the best to 16 year old Lola Tambling, Saltash-based skateboarder – who will be in the Olympic Games in Paris.

Bob Munro

Join the Saltash Community Speed Watch Team!

With concerns rising over increasing speeds in our community, Cornwall Councillor Hilary Frank is forming a Community Speed Watch team, and needs three more volunteers to get things up and running.

The new team will work closely with the police, playing a crucial role in gathering data by recording speeds and details of vehicles exceeding speed limits. Persistent offenders will receive warning letters from the police.

If you are interested in raising awareness of traffic offences, helping reduce accidents and promoting safer roads in Saltash, then contact Hilary Frank on cllr.hilary.frank@cornwall.gov.uk or by ringing 079 6427 0145.

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