



# SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

*Your only truly "local" newspaper ...*

June 2012 - Issue 239

Incessant trumpet of trade; armoury of fearless truth without fear or favour ...

## CORNWALL COUNCIL 'NOT SERIOUS' ABOUT TOWN CENTRES

Moves to regenerate town centres in Cornwall are being blocked by Cornwall Council Officers who are refusing to back a proven car parking scheme in Saltash, at no cost to the Cornwall Tax-payer.

Saltash Town-centre Improvement Group (STIG) and Saltash Town Council ran a free parking scheme at Christmas where they paid Cornwall to make the car parks free – as a result two-thirds of business said that they saw a substantial positive impact on trade, with some estimating it as up to a 100% increase.

Now Cornwall Council Car Parks is blocking a follow-up scheme for free parking on Saturdays: having agreed in principle they then delayed for several weeks, then refused to run the scheme at all, and finally agreed but only at a massively inflated cost – at least 50% higher than the Christmas scheme and potentially more.

The Christmas scheme cost

Saltash £300 per day, which covered the full cost of revenues, and Saltash was able to keep any payments made. Cornwall has now quoted £452 per day, and Saltash would not be able to keep any payments – equating potentially to an increase of nearly 100%.

Cornwall's justification is largely based on a 73% increase in car parking trade in Saltash – an increase largely driven by the scheme that Saltash paid for. They have also added an arbitrary 20% charge for supposed losses that free parking on Saturday will cause on other days, with no evidence to back the figure up.

STIG Chairman Cllr Adam Killeya said 'it is absolutely outrageous: we paid in full for

the Christmas scheme, which we only forced through against the resistance of Cornwall Car Parks Officers who said it wouldn't work. It worked: they even admitted that it worked. It increased both trade and their revenues, and now we are being punished for that success by them whacking up the charges.'

Chairman of Saltash Gateway CIC Liam Bradley added 'Cornwall have been offered 6 months guaranteed Saturday revenue up front, by a town who want to regenerate their town centre and Cornwall, instead of embracing it, rejects it.'

Cllr Killeya added 'Cornwall Councillors and some officers are backing us: one officer even suggested four different compromises to Cornwall Car Parks – all of which they rejected out of hand.'

Chairman of the Saltash and District Chamber of Commerce Bill Cotton said 'is Cornwall interested in helping Town Centres or not? It is a difficult time and we need assistance not delays, fob-offs and rip-offs.'

Saltash Town Mayor Cllr Martin Gee stated 'This is the latest in a long line of examples of Cornwall

ignoring the needs of Saltash – proposing 3000 houses for the area, cutting services, messing up our waste and now this – it makes me wonder whether they are interested in Saltash. Is this what they mean by localism?"

Town Centre Trader Jill Male, owner of the bookshelf said 'the Christmas scheme worked positively for the centre – you really wonder whether Cornwall wants Saltash Fore Street to do well.'

Town councillor Merryn Killeya said 'They say they want to support town centres: they get a proven, funded scheme handed to them on a plate and what do they do? They block it. The Christmas scheme was funded by Saltash paying 100% and Cornwall paying 0% making the new charges closer to 'Saltash pays 150% Cornwall pays minus 50%!"'

STIG is calling on Cornwall Council to change its mind immediately and back the scheme. They have also stated that they intend to run the Christmas free-parking scheme again and that Cornwall Council, should they block it, will have proven that they do not care about Saltash Town Centre.

## Saltash Residents Should Decide Town's Future, New Mayor Believes

While joining, as he reminded a packed Guildhall, three hundred and fifty named mayors dating back to 1552, and many more unknown mayors from the eleventh century, newly elected Mayor Councillor Martin Gee has a number of twenty-first century aims he seeks to fulfil during his year of office.

In particular he is determined to produce a neighbourhood plan or plans for Saltash in order to ensure that the Town is not totally controlled by government guidelines. "Residents and not developers must determine the Town's future," he proclaimed.

Ensuring that public funding comes to this part of Cornwall is another aim, and he intends to represent the Town outside of Saltash and in particular seek combined agreement with other South East Cornwall councils to counter the common complaint that Cornwall's funding filters too much to the West of the County.

Here in Saltash the new Mayor is anxious to regain "quality town" status, previously held but lost, which will enable the Council to increase its powers to support local areas of concern. Within the Town he also hopes to see the establishment of a "legacy building" for the community



Mayor Martin and his Mayoress Maggie, officially opened the Diamond Jubilee Picnic in the Park, they were joined here by Ruth Ballantyne, who conducted the band who played all the Festival favourites despite the wet weather

putting to good use the monies which supermarket developers have been obliged to pay to the Town as a condition of planning permission.

Before stating his aims the newly elected Mayor had what he described as three extremely pleasant acts to perform. Firstly he appointed sixteen year old cadet Corporal Chris Stafford of the

RAF Cadets and saltash.net school as "Mayor's Cadet," to accompany the Mayor on civic occasions and represent the uniformed youth of the Town.

Secondly he publicly thanked May Fair Queen Rebecca and Princesses Tia and Jessica for so well representing the Town and

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## TESCO GETS GO-AHEAD WITH SAFEGUARDS FOR SOME SALTASH SHOPS

The long delayed Tesco supermarket planned for the site of the motor showroom alongside Carkeel roundabout has at last been given the go ahead.

Saltash shopkeepers concerned at the effect upon the Town's traders can at least take comfort in that Cornwall Planners in eventually giving approval put restrictions on what they may sell limiting it effectively to a food shop.

Clothing, furniture and furnishings, electrical "white goods" or books are among items that cannot be sold there, nor can Tesco offer a café, dispensing chemist, post office or dry cleaning facilities. The plans did not include any petrol station.

It was as long ago as October 2010 that your 'Observer' reported the Town Council

recommending approval subject to resolution of transport issues and an agreed

'Section 106' payment to help the local community. Tesco's planning consultant had told the Council that at 25,000 square feet it would be slightly smaller than Waitrose and was aimed to attract Saltash shoppers who currently travel to Plymouth, Liskeard or Callington for their main food shopping.

Speaking on behalf of Saltash Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Chairman William Cotton told the Observer, "We are pleased to note the restrictions on what Tesco will be able to sell which we hope will be of some help to Saltash's established businesses. We still have the concerns expressed when we lodged our initial objection

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## SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...

A new Parliamentary Session has begun and it was a real privilege to attend the State opening of Parliament by Her Majesty the Queen. I was also delighted to have been elected to the Executive of the prestigious 1922 Committee by my colleagues. I am pleased that my fellow Cornwall Conservative MP George Eustice was also successfully elected.

My first full week of the new session began with an external visit by the

Environmental Audit Committee, Parliament's green watchdog, to a meeting held at St Martin's in the Field in London. The purpose of taking the Committee meeting to the Community was to seek the views of the wider public on the forthcoming Rio+20 Conference.

This was very well attended and I would hope that the exercise would be repeated in other areas of the UK to build a real link between the general public and Parliament. I

believe this is particularly important when we are dealing with the issue of Climate change and sustainable development. Other enquiries that the Committee is currently looking at include Arctic and Wildlife Crime.

I was pleased that The Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology (Peter Luff) informed the House that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has signed contracts, worth approximately £350million (excluding VAT), for the first 18 months of work on the assessment phase of the Successor submarine programme. These contracts, along with our continued commitment to the Astute submarine programme, will sustain thousands of jobs across the UK submarine industry and will allow us to maintain this vital capability that underpins the nation's long term security. Many jobs in South East Cornwall rely on Devonport Naval base and Dockyard and I will continue to fight Devonport's corner whenever the opportunity arises.

Finally, it was a real pleasure to join the Mayor of Saltash, Cllr Martin Gee, at the Tamar Bridge and watch the Olympic torch travel from Cornwall into Devon. I am sure that many people are excited at the prospect of the Olympics taking place in the United Kingdom and I would like



to highlight the other Olympic event which is being held this year.

I was fortunate to join Dave Pond, who is a Constituent of mine, at a Reception held in Parliament to honour the London 2012 Paralympics. Dave is the Chief Executive of Great Britain Wheelchair Rugby and it was a pleasure to meet so many people involved in ensuring Team GB are prepared for a successful games.

Staying on the theme of the Paralympics, I also joined another sponsor, Sainsbury's, at a reception where I learned about many other sports including "blind football". The sport was given a real boost when David Beckham said the character of the Paralympics GB 5-a-side football team makes him 'proud to be British'. The former England captain kicked-off his campaign as London 2012 Paralympics Games Ambassador in unique style, joining visually-impaired Team GB captain Dave Clarke in a specially-arranged training session in the capital.

These games are of particular interest to me with the selection of David Wetherill for the Table Tennis and my parliamentary Assistant, Alice who has volunteered to be a host at the Paralympic games. I hope my constituents will join me in wishing all of these courageous competitors every success.

## ESSA FILES

I must start this month by applauding the very hard work of Colin and Marilyn Oakes, as Mayor and Mayoress of Saltash for 2011-2012, and congratulating Martin and Maggie Gee on the commencement of their term of office.

Unfortunately the rest of my column is not on such a positive note. For some months now I have been hoping to be able to write a column with details of the next stage of STIG's (Saltash Town-centre Improvement Group) efforts to regenerate the town centre. We want to follow up our successful and popular Christmas Free Parking scheme with a scheme to make parking free on Saturday's for the summer months.

Unfortunately we have run into great difficulties with Cornwall Council. Despite the support of our Cornwall Councillors, and some Cornwall Officers, Cornwall Car Parks has refused our request to be allowed to pay for free parking at cost. Instead, having initially said yes, then no, and then stopped returning our emails, they now want to charge us over 50% more than we paid at Christmas. This is particularly frustrating bearing in mind that we only got the Christmas scheme approved against the objections of the same officers who said it wouldn't work. It worked: they even admitted that it worked. It increased both trade and their revenues, and yet here we are again!

It is not only frustrating but also very baffling, even bearing in mind what I said a few columns ago about trying to see Cornwall Council's point of view, trying to understand what on earth they can have against a community who want to fund the regeneration of their own town centre. Liskeard have recently been in the news because of their successful funding bid and creation of a 'town team' – we have had funding and a team, STIG, for some time. It's just a shame our own Cornwall Council is blocking us from moving forwards...

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## The New Mayor

*continued from page 1*  
reminded them that they will have many more civic duties in the year ahead. Thirdly, he mentioned that Saltash's senior Councillor Mrs Sue Hooper MBE, was celebrating twenty-five years of continuous service as a Counsellor. To the evident surprise of a lady who has given out so many awards herself the Mayor awarded Sue Hooper with a magnificent candle holder.

While the mayor choosing follows a time honoured tradition each new mayor brings a touch of individuality to the proceedings. The civic guests this year were entertained before and after the civic business by the superb music of flautist Ruth Ballantyne. And as the bells of the adjacent St Nicholas Church rang out to celebrate the



CORNWALL COUNCIL

and our PL12 community  
For Observer readers  
From Councillor Derek Holley  
Pill Ward Saltash



Torch?" Well done to Saltash Town Council for a full day of events and to Hilary Frank the organiser.

Lastly I have to express my continuing concern over the private company Cory that is running the waste and recycling service we are getting. I think the measure of this service is not how well the easy, straight roads are collected from but how well the service copes with the small closes, back lanes and groups of houses with more difficult access roads. If we apply that test then in my experience the service has been a shambles. I have been continually frustrated with my inability to get areas collected from and I have been embarrassed as a councillor many times. The problem seems to be poor communication and a sheer management inability to cope with scheduling and updating of schedules. It has been very, very bad in places and I don't blame residents for saying "I've had it with recycling". Please don't do that. It will get sorted in time. I am just keeping my fingers crossed that the time will be short. If you want to blame someone for the mass privatisation of council services then point your finger at the government which cut such huge amounts from Cornwall that the only way to save monies like this is to farm out services to the lowest bidder.

Well, that is the position Cornwall Council were in when the backers of a stadium in Truro for the Cornish Pirates rugby team asked for £10 million of public money. I just could not support it at this time of public austerity, even though I am a supporter of the Pirates. In principal anyway I think any spare money available for capital projects should go to job creation schemes or other moves to support the local business economy. For instance we desperately need new homes for the 25000 residents on the council waiting list. Everybody bar one correspondent from up the country seemed to agree when I have discussed it. I would be interested though to hear your views as it will probably come up again.

E: dholley@cornwall.gov.

Can I give you a different perspective on the Olympic Torch event. We really enjoyed it as did many thousands of others in Saltash. What is interesting though about this sort of thing is that it is a good example of the social glue that binds a community together. How many people have you asked "did you see the

lowest bidder. That is what we have got here. At least Highways is farmed out to a "arms length company" Cormac which we know and trust to deliver a good service.

My potatoes are good, beans are bad, lettuce great and parsnips rubbish. Pretty normal then. Have a good summer.

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## Mayor Martin Moved Down from Midlands

Hailing from the "Potteries" country of the North Midlands, the newly elected Mayor of Saltash has lived in Saltash with his Mayoress and wife Maggie for twenty-three years. "Saltash is in his heart and all he does is for the benefit of the Town," pronounced retiring Mayor Colin Oakes in formally proposing his successor.

From his home town of Newcastle-under-Lyme Martin crossed the Pennines to Newcastle-upon-Tyne to read geography.

He came to Cornwall initially to work as an accountant for North Cornwall Council before taking up a short service army commission. It was while serving in Germany that he met Maggie, then working for the Army Education Services.

They were married in 1982 and on his leaving the army came to live in Saltash where they brought up their daughter Melissa, now 25, who proudly watched her parents invested with the mayoral chains.

Martin was elected to Saltash Town Council nine years ago as one of the "Saltash Independents for change" who gained a landslide victory over established councillors.

He has served on the Council ever since and also served for four years on the former Caradon Council. He worked for DML, subsequently Babcock Marine until his recent retirement which he believes has given him the time

required for his mayoral duties.

Over the last year Martin and Maggie have been "broken in" by serving as Deputy Mayor and Mayoress.

A highlight of their year was officially opening the now-popular climbing wall in the K3 youth club and having his photograph taken for the "Observer" fearlessly ascending it.

During his service on the Town's Council Martin has been a highly successful chairman of its Policy and Resources Committee masterminding the Town's finances.

His skills in financial matters seem likely to help him achieve his aims for his Mayoral year, in particular regaining the Town's lost "Quality Town" status.

"Because of what he has achieved so far within the Council and because of the kind and thoughtful person he is, with Maggie at his side there is no doubt that he will continue to serve our Town well," concluded Councillor Oakes in his formal proposal of the new Mayor who was then elected unanimously.

Councillor David Yates was also elected unanimously as Deputy Mayor with his wife Stephanie as Mayoress.

We are pleased to confirm at as of next month Councillor Gee will be following the tradition maintained by each Mayor over the past two decades of penning a monthly column "From the Mayor's Parlour" exclusively for our "Observer" readership.

## Man of Grit "A Wonderful Deputy Mayor"

**S**ince, while seeking a West country home, he chanced to pull up outside the Forder property in which he and his wife Stephanie have so happily settled, our new Deputy Mayor Councillor David Yates has become very much a part of the local community.

He was formally proposed by Councillor Merryn Killeya who has been acting alongside him in the Burraton Players as well as serving as fellow councillor and who felt sure that he would make "a wonderful Deputy Mayor."

A man of Kent, born in Bromley, David graduated at Sheffield before commencing a career in electronic engineering, serving thirty years in the Royal Navy largely as submarine engineer officer and subsequently with DML, then Babcock Marine as submarine skills manager.

During their thirty years in

the Town David and Stephanie have brought up three children who all attended local schools, and David has especially involved himself in am-dram and with the Plougastel Twinning Association. Councillor Killeya also disclosed that he has a passion for Norwich City FC and model railways.

She described him as a conscientious and committed councillor, a highly successful chairman of the Town's Industry Commerce Transport and

Tourism Committee who so successfully re-organised the Town's grit bins that there has been no ice on the roads since.

"Where the Mayor leads a sensible Deputy Mayor follows," pronounced the newly elected Deputy Mayor Councillor Yates in his acceptance speech. "I was encouraged to join the Town Council by it being suggested to me "if you think you can do better....", he continued. This, he suggested could be a message for everybody with Town Council elections due next year and he reminded all that the Town Council is by no means a closed shop.

"I will do my best to serve the people of Saltash and repay the trust of the people who elected me while supporting our Mayor." promised the newly elected Deputy Mayor.

### Saltash.net Win Two places in Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion National Final



Year 8 students Ed Gilford and Walter Stroud and year 11 students James King and Alex Ewings have secured places in the Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion™ Challenge national final, beating off stiff competition from over 1,000 schools across the country. Both teams had previously won a series of internal school races and regional heats before entering the semi-final knock out round. They will compete in the national final at the British Heritage Motor Centre in Gaydon on Wednesday 27 June.

*Quote from students: "We are going to the national final to win. The other teams better watch out!"*

### Special Year Seven Open Evenings at Saltash Sports

The step up from junior to 'big' school is one of the most important in a young life and can be intimidating not only for the child but also for the parents involved. With this in mind Nick and Amanda of 'Saltash Sports' have arranged three special

year seven open evenings in their Fore Street shop when children and parents can not only benefit from 10% discount on all saltash.net school uniform but can mix socially with other "new" parents and children enjoy refreshments, and obtain

advice on all school clothing and other matters concerning the big jump to "big" school. Nick and Amanda are able to offer both professional and personal advice, having had four children of their own progress to saltash.net school, two of whom are still studying there. They can give personal reassurance of what items are essential what are recommended, and what can be postponed. Their own excellent relationship with the school for whom they are stockists and whom they have sponsored over the years makes them uniquely qualified to give confidential advice in an informal evening setting. Full changing facilities are available to children selecting uniform and sports kit, and payment may be made by cash, cheque or credit card. If the expense of a full uniform makeover is a difficulty a discrete helping hand with instalment payment can be arranged.

Parents and children can be assured of a friendly welcome and a welcome 10% discount on uniform items and accessories between 6 – 8pm on Wednesday, 27th June, 25th July and 29th August

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### Town Can Veto 'Unusual' Guildhall Bookings

The Town Clerk, in consultation with the Mayor and his Deputy, has the power to turn down what some councillors described as 'weird' bookings of the Guildhall.

While bookings for functions in our beautiful and historic civic building are normal welcomed, those which might prove less acceptable may be refused. Those which could fall under this category were suggested as any involving a séance, witchcraft or other occult practices.

The issue was discussed by the Town Council following a request for a booking described as being 'unusual.'

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## Saltash is Full of Friendship, Retiring Mayor Found

"To be a town mayor is a privilege, to be Saltash Mayor is an honour and gave me a year that I will never forget." Councillor Colin Oakes, having just handed over the chain of Mayor to his former deputy Martin Gee expressed himself as overwhelmed by the friendship, hospitality and support that he had received from Saltash during a momentous year of office.

Colin with his wife, Mayoress Marilyn had attended around two hundred events in Saltash, around Cornwall, and even over the Tamar, said his successor Cllr Martin Gee in proposing the best thanks of the Council to his predecessor. "He has chaired the Council well, kept us under control, guided us well and left behind him a happy, well-organised non-adversarial Council, which is as it ought to be."

His particular theme of "Community" and especially bringing young people and the elderly together had resulted in a response which had delighted Colin Oakes who was especially pleased with the way that saltash.net school had embraced his ideas. He was delighted that his Mayor's charity had raised over £4,000 to be divided between saltash.net school funds, The Friends of St Barnabas Hospital and other local charities. He had also purchased a much needed new oaken case for the mayoral chain which he presented to the incoming Mayor. Colin and Marilyn's life was not likely to quieten down as they next had a Ruby wedding to celebrate and a well deserved holiday. Colin concluded with the words "Thank you, Saltash, for everything."

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## Better Train Service to London Essential for Local Businessmen

The improved rail service to and from Saltash station has greatly benefited local business, the Saltash Chamber of Commerce and Industry agreed as they urged the prospective winners of the forthcoming franchise to increase further the services stopping in the Town.

The Chamber is concerned about putting into place infrastructure that will help to encourage new and current businesses to grow within the Town. As a growing community of over 17,000 population Saltash needs to lessen reliance on Plymouth for jobs, the Chamber believes.

A major constraint for businesses establishing themselves or expanding in Saltash is the high cost of the single road option to the east connecting the Town with all major centres of population. The Tamar Bridge is often congested and the tolls, recently risen and possibly to rise again, act as a disincentive to business travellers.

Additional rail services for

Saltash can help mitigate against limited road access to the Town. As a high priority the Chamber of Commerce urged for more services directly between Saltash and London Paddington in addition to the current three up and four down weekday services. These are essential for business users who do not wish to change trains and can use the services to work productively while travelling. Whilst Plymouth has a target of three hours journey time the Chamber supports a three hour ten minute target for train travel between the Town and the Capital.

The Chamber's concern was also expressed in a letter

## Year 11's Last Day

With this summer's GCSE examinations commencing on Monday 14th May, students and staff at saltash.net community school made sure that the last day the Year 11 students would be together as a year group, on Friday 11th May, was as special, memorable and enjoyable as it could be.

The 230 strong cohort of students arrived for their leavers' day in an amazing array of fancy dress costumes. Not to be outdone, the Year 11 pastoral team, including Head of Year, Dave Stokes, and Assistant Head of Year, Eileen Sloggett, also dressed up for the occasion and certainly gave the students a run for their money!

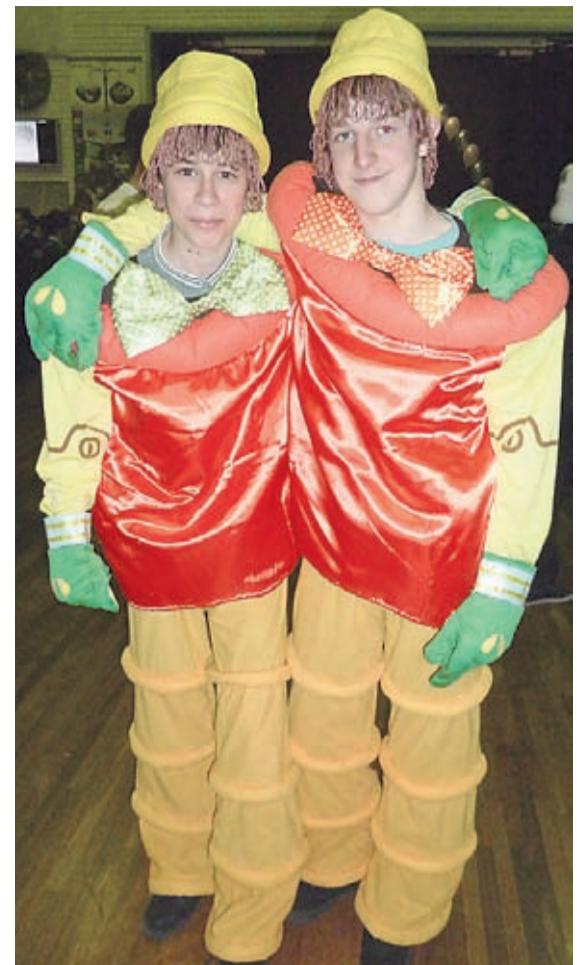
As there were a range of vocational pathway courses running as normal on Friday morning across the South East Cornwall schools' consortium, all students

attended lessons until 1.00pm when everyone then gathered together in the main hall for a farewell message from their Head of Year. This was followed by a BBQ prepared by the school's Food Technology team and a Real Live Music Club open air concert led by Head of ICT, Mr Angus Reith, and featuring items by Year 11 students.

Later on in the afternoon all of Year 11 students, accompanied by their tutors, attended their final assembly which showcased the considerable range of talent present in Year 11, and included outstanding musical performances from Rosina Russell, Jade Cannings, Oliver Gilford, Chris Stafford, Joe Butler, Kyle Boyd, Harry Miller, Charlie Hannaford, Harry Moir & Beulah Jones. The ICT and film making skills of the students were demonstrated in an excellent film of 'memories' produced by Joshua Clarke & Michael Libby.

Headteacher, Isobel Bryce, addressed the year group at the end of the assembly, wishing them well with the forthcoming examinations and success and happiness in their chosen career paths, which for many will see them returning to saltash.net to attend its 6th form.

Assistant Head, Pete Bond, commenting on his involvement with the Year 11 students over the last few years said, "We are really



proud of our young people and of what they contribute to our school and to our local

community. They certainly deserve to do really well this summer."

## The New Owners of THE PLOUGHBOY

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The Observer team would like to offer its congratulations to Vanessa on her 2nd Anniversary, and wish her every success in the future

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## Thank you...Saltash Traders

SE Cornwall Lib Dems would like to thank all the people who helped make last Thursdays Saltash Traders Fashion Show in Wesley Church such a success.

We were pleased to support

the Chernobyl Children's Charity and we collected £694.55 on the evening, thanks to the generosity of the people of Saltash. Our particular thanks must go to compare Colin Breed, Saltash shops, all the wonderful models, stall holders, dressers and helpers.

The show demonstrated that Saltash has a fine selection of quality shops and we hope because of this show more people have been made aware of the fantastic range of fashion and accessories Saltash can offer.

Cllr Bob Austin Saltash

## Conundrum Corner

Taking the initial letter to the one word answer to the following nine questions can you re-arrange them to make a nine-letter word?

1 What name is given to the container from which cards are dealt in a Casino? (4)

2 What does the Statue of Liberty hold in her right hand? (5)

3 Which dessert is obtained from the large hard grains of wheat left after flour has been milled.

4 In which Ocean are the Maldives Islands? (6)

5 Who was the victor of the Battle of the Nile in 1798? (6)

6 Within the boundary of which City is the Gower Peninsula? (7)

7 What month is mentioned in the opening line of George Orwell's 1984? (5)

8 Which musical instrument is described by this definition: A single headed drum with miniature cymbals in the frame to add a jingle? (9)

9 Which creatures live in a Formicary? (4)

answers on page 7

# Academy Status Sets School in Class of its Own

The year since saltash.net community school gained academy status has seen the school's increased control over significantly expanded funding result in benefits for both the teaching and pastoral care of every student.

Already the school has been able to invest in increased staffing in all core subjects enabling smaller classes to enjoy more personal tuition. Initially, Key Stage 4 students were prioritised, those in years ten and eleven about to sit GCSEs, but older and younger students in Key Stages 5 and 3 will be reaping the benefits of enhanced teaching on a more personal basis, too.

Additional support staffing now enables a maths higher level teaching assistant to work with students on a one to one basis, and there is similar provision in English classes, resulting in enhanced Literacy skills. "As an academy, fully funded from central government, we can now appoint additional staff to assist students where we know it will make the biggest different for them," said Headteacher Mrs Isobel Bryce.

While academic skills are of prime importance, pastoral care is also regarded as vital to ensure students' well-being, as well as their ability to work to the best of their potential. Academy status has enabled saltash.net for the first time to appoint a full time school counsellor. "She has already proved excellent, having a long experience of working with teenagers, offering them emotional care and guidance," added Mrs Bryce. With cutbacks in other services the need has become increasingly obvious for professional guidance, working with parents where appropriate.



saltash.net community school is a thriving, highly successful 11 to 18 mixed, community comprehensive school. On April 1<sup>st</sup> 2011, the school achieved Academy status, another significant milestone in its history. Becoming an Academy means the school can continue to strengthen and develop all areas of the curriculum, including its specialism of Science, Maths and Computing.

Situated in an area of outstanding natural beauty our school secures high levels of academic success as well as many outstanding sporting and other extra curricular achievements. It offers excellent ICT facilities, state of the art science labs and has an on site farm with world famous pigs and chickens! It also has a brand new, All Weather Pitch.

The school works very closely with its seven partner primary schools to ensure Year 6 students have a smooth transition to secondary school. We strive to provide the highest quality education for all children in our care. We are proud of what our young people achieve and we look forward to welcoming you to our school soon.



**Open Evenings for 2012**  
Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> & Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> October  
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PL12 4AY  
**For a Prospectus or more information please contact:**  
Tel: 01752 843715  
enquiries@saltash.cornwall.sch.uk  
[www.saltash.net](http://www.saltash.net)

## Breakfast Club at School is Cool

A friendly social gathering when students and staff can talk together informally over porridge and honey, saltash.net's breakfast club is already a firm favourite start to the day for well over a hundred students of all ages.

Intended initially to ensure that no child from any background need start a busy day of academic and physical work without a nourishing meal, the "Breakfast Club" was made open to everyone and students from all backgrounds have come to enjoy it as a relaxing and friendly opening to an academic day. In modern society, some children do not regularly sit around a table to eat together socially at home, and all clearly relish the opportunity to sit with staff

and fellow students of all ages to talk about issues of interest to them. A variety of games and ICT netbooks are also available and it is intended that a telescreen will be provided soon to enable students to become more aware of current events.

"I've not been in trouble at all Miss, since I started coming to Breakfast Club," one student was delighted to tell Headteacher, Mrs Bryce, while all Breakfast Clubbers appear to agree with another comment, "It's cool to come to Breakfast Club."

## Ofsted 'Interim Assessment' Reports Progress Has Been Maintained

saltash.net was pleased to receive an 'Interim Assessment' letter from Ofsted during the Spring Term of 2012 which stated that progress had been maintained since the school was last inspected in October 2008. The school had been expecting an Ofsted in October 2011, as part of a three year cycle.

The Performance Indicators taken into consideration by Ofsted included, in particular, examination performance over the last three years as well as parental views and the result of the last subject Ofsted which was an Outstanding judgement for PE.

A recent OFSTED survey of how the school was using its "pupil premium" provided by the state for students receiving free school meals or students from service backgrounds, noted that saltash.net had already observed the suggestions recently laid down by Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg. These included, in particular, one to one tuition in maths and English, the appointment of a School Counsellor and the establishment of a Breakfast Club.

Further plans are afoot for the use of pupil premium in the anticipation of an additional allocation in the forthcoming year.



## A Berry Good Start to the Day!

Berries were the order for the day on Wednesday at saltash.net community school's Breakfast Club, where pupils were treated to an extra-healthy start to the day.

A host of berry treats including pancakes, muffins, smoothies and yoghurt were freshly produced by the school's canteen and made freely available to all pupils, as were fresh strawberries, raspberries, blueberries and cherries. The produce was kindly donated by Cornish Farm Produce and Waitrose, both based in Saltash. Year 8 pupils Jessica Langston, Holly Adams, Allanah Cole, Lauren Sloggett, Leonie Carroll and Rachel Price helped prepare the breakfast and were on hand to encourage pupils to try something seasonal, healthy and different!

The Breakfast Club was introduced at the school this year and looks to give all pupils the opportunity to have free healthy sit-down breakfast of porridge or cereal, toast and fruit juice. Computers, iPads (and teachers!) are also available for study purposes. The Club has been an overwhelming success, with over one hundred pupils making the most of this offering each morning. Watch this space for more themed breakfasts in the future!

## National Teaching Awards 2012



Saltash.net community school was both surprised and delighted to find out in the Spring Term that it had four regional finalists in this year's National Teaching Awards. Nominated entirely by the student council, three individual teachers and the whole of one department have found themselves facing visits by the Teaching Award judges over the last couple of months.

Shortlisted for the Outstanding new teacher

Award is teacher of English, Jen Dunkey; for the Innovative Use of ICT Award is teacher of History, Katie Boothman; for the Lifetime Achievement Award is RE teacher, Sue Bowen; and for the Outstanding Team, it's the whole of the Science department at saltash.net.

Commenting on this superb achievement, Headteacher, Isobel Bryce, said, 'The Student Council takes full responsibility for the nominations in these Awards, making them all the more

special for the staff involved. It is a tremendous reflection on the quality of learning and teaching that takes place at our school to have four finalists this year.'

The results of the judges' visits will be made known to the school later this term. Everyone is hoping that at least one of these finalists will be following in the footsteps of Nicki Bovey, teacher of Science at saltash.net, who was the overall national winner in the Science teacher of the Year category for 2011.

## Solving Mathematics in The Real World

On May 18th, 2012, a number of year 8 G&T students went to Lydford Gorge to put into practice their knowledge of mathematics when solving problems in the real world. The group were given a number of tasks, such as working out the height of a tree, the speed of the flow of water, the distance travelled along an uneven path and modelled each situation mathematically before coming up with a solution.

Quote from Mike Allen, teacher, "The day was a huge success with the students able to apply the mathematics that they had learned in the classroom to real life situations".



Year 8 Gifted and Talented students

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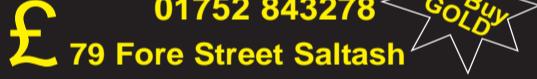
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Long before Mr Cameron's vision of the "Big Society" the Saltash Live at Home Scheme was already working hard, providing volunteers who befriended and supported older people in the community so that they could continue to live independent, active and fulfilled lives.

Mrs Ann Bailey (Acting Chair) was an Occupational Therapist who identified the need for this service when she was continually being asked to "come back and visit" once people were discharged from her care. She knew of Methodist Homes (MHA) befriending service and began the process of setting up the scheme in Saltash. In 2002 the first Co-ordinator began work and over the last decade the scheme has developed, going from strength to strength.

In 2009 the present

## A Decade of Service in Saltash



manager, Mrs Gail Lee, was appointed. Mrs Lee has built on the foundations already in place as demand for the service has increased.

Alongside befriending (visits by volunteers matched by Gail) the scheme also offers a quarterly newsletter, a monthly social morning, coffee mornings, social outing, advice and support, and signposting to other agencies. More recently a new mens' lunch group has been successfully launched. The service welcomes all over the age of 60, irrespective of religious beliefs.

The Mayor of Saltash for 2011/12 Mr Colin Oakes, assisted in intergenerational partnership with Students at saltash.net Academy. They chose the scheme as their charity of the year and are preparing to help in celebrating ten years of service. They are planning to hold a party for all members, volunteers and for all those who have helped us provide this important service to our community, making this anniversary a memorable event. Also during celebrations for this year they have been nominated for the Queens Award for services to the community.

MHA Live at Home Schemes provide the older person with a caring service, based on Christian principles and with the highest standards of professional care. The committee is made

up of volunteers and members of Saltash Churches Together. Following the February Annual General Meeting they have a new chair Margaret Hopper and a new volunteer David Smith stepped us as treasurer. Elizabeth Ainger joined the committee and Bridget Bickford as a member volunteered to represent the scheme's members on the committee. A vice chair to assist Margaret in her new role is still sought.

If you have considered how you can join in the "Big Society" vision, why not come and help this vibrant, local charity as it embarks on the next decade of providing a valued service to our community. For information of applying to become Vice Chair or join the committee, sponsorship, becoming a member, or any further information please contact the Scheme Manager, Mrs Gail Lee, on Saltash 848728 or via email at [saltash.liveathome@hma.org.uk](mailto:saltash.liveathome@hma.org.uk)

**Don't Miss Olympic Torch and Diamond Jubilee celebrations**

*Featuring in the July issue of your Observer*

## A Great Literary Week Lined up for Saltash Readers

The opportunity to listen to and meet with a wide variety of published writers will again be offered to keen Saltash readers during Independent Booksellers' week this July. Jill Male of "Saltash Bookshop" encouraged by the two sell-out literary festivals that she has organised locally over the past year has invited a number of authors to inform and entertain booklovers in local venues over the period from Monday 2nd July to Saturday 14th July. The owner of Plymouth's 'Casper the Commuting Cat' who has shot to international fame will be opening the packed programme which includes Debbie Fowler, author of St Ives based detective stories, Tessa Hainsworth who wrote of moving from her "Body Shop" job to live in Cornwall and Les Merton, writer of 'Oall Rite me Ansum!' and other dialect poems and stories. Popular favourites Suzanne Morton, author of the 'Angels' books and E.V. Thompson MBE, writer of rattling period stories many with a Cornish setting will be making welcome returns.

Likely to be especially popular is the "Join us with our Authors for a Buffet Lunch" at the "Boatman" on Waterside bookable in advance. For a full programme of events which range from talks, chats and readings to a question and answer session on writing and becoming a published author call into "The Bookshelf" where tickets for individual events or for the full week's programme, are available.

## Help Reduce Petrol Prices, Chamber is Asked

The high price of petrol in Saltash in comparison with Plymouth and with other parts of Cornwall has been addressed in the past by the Town's Chamber of Commerce and Industry with some success, the Chamber has told a local resident. The Town's previous multiplicity of filling stations, some privately owned, has been reduced to two, on opposite sides of the Carkeel roundabout. In a letter to the regional press as well as to the Chamber a Saltash resident complained as to these two always maintaining similar prices to each other, both above those charged across the Tamar bridge and further down the A38.

While the Chamber has previously worked with the Town Council to achieve lower petrol prices in the Town they feel forced to reply that with no more independent stations in the Town there is a limited amount that they can do to alleviate the situation for local motorists.

## The Bookshelf Saltash

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## Amazing Support Given to the Saltash Live@Home Scheme by saltash.net Students



With their term of office coming to a close, the Head Student team for 2011-12 at saltash.net wanted to have one final big effort to support their chosen charity – the Saltash Live@Home scheme coordinated by Gail Lee.

On Friday 27th April Head Students Adam Riglar and Hannah Burtwell organised a range of fundraising activities including a non uniform day, cake sale and a 6th Form charity football match on the school's new All Weather Pitch between Years 12 & 13. Attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Saltash, as well as other supporters of the Live@Home scheme, the football match was played in brilliant sunshine, despite the rest of the week being extremely wet, windy and cold.

In total, almost £700 was raised in one day and this effort was followed with another fundraising event on the following Friday, 4th May, when the Youngstagers joined forces with saltash.net's choir 'Limitless', led by Year 13 students Adam Riglar and Sam Dando, for a superb musical concert at Burraton Methodist Church, when a further £450 was raised.

## Triumphant Rugby Club Shows Trophies in Guildhall

Saltash Guildhall glittered with trophies and other awards won by Saltash Rugby Club during its most successful season ever.

The Mayor and Council had invited club president Bill Ryan to bring some of the boys from his junior teams as well as senior players to receive their well deserved congratulations on behalf of the Town.

The club's seniors had completed a successful treble,

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Bill Ryan told the Mayor and Councillors, making this their best season since the club was founded in 1969. They won the Cornwall cup and they topped the Cornwall league losing only one game all season.

They also proudly showed off the magnificent and historic Plymouth Lockie cup which they had brought home to Saltash.

The junior teams of all age groups had also enjoyed a good encouraging season and Mr Ryan paid tribute to the enthusiasm of the boys who turn out each Sunday, as well as the support their parents offer. The club had once again enjoyed a successful exchange with their French 'twin' club of Buzancais, while visiting clubs had come from throughout England and Wales, many staying over in the town and contributing to the local economy. The Colts had won the Cornwall Light

Infantry Cup, while many boys had gone on to represent their County with one playing in the England under 18's.

The club is proud to be a part of the Saltash community and members are especially visible during their annual New Year pram race, performed since 1971 and raising around £1,000 each year for local causes.

The Mayor Cllr. Colin Oakes thanked the club for helping to keep Saltash 'on the map,' adding, "We are privileged to welcome you to the Guildhall and are all proud of our Rugby Club."

While playing clubs with a considerably longer history and for better facilities, Saltash rugby players continue to "punch above our weight in Cornwall," concluded Mr. Ryan, "remaining true to their motto, which includes 'Essa,' the old name for Saltash, 'Essayons' - let us try."

## Police Offer Community Activities for All

Activities for children and teenagers during the long Summer holidays are being organised by our local police, PCSO Mary Wells advised the Town Council. Fun on the water for those aged 11 to 17 can be enjoyed every Friday through August as 'Streetpaddler' takes them canoeing, while younger children can share a fun day of magic and road safety training with 'Emazdad' the magician on August 3rd.

A Pillmere fun day is planned for Wednesday 8th August, while the elderly are not forgotten with an event for Burraton Community Centre Grenfell Avenue planned for October 10th.

Meanwhile, the police 'surge' held in the library on Thursdays, has attracted a number of citizens eager to talk about issues of safety, speeding, parking and rubbish collection (though this last is not a police issue.)

Other local citizens have been participating in local 'Speedwatch' campaigns. In Carkeel out of 800 vehicles monitored 56 were over the speed limit and their registered owners would receive warning letters. In New Road a similar campaign resulted in 44 such

## New Shelters Vandalised

Soon after new bus shelters were erected in Pillmere Drive and in Callington Road by Lidl's reports were received that they had been vandalised and glass panes broken. The panes will be replaced, probably using polycarbonate and not safety glass.

A resident who thanked the Council for the new shelter in Callington road outside St Anne's Residential home has asked for a seat to be placed in it. Seats are not normally placed in shelters in residential areas as a matter of policy, since they can encourage groups to gather there and sometimes intimidate passengers and local residents, and a reply has been sent accordingly.

Further shelters are being considered for Callington Road and Broadwalk and local residents' views are being sought on them.

## Warfelton Residents' Parking Promoted

Traffic problems often arise as a result of parking in residential streets around and behind the Warraton shops on Callington Road.

Residents could be helped by the provision of eight additional off road parking spots on amenity land, Cllr Mrs Sue Hooper MBE suggested to Saltash Town Council.

Such land is available by Warraton Close and is currently often used for parking, though cars have to cross the kerb to use it. All local residents to whom Mrs Hooper had spoken welcomed the suggestion of converting the area to provide additional parking on this pre-war estate which had been built before most households owned their own cars.

A letter in support of this parking scheme would be sent by the Town Council to Cornwall Highways, it was agreed.

**Observer Telephone Numbers**  
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## Youth Groups Gain from Community Funds

Several of the Town's youth groups are among organisations who have successfully sought funding from the Saltash community chest.

Saltash Sailing Club Cadets have been awarded £600, the Air Training Corps £500 while £480 was put towards the 2nd Saltash Scouts Headquarters taking shape at Latchbrook Community Centre.

Other awards include £1,000 to the Friends of Churchtown Farm Community Nature Reserve, £400 to Saltash Camera Club and £250 to Saltash Ladies Choir.

A group of concerned citizens who privately purchased the telegraph from the last Saltash Ferry for £2,000 so that it could be returned to the Town have been paid £1,500 towards this by the Town Council. The Telegraph is now proudly displayed in the Town's Museum.

The Ashtore Rock Ferry 50 Festival Group, who wish to place a permanent memorial to the Ferry on the Waterside have been given £1,000 towards this on condition that they then maintain the monument.

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## Polnoon Pasties...Enjoy an Enviable Reputation

It is now ten years since Polnoon Pasties set up a bakery at Warraton. Since then they have achieved an enviable reputation through Saltash and well beyond for providing top quality pasties, pies and quiches baked on their own premises each day in order to guarantee freshness as they are delivered hot to the customer or to the many who rely upon them for bulk orders.

Now celebrating the tenth anniversary of Polnoon Pasties, master chef and founder Jamie looks back at when he first decided to leave employment and set up his own business. Guided by his mother Louise and her colleague Janet, both professional pastry bakers, he looked around for premises, found the ideal shop at Warraton next to the fire station, and with Louise and Janet's assistance soon established the business that has become a byword for quality and taste. Their reputation soon spread until

they and their hand picked staff were all busy especially with providing cocktail pasties and other savouries to order for a variety of local pubs and clubs where quality counts.

Local societies and churches often order from Polnoon for social functions and Jamie is pleased to cater for private family functions such as christenings, weddings, anniversaries and funerals with free delivery of orders over £20. From intimate family gatherings to major functions such as the Port Eliot events, Jamie is

pleased to discuss individual needs and offer a quote.

Meanwhile, many local residents, workers, and passing students and schoolchildren regularly call in to sample the savouries. Baguettes, with hot or cold fillings cooked or prepared to order are proving especially popular, while the cream cakes are now flying from the patisserie counter. The ease of parking outside is especially appreciated by Polnoon's passing customers.

To cater for popular demand Jamie has also incorporated all the traditional elements of a corner grocery store, offering a range of foods and household goods from greetings cards to pet food. Especially appreciated in the grocery store is the pastry from which the delicious Polnoon Pasties are baked.

Many customers have commented on the promised cafe to be opened next door. "It is coming," promises Jamie, when he has the time but while he starts baking from seven in the morning to cater for his ever expanding number

of appreciative customers, he cannot promise when. Meanwhile, he offers fresh teas and coffees alongside his pasties and pies, and seeing what he has accomplished in ten years who knows what the next ten years may have in store.

### Celebrating 10 Years



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## Saltash Leisure Centre

### into fitness

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Choose from...15 Carrick Leisure facilities across Cornwall.

#### New To Saltash Leisure Centre...



#### New juniors class

Check our website for Holiday Activities



#### New To Saltash Leisure Centre...



4 X-Dream bikes are the newest pieces of equipment to enter the

Fitness Suite. They are without a doubt the most attractive products providing the 'wow' factor for both our adult and junior members, allowing them to interact with the gaming experience whilst at the same time providing a great fun workout.

Assistant Manager Lee Russell

Tel: 01752 840940

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

No Joining Fee On Memberships



Lifeguard courses  
We are running National Pool Lifeguard courses throughout the year.  
For further information please contact the centre.

Visit your local leisure centre



Top right: Jamie and partner Shelley with hand picked staff, Janet Chloe and Louise all proud to be part of a very successful team.

Above: Chloe and Louise show off the very popular pasties from Polnoon

## Buffaloes to Take on Community Hall

The former Toc H hall at Warraton has been falling into decay as an occupier has been sought. Just as Cornwall Council was about to organise it a local charitable organisation has offered to take on and refurbish the building with a view to letting it out to other local organisations.

The Buffaloes of Saltash are a little known group who over the last ninety years have worked quietly in the community to help out local deserving individuals or organisations including most recently the Shado Centre and the Friends of St Barnabas Hospital.

Now Cornwall Council has agreed in principle to offer them a 125 year lease on the premises at £1. per year paid in full up front.

For this, explained Buffalo

Bob Stringer, the Society would take on a full repairing lease, refurbish the hall and renovate the kitchen to an acceptable standard and take on all running costs. As well as using it for their own purposes they would rent it out to such organisations as sought a venue.

The Town Council agreed to support them, Cllr Bob Austin agreeing that this was a fine opportunity to bring the hall back into community use.

from those who had ordered the bins, paid for the bins and for six months or a year's collection service and had still to receive their bins.

Garden refuse collection had been set aside while all efforts were put towards sorting out problems over rubbish and recycling collections, advised Cllr. Austin. However, he assured residents that the garden bins were on their way.

Meanwhile, they would not be charged for collections during the weeks that they had not taken place and garden refuse in the formerly used plastic bags would be collected, he said, though some claimed that this had not been the case so far.

Dog bins and public litter bins, which had been branded a public disgrace, would be attended to as the new contractors became familiar with their routes. A long suffering dog owning member of the public noted that dog bins particularly together with litter bins would not be likely to have a postcode!

Another council tax payer has suggested that it would have been sensible if the office staff brought in to take complaints were instead sent out to sort out and log the various areas causing the most distress.

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