



# SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

June 2020 - Issue 339

Established 28 years

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## Street Bedecked with Bunting to Welcome Back Shoppers

Saltash is set to welcome returning shoppers with a town centre colourfully adorned as a result of a popular community project. The bunting, which greets shoppers now able to rediscover and enjoy the delights of our friendly local shops, was first planned last year especially to boost the appearance of the street for any community event held in Fore Street. Since traditional plastic-based bunting was not appropriate to the town council's Plastic Free Saltash policy it was decided to encourage local businesses, organisations and individuals to create their own colourful strips of bunting using scrap materials.

The project was just getting under way when lockdown closed all non-essential businesses in the street and rendered many residents with time on their hands at home. "Suddenly it really took off," said town councillor Julia Peggs who oversaw the project. She found herself bombarded with enquiries and suggestions for flags to line the street, while the supply of

## Food, Glorious Food

In a development that will be of major benefit to Saltash families who have been hit hard by this pandemic, The Core Youth Centre will become a distribution hub for free frozen meals over the summer holidays.

The meals will be stored in a large freezer that will be brought in by crane in a project run by The Hive, a charity based in Truro that was originally set up to tackle food waste and food poverty. The Hive's mission is to collect surplus food and process it to lock in nutrition and increase its life, diverting the food from wasteful disposal. Throughout this pandemic, The Hive has distributed over 100,000 frozen meals in the Truro and Padstow areas.

The team at The Core will not be able to offer their usual programme of activities over the summer holidays, but they felt that working with The Hive would go some way to supporting families financially. Saltash families will be able to pick up frozen meals on Mondays from 27th July until the start of the academic year in September.

No questions will be asked, and no judgments made: this food is available for anyone who needs it.



Photo Ian Robinson

strings of small flags continued to accumulate. The intention had been for the bunting to stretch as far down Fore Street as possible but soon it seemed that there would be enough to bedeck the full street and possibly Waterside beyond.

Youth organisations in particular were eager to participate including fire cadets

and Livewire, while other groups varied from Tamar Trotters to the Women's Institute. Many individuals and families were also keen to take part and the Knit and Natter group knitted bunting which was intended to decorate lamp posts and poles along the street.

Many local essential businesses remained open,

risking themselves, to support the town during lockdown. Now we are pleased to support them by making the town more attractive than ever as a pleasant place to shop', Councillor Peggs told the 'Observer'. 'Our message is clear - help the local economy and shop locally to show support for our lovely Saltash community and its very special people.'

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community enterprises

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### Digital Inclusion

A new Project, to help the Senior members of our community benefit fully from all the opportunities that the internet and technology can provide. Call us on 01752 848348 if you think you would benefit.

### Volunteers

We're looking for Volunteers to be "Digital Trainers", and help us with the Digital Inclusion project. This will be a rewarding role!

### Director Vacancy

We will shortly have vacancies for Directors, to help co-ordinate our community-based projects. If you have good organisational skills and can work as part of a team, we'd love to hear from you.

### Help if you're struggling in these difficult times

If you're nervous about venturing out, our Volunteers are continuing to provide help with shopping, prescription collection, and loaning donated jigsaws.

We are a not-for-profit voluntary organisation, benefiting residents in Saltash and the surrounding areas.

hub@cepl12.co.uk facebook/cepl12 01752 848348 www.cepl12.co.uk

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# Town Messenger

Working for the People of Saltash

News from Saltash Town Council  
Konsel an dre Essa



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

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

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

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

**Transport Department**  
(Schools Transport)  
Telephone: 0300 1234 101  
(Bus Pass) Telephone: 0300 1234 222  
Email:  
[schooltransport@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:schooltransport@cornwall.gov.uk)

**Roads, Transport and Parking**  
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Email:  
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Email: [via contact form on website only](mailto:viacontactformonwebsiteonly).

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

*Town Messenger news is supplied by the Town Council*

## Your Cornwall Councillors

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**Saltash West**  
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**Cornwall Councillors – Cover such services as:**  
Housing - Education – Social Services  
Highways – Waste and Recycling – Tamar Bridge

## From the Mayor of Saltash

Dear Saltash Residents,  
June already, and another opportunity to engage with the Saltash community.

This month, I would like to hand out a few most worthy bouquets.

Saltash Town Council continues to support all key workers and in recognition is flying the NHS flag at the Saltash Guildhall, also the Saltash Library and Brunel Bust flagpole. Furthermore, the Cornish Cross is lit in blue in appreciation of the work that NHS key workers are providing. Thank you one and all!

The Saltash Town Council's Community bunting project which has been led by Councillor Julia Peggs have gone amazingly well, with 450meters of bunting so far; all in bright colours and designs. This has been a labour of love by Julia and members of the community with astonishing results, thank you all so much.

Coombe Woods has had a number of new attractions over the lockdown and all this is down to our wonderful community and in particular, Jon Foster who is continuing to up keep and maintain the woods on a voluntary basis. Please visit the woods and witness the wonderful things that Jon is doing on our behalf.

We are gradually seeing a return to our new way of working across our town although we must stay alert to ensure there is not a second wave of the Pandemic Covid-19. In some ways, this will be harder than the initial



lockdown, as we will need to balance our activity with the constant threat of the virus.

Saltash residents have already shown that we can adapt to changing circumstances and I believe we will continue to see success.

As the local economy endeavours to improve with the reopening of many of our shops and businesses after many weeks of lockdown, it is clear from conversations that I have had, that these outlets will need to boost revenue to help them recover in the first weeks out of full lockdown.

It is important that we all do our bit, and if we can support them by choosing to shop locally, this will make a difference to them hopefully. I have always been a keen supporter of the high street and independent shops, and if we are going to keep these types of businesses viable, we should try to make local choices when we shop if we can.

Cllr Mark Fox Chairman of Saltash Town Centre Vision Sub Committee said "in this challenging trading

environment, it is imperative that we continue to work together in partnership to make our town a working, commercial high street. We are a unique town destination, and a wonderful place to live in.

There is now an opportunity to improve the town's visual impact which may encourage visitors to return, businesses to invest and residents to enjoy their experience of Saltash.

It is important that we continue to deliver improvements to Fore Street.

Areas we are looking to improve are seating, bunting, flags, planters, and signage. With a partnership in place, all areas can be reviewed.

These unique improvements can be achieved with funding support from the Government."

Every term as office holders of Mayors are different and can be more of a challenge, this term has been more

challenging due to the unprecedented times globally that we live in.

This term is the first in Saltash where the incumbent Mayor has remained in post for a second term, and may be reviewed as we receive further guidance.

Whilst in lockdown, I have attended a number of virtual interactive meetings and I am pleased to say that Council business is still very busy and is working in this situation and overcoming great difficulties at present. Town Council meetings (apart from the Personnel Committee) are open to members of the public and press and you are all welcome to join us on the virtual Zoom platform.

Agendas and minutes of these interactive public meetings can be found on the Saltash Town Council website <https://www.saltash.gov.uk/m>

meetings.php where you will also find the Zoom joining instructions.

I must congratulate Saltash Library Hub staff on the work behind the scenes that they are doing for the community of Saltash, which is second to none.

This week a member of staff released the first Saltash library storytime! Check out the Library Hub Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/saltashlibraryhub/>

### Calling all Lego fans!

Saltash Town Council is giving you a chance to win 1 of 3 bundles of Lego related prizes including New Harry Potter themed Lego. The Council would like you to build the Saltash Cornish Cross out of Lego!

So it's time to get creative for a chance to win some

prizes. There are no limitations to your creativity.

Council will look forward to seeing your version of the Saltash Cornish Cross; the competition is open to all ages.

For more information on the Cornish Cross and our T's & C's follow the link below! [https://www.facebook.com/saltashlibraryhub/?modal=admin\\_todo\\_tour](https://www.facebook.com/saltashlibraryhub/?modal=admin_todo_tour)

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Mayor's Chaplain – Prebendary Brian Anderson, for all his help and support during my Mayor ship, which has been one of loyalty and guidance. Also the Mayor's Cadet Hannah Spry. Hannah has been a most pleasing young person by my side at Civic events.

Until we meet again soon, take care and keep safe and well.

## Your Town Council

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Mayor:  
Gloria Challen

Deputy Mayor:  
Pete Samuels

Town Clerk:  
Ray Lane  
T: 844846

E: [enquiries@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@saltash.gov.uk)

Councillors telephone numbers can be obtained at the guildhall.

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

## Saltash Town Council Support a Vital and Valued Service

Saltash Town Council supports .....7 more hours: 2 more lives project led by the Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust, a registered charity operating critical air borne medical services in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

At their recent Policy and Finance meeting Councillors discussed grants from the Council's Community Chest, Councillors agreed to support the project to the sum of £1,000 to provide 7 more daily hours of flying time to give the service added opportunities to save more lives.

The Cornwall Air Ambulance was established in 1988 and its aims are to relieve pain and sickness for the benefit of the public, primarily in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

This vital service provides pre-hospital critical care for some of the most time critical seriously injured or ill adults and children in Cornwall and sometimes further afield.

In 2019 the Cornwall Air Ambulance were tasked to 35 incidents in the Saltash area to provide treatment at the scenes and hospital transport by air.

The new AW 169 Air Ambulance is equipped to provide 7 more hours a day and

the extra funding of £81,000 is vital to the project's success.

Cornwall Air Ambulance is based at Newquay Airport and is deployed across the County of Cornwall including Saltash.

The Mayor of Saltash, Councillor Gloria Challen said: "Cornwall Air Ambulance provides such a vital and valued service to the community, including Saltash areas,

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Councillors felt that offering financial assistance for the 7 more hours: 2 more lives project was a worthy and meaningful contribution."

For more information of available grants benefiting Saltash please visit Saltash Town Council Website:

<https://www.saltash.gov.uk/forms.php>

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**STAY ALERT**  
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**SAVE LIVES**

## Hanging Baskets

Spring has come and gone and now summer is upon us and we are looking forward to brightening up Saltash Town Centre with our annual hanging baskets this June. We have ordered 48 hanging baskets from Tartendown Nurseries which are to be hung along Fore Street and continuing down Lower Fore Street to the Waterfront.

Tartendown have been preparing the beautiful flower arrangements in their hanging tunnels and our Service Delivery Team are on standby to bring life and colour to the town centre by installing them for our residents and visitors when visiting Saltash.

## My Apologies

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

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

Editor *Mary Crawford*  
Stay Alert



## Chamber Chairman Peter Ryland - Keeping us Updated...

At the time of writing this article, we are at the start of the opening of "non-essential" shops. It will therefore be down to the community of Saltash to show its support for all those businesses that will have put effort and expense into ensuring your safety by installing screens and rearranging their shop layouts to enable social distancing.

Some of the Saltash businesses have found ways to keep going and support the community during lockdown. For others this was impractical, but some of these have helped on a voluntary basis in doing the shopping or making deliveries to those who have been housebound.

There will be shops that won't be re-opening and it will be very sad to see their demise. It is not all gloom, however, as I am already aware of other prospective traders who are considering opening in the town. Having said that, shopping habits have changed over the last 3 months and Saltash, like other towns throughout the country, will have to adapt. With this in mind the Chamber is looking into whether a Saltash-based traders website would be beneficial.

The Chamber was able to have its monthly meeting this month by way of Zoom and

the discussion was based around what will happen post Coronavirus. The Chamber is keen to assist the business community in gaining best advantage to serve Saltash residents, so people do not have to risk travelling on public transport to Plymouth. Shop Local is a term that has been widely used for some time but it is even more relevant and urgent in this post lockdown period, and the Chamber will continue to work proactively with Cornwall Council and Saltash Town Council to support our business community.

**Observer Telephone Numbers**  
**07971484872**  
or  
**01579 345699**

## Ashtorre Needs You – As we Emerge from Hibernation

Ashtorre Rock has been in hibernation since 17th March and, despite regular maintenance and security visits, is missing you – our friends and visitors. Ashtorre is a building that thrives on people coming and going – it needs company, chat, laughter and lots of cups of tea! We have been trying very hard to find a way of re-opening the doors, and are paying attention to the Government's thoughts on a possible 4th July date. However, in reality, even if we are permitted to re-open at this time, it seems very unlikely that we will be ready.

We have lots of considerations – one-way entrance and exit, restricted numbers, social distancing, increased cleaning, etc. All of which would need to be overseen by our incredible volunteers. Those of you who know us well understand that we are run completely by volunteers who are all of retirement age and above. The

commitment and changes that the new regime will require go beyond what we are familiar with and most of our volunteers, understandably, do not feel ready at this point to return.

The support of additional volunteers, especially people prepared to help with the additional duties, would help considerably in our decision

making. If you feel that you are able to offer to join our merry band of helpers please contact Lynn Marsh on 01752 844255, email: lynnsmarsh@aol.com. The hours we aim to eventually return to are from 10.00 am until 4.00 pm, 7 days a week. Future news on our proposed opening date and arrangements will also be announced on our Ashtorre Rock Facebook page.



Finally! The good news! We have received £10,000 from the Covid 19 Government Grant fund and we would like to thank not only the UK Government but also Cornwall Council for their speedy and efficient delivery of the grant. Also, very early on in lockdown we were humbled to receive a donation of £100 from two Ashtorre Rock members with a note saying, "Put this towards your bills." How fortunate we all are to have the support of such wonderful people. *Thank you.*

## New Community Project

Community Enterprises PL12 is a community-led voluntary organisation, working in Saltash and its surrounding PL12 parishes. Volunteer Directors work with a team of around 60 local Volunteers, committed to making PL12 a better place to live and work.

The Coronavirus pandemic meant their normal activities were suspended, so they diverted resources and energies to providing emergency help to the most vulnerable members of our community. During the last 3 months, their Volunteers have given support and help to the senior or clinically vulnerable residents in the PL12 area; shopping, collecting prescriptions, dog walking, errands, and jigsaw swaps. They are continuing with this support for anyone who is struggling in these difficult times.

As the lockdown lifts and people start to venture out more, the emphasis has changed. Jo Baskott, Chair of Community Enterprises, explained:

"During the past weeks, many of our senior & vulnerable residents have struggled. They don't have access to computers or technology to perform simple tasks like ordering groceries online, or making a video call to friends or relatives. Using the Community Hub at 4 Fore St. as a base, we're training volunteers to be "Digital Trainers" through our Digital Inclusion project, which has been set up to help residents use technology in their home, and benefit fully from all the opportunities that the internet and technology can provide. Our aim is to help to prepare people for the new normal, be

more confident using technology, be more independent, and less socially isolated. We're starting with the senior & vulnerable people in our community, and hope to eventually roll it out to be available to everyone.

If anyone in Saltash or PL12 feels they would benefit, we'd love to hear from them.

We're also looking for a handful of volunteers to be Digital Trainers. Basic digital skills would be helpful, but training will be given. This will be a very rewarding role!"

For further details, call Community Enterprises on 01752 848348 or pop in to the Community Hub for a chat.

## Hawk Keeps Eye On Bowling Green

Sharp-eyed visitors to Longstone Park may note a hawk hovering above the bowling green,

The kite, in the form of a sparrow hawk, is fixed to fly above the green in order to frighten off the gulls that otherwise dig for worms and mar the level grass on the green.

Fortunately, it has not frightened off the charm of goldfinches which this Summer have been enjoying the newly laid out wild flower beds that now edge around the adjacent Longstone Park.

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## Are you in food need? Do you know someone in need?

At this difficult time, Saltash Foodbank is here to help those in food crisis

We are providing a delivery-only service during the Covid-19 pandemic to keep our volunteers safe.

If you are in financial crisis, call us or ask to be referred to the Foodbank by one of our Agencies:

**Citizens Advice Cornwall** is one of our Agencies. They can be contacted between 10am-4pm Monday to Friday on **03444 111 444** They can advise on a range of issues including benefits, debt and housing matters.

**Citizens Advice Referral Helpline** **0808 208 2138** is available from 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday

You can also get help from:

- ▶ Jobcentre Plus
- ▶ Family Workers
- ▶ Housing Officer
- ▶ Health Professionals
- ▶ Schools

**Saltash Foodbank: 0800 328 2124 (free)**

Due to the corona virus and the need for social distancing, Saltash Foodbank's Drop In Centre is closed to clients. Help is still available to those in financial need and food parcels will be delivered by volunteers.

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## Shopping and the Economy

Cornwall has seen a comparatively lower number of Covid-19 cases, but it looks like the impact on livelihoods will be more devastating here than in many other places, with independent research suggesting that 3 of the 20 worst hit towns in England and Wales are in Cornwall (Penzance, Newquay and Wadebridge). The economic effects of the pandemic are profound and will take time far beyond the summer months to resolve - that's why Cornwall Council is calling on government to provide more support in the form of business grants and extended furloughs to help Cornwall's recovery.

Cornwall Council teams have been working in towns across Cornwall to help shoppers and businesses stay safe. Here in Saltash, Cornwall Council has been working with Saltash Town Council and the Chamber of Commerce to introduce measures that will create space on pavements and support the local economy. Arrows have been marked on Fore Street pavements, for example, to introduce a one-way system for pedestrians, and the parking time in Fore Street will be temporarily extended from 30 minutes to 1 hour. This work is supported by a grant awarded to Cornwall Council from government, and £509,000 of support from the European Regional Development Fund.

We hope that Saltash residents will feel reassured by the efforts being made to keep them safe while shopping, and that people will continue to Shop Local and support the Saltash economy.

## Scams

Appallingly, more than one in three people in the South West have been the target of a scam since lockdown came into effect. Opportunistic scammers are taking advantage of people's worries and concerns by trying to sell face masks or medical equipment at high prices. Other scams have included emails or text messages pretending to be from government, or emails offering bogus life insurance against coronavirus.

Cornwall Council's Trading Standards and Citizens Advice Cornwall are encouraging people to report any scams and talk about their experiences. By helping each other understand what to look out for we can work together to stop fraudsters in their tracks.

Contact your bank immediately if there are any suspicious transactions with your account or credit cards. Report any scam to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 and get advice from Citizens Advice on 0800 223 1133.

## Growing not Mowing

Cornwall Council's Environment Service is responsible for the management of a massive 75 hectares of 'urban verges' across Cornwall. These are the verges within 30mph zones. Typically, these sites would be mown around 8 times a year, but the pandemic meant that grounds maintenance operations were held back. Happily, this has actually resulted in a wonderful display of wildflowers that are of great benefit to pollinators.

Learning from this lockdown experience, Cornwall Council has adopted a new policy where verges will be cut just 2 or 3 times a year after the flowers have finished and the seeds are set. Path edges will be kept tidy and noxious weeds will be removed, but Cornwall Council intends to leave verges undisturbed wherever possible. The ecological benefits align well with the Council's Climate Change targets and have been welcomed by partner organisations.

## Testing Times

In the months and years to come, a new world will start to emerge. There may be a long period without a vaccine or effective treatment where we must co-exist with Covid-19. Testing and the ability to contain outbreaks at a local level will play a key role in our new world, particularly in areas like Cornwall which have a comparatively low rate of cases.

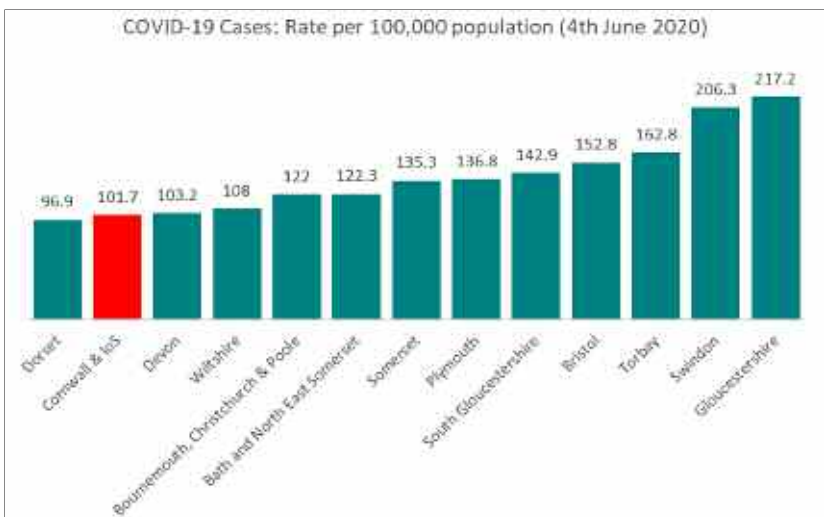
The Delay Phase of the nation's fight against the pandemic ended on 28th May, and we are now in the Test, Trace and Contain Phase, which has more of a focus on the local response, and is where the Public Health teams at Cornwall Council will play a major role. Cornwall Council already has systems in place for the control of infections such as Legionnaire's Disease, and now that Cornwall working with Devon has been selected by government as one of England's 11 'beacon sites', Cornwall Council will be working closely with government to establish local outbreak control plans that can be used in any setting. Government has allocated £300 million nationwide to local authorities to implement the plans, and Local Outbreak Boards will be established by the end of June.

Cornwall Council's Director of Public Health has powers to control smaller outbreaks in particular institutions such as businesses and care homes, and the Public Health Act gives government powers to impose lockdown at the request of councils. In the current setup, though, it takes time for a lockdown request to work its way through

the system to the government's Cobra committee, so councils across England are calling on government to set up a quicker way of making decisions. It is important to ensure the correct balance and range of powers are embedded in the system before we head in to winter and the flu season.

In the fight to contain the virus, it is also important that people are tested if they develop symptoms. Following a massive ramping up of the national testing programme, anybody experiencing a new, continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of smell is now eligible for a test. Residents of Saltash and South East Cornwall have the option of getting tested in Plymouth as well as at one of the Cornwall sites, and booking a test is simple through the NHS website: [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)

Our biggest weapons in controlling the R rate are social distancing, getting tested and self-isolating if the test is positive. With everyone playing their part we can contain the virus and enjoy further easing of lockdown measures. Most importantly, we can save lives.



## Climate Change Action

The sheer magnitude of the Coronavirus crisis has inevitably blotted out other policy issues, and the progress of Cornwall Council's climate change action has been disrupted due to the demands of dealing with the pandemic. On the other hand, lockdown has given us a glimpse of a more eco-friendly way of life; people are generating less food waste, for example, and cycling more. Like all employers, Cornwall Council has had to adapt to working in new ways. Some 4,000 Cornwall Council staff have worked from home, for example, leading to an overall reduction in staff commuting distance of 42,000 miles over the three-month period.

As part of the report on Cornwall Council's COVID-19 response that was discussed at a meeting of Cornwall Council's Cabinet on 17th June, it was emphasised that this is a rare and important opportunity to accelerate the Council's work on its Climate Change Action Plan. Key schemes that will be promoted in this Plan include the 8,000-hectare Forest for Cornwall and the Whole House Retrofit scheme to make Council homes more energy efficient. Cornwall Council also committed to expanding the use of its pioneering Decision Wheel based on the Doughnut Economics model.

The drastic changes to working practises because of lockdown will also enable Cornwall Council to speed up transition to new ways of working in a manner unimaginable before the pandemic. Developments such as the increase in remote working have led to 60 per cent of staff surveyed now feeling able to work outside their main office for two or more days a week on a permanent basis. And there has been a massive reduction in the amount of paper being used: from 2 million pages printed in March to just 200,000 in April.

Online meetings, low-carbon housing and the role of digital in public engagement - these are just some of the many areas that will take on a new importance in enabling people and nature to live safely, healthily, and comfortably both during the Covid-19 crisis and beyond.

## Tamar Tolls

Toll collections at the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry were suspended during lockdown to ensure the safety of staff and of people travelling to places like Derriford Hospital. Traffic had decreased dramatically even before tolling was suspended, and the total in lost revenue over the lockdown period amounted to approximately £3 million. Tolling restarted on June 1st, but the dire financial situation is set to deteriorate even further as predictions suggest that traffic volumes will not recover to pre-pandemic levels until the end of March next year.

The Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry crossings are jointly managed by Cornwall Council and Plymouth City Council. The Act of Parliament that created the two crossings stipulates that neither Council can grant money to the Bridge or the Ferry. So without funding from government, the only legal options to balance the budget are to reduce the service of the Ferry, reduce TAG discounts or introduce a toll increase.

None of these options is palatable, but in her response to the letter written jointly by Cornwall Council and Plymouth City Council asking government for emergency funding, the Maritime Minister stated there was no possibility of immediate funding from government, suggesting only that the government would allow an annual toll increase at or below the rate of inflation, and that she would talk to Highways England to support Cornwall and Plymouth's request for funding from Highways England towards maintenance of the Tamar Bridge, which carries the A38 over the River Tamar.

Cornwall Council will continue to lobby MPs and government, but if no emergency funding is made available other ways will have to be found to balance the budget, either by reducing costs or increasing income.



**Cllr Hilary Frank:**  
hilary.frank@cornwallcouncilors.org.uk



**Cllr Derek Holley:**  
derek.holley@cornwallcouncilors.org.uk



**Cllr Sam Tamlin:**  
sam.tamlin@cornwallcouncilors.org.uk



**Cllr Sheila Lennox-Boyd:**  
sheila.lennox-boyd@cornwallcouncilors.org.uk

**CORNWALL COUNCIL**

Since lockdown Cornwall Council has made significant carbon savings as a result of...

- 4000 staff working from home
- Daily commuting travel reduced by 42,000 miles
- 12 offices fully or partially closed saving...
- 60 tonnes of carbon\* (March-June 2020)

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

**SUMMER READING CHALLENGE**  
Take part in the Summer Reading Challenge 2020. Let's get silly!

**MEET THE SILLY SQUAD**  
Join the Silly Squad!

THE READING AGENCY

## Summer Reading

In what is thought to be a first for UK library services, every child of primary school age in Cornwall is being issued with an electronic library card, giving them access to a junior version of Cornwall Libraries' e-book and e-audiobook platform. It is the ideal way for young minds to keep reading and allows children to take part in the national annual junior literature festival called the Summer Reading Challenge.

Presented by The Reading Agency, the Summer Reading Challenge is funded by Arts Council England. It encourages children aged 4 to 11 to read for pleasure over the summer holidays, providing lots of fun as well as helping to prevent what can be a summer reading 'dip'.

The Challenge this year is celebrating funny books, happiness and laughter - no bad thing after this strange Spring we have just come through. Children will join an adventurous pack of animals called the Silly Squad, and they can get rewards, play games, and earn stickers. The Challenge has already started, and supports parents and carers with children already at home, offers schools exciting ways to animate remote learning, and provides great content for children recently back in the classroom.

## Useful Contacts

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

**STAY ALERT**  
**CONTROL THE VIRUS**  
**SAVE LIVES**



## Saltash Fore Street Opens for Business...

Over recent weeks Saltash Town Council have been working in partnership with Cornwall Council, Cormac, Saltash Chamber of Commerce, Community Interest Company (CIC), and retailers on re-opening Saltash high street, following the Government's Covid 19 mandatory shut down. European Regional Development Fund has been made available to councils across England to support the safe reopening of high streets and other commercial outlets in town centres

A handful of volunteers set to work to identify elements and changes which could safely be made in Saltash Fore Street.

With the expertise of Cormac and Cornwall Council, areas in the high street were identified for consideration for a funding bid under the re-opening the high street scheme.

The clerk to Saltash Town Council completed the proposal highlighting the areas which were identified by the Joint Partnership Group.

Waiting times have been changed from 30mins to 1 hour in Fore St, for 6 months, that may be extended if deemed successful. Letters were distributed to retailers in the high street informing them of the changes; which has been generally welcomed.

In addition, a five-step to safer working, together with information leaflets under COVID 19 were distributed to retailers and other businesses, showing COVID 19 A Frames placed in areas of Fore St by Cormac with Social Distancing signs. Saltash Town Council also placed notices around the town and both entrances to Keast Mews.

These measures have been put in place to ensure that Saltash's local economy can re-boot successfully and safely.

Saltash Town Council staff

sprayed water based stencils on the pavement as an awareness to residents and visitors to the high street about social distances.

Street furniture will be removed to accommodate social distancing outside retailers and business premises.

Bus bays have also been looked at for safety; and Cornwall Highways will be addressing the social distancing with commuters getting on and off buses whilst stopping outside businesses.

Mobile hand sanitiser stations will be placed around the high street to help avoid the spread of Coronavirus.

The Mayor of Saltash, Councillor Gloria Challen, who has been active in elements of the safeguarding projects, said today "The Joint Partnership Group for reopening the high street will continue working together and supporting Saltash Fore Street safety measures.

Safety of all visitors to Fore Street is paramount, and every precaution has been taken to protect our communities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the stakeholders who have contributed to this very meaningful scheme, and wish all the retailers and businesses in Saltash all the very best and great success for the future".

## Gift of New Regalia

At a recent meeting of Saltash Town Council it was agreed to adopt two new pieces of Civic Regalia, one for use by the Mayoress or Mayor's Consort, the other for the Deputy Mayor.

The two new items were the gift of husband and wife Councillors Pete and Brenda Samuels and therefore come at no cost whatsoever to the Town or to ratepayers.

The first item is a chain to replace the previous ribbon which carried the Consort Medallion and is suitable for either a future Mayoress or Mayor's Consort and is therefore gender neutral.

The second item is also a chain, to again replace a ribbon that carried the Deputy Mayor's Medallion.

The new Regalia brings Saltash in line with many other towns throughout Cornwall, where a chain would normally be worn at Civic functions and when visiting another town or city to represent Saltash when attending their Civic functions.

The chains were purchased at a time when Cllr Pete Samuels was coming to the end of his year as Deputy Mayor and was intended to be worn by the new Deputy Mayor who would normally have been elected back in April. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the current Mayor and Deputy are to continue in office, either until next May or until an election can take place at a Town Annual Meeting, whichever the soonest.

A previous Mayoress chain, which is now in retirement, was given to the Town around 100 years ago, at a time when it might have been assumed that the Mayor of Saltash would always be a male and was intended to be worn by his spouse.



David Nettle, who entertained his Saltash neighbours by wearing different fancy dress for every NHS clap.

## All About The Shoes

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## The Bookshelf & The Tea Rooms Saltash

Tracey & Chris

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of their customers at this time

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CORNWALL  
COUNCIL



and our PL12 community

For Observer readers  
Derek Holley  
Cornwall Councillor, Saltash East.  
[dholley@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:dholley@cornwall.gov.uk)

Suppose this article is about the good, the bad and the ugly in our Saltash society, and to an extent it is about what you and I can do about it.

So in reverse order I'm going to get the ugly out of the way. During this lockdown Margaret and I have walked together more than we ever did before - which is wonderful. Sadly, we have both noticed an increase in a disgraceful, horrible and shameful practice by almost certainly a very small minority of dog-owners. We know lots of dog-owners who are as responsible and caring as the vast majority in Saltash - and who are probably as ashamed as we are by the disgusting practice of owners picking up their pets' droppings and then just dumping the little black bags. Incredibly and worse, they even tie them up in trees and bushes! Who are these dirty people? That's what they are: just dirty people. Who are they? Please help me. If you know of, or see, or better still have a photo or video of anyone doing this let me know and I will try and get them help or advice or whatever it takes.

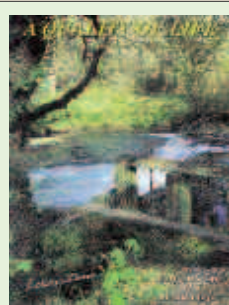
Got that over with. Now for the bad which has happened a lot during lockdown - or that's how some people and indeed some councillors see the whingers, complainers and letter writers amongst us. Actually I don't, and I welcome any form of complaint and will try to help. Why? Because I would much rather have these people have a go at me than have those who don't care about or show no interest in our town and society. At least the complainers show a concern and a willingness and so they are not bad to me, just the opposite. As councillors it is frankly impossible to keep on top of things or find out about things without your help, so keep the comments coming!

The good. Two things, and truthfully it is the first time ever I can put my hand on my heart and say this with practically no qualification: I think Cornwall Council has been brilliant in its response to this dreadful pandemic and in the organisation of people and resources. They have been there in a caring and calculated way from the start and the Leader Julian German has been simply "the man for the job". I just wish they had been running the country - and I mean that. The only qualification has been the closure and slow re-opening of the recycling centres but again Cornwall Council has been following national guidelines. I know others have odd concerns but as for me - I think we could have had a far, far worse local authority at this time. It comes with a cost of about £60 to £70 million,

about half of which we will get back but the rest you and I will have to pick up.

The other good thing? Easy. On our walks we have noticed, as have many others, that the lack of maintenance, grass cutting etc have resulted in an abundance of wild flowers on the banks and in the grass. A short grass bank by Brunel School and a large expanse of Saltmill Park were covered in beautiful Lady Smock, a wild flower normally cut to death. Loads of other examples showing there is always a silver lining! Possibly not the last time either as Cornwall is reviewing its cutting timetables to allow these sorts of things to naturally happen. Great stuff. We have just got to get used to a less manicured world so wildlife can stage a comeback.

Wow! Our garden has really benefited from the lockdown and I don't think it has ever been so up together by this time of the year. To celebrate I bought a large cage structure, almost badminton court size, to quote my wife, and which she says is the third monstrosity I have built in the garden, but on that I couldn't possibly comment. It even has an anti-butterfly net to protect the brassicas, the cabbage and Brussels sprouts etc. Just my luck as I have hardly seen a single dreaded Large White Butterfly anywhere. Typical! A gardeners lot is not a well-timed one!



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## Ben's Lamp Post

Saltash schoolboy has had a lamp post dedicated to him by Cornwall Council after many months of supporting his local community.

12-year-old Ben Paramore, who has autism, is fascinated with street lights and every night walks around his local community with his dad to spot any that are not working properly. They then report them to Cornwall Council via the online portal, so engineers from SSE, the company that has the contract to maintain Cornwall's street lights, can fix them.

Ben's mum, Jane, spoke with the disabled children's team at Cornwall Council who set about getting a lamp post dedicated to Ben. A few months later and the plaque on the lamp post was unveiled in a ceremony with food kindly donated by Waitrose. SSE also presented Ben with his very own safety helmet, high vis jacket and head torch.

Jane said: "It was an amazing thing to happen for Ben - the smile on his face said it all. He loves streetlights and wants to know everything about them, like if they are heavy or why they move in the wind. It was such a special moment and we'd like to say a massive thank you to everyone who made this possible."

Cornwall Council's Disabled Children Family Worker, Wendy Venning, said: "It has been a complete honour and pleasure to organise this for Ben. He was really happy and is excitedly telling people that he now owns his very own lamp post."



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

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

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## A Wander to Wisewandra Along a Green Lane Time Warp

Since we have been enabled to travel reasonable distances to take unlimited exercise increasing numbers have come to experience the pleasures of walking in the incomparable countryside within easy reach of Saltash. While long distance travel is still limited there is all the more reason to enter a voyage of discovery along the deep cut green lanes, many of them centuries old, that link ancient farmsteads and hamlets. They connect with equally ancient footpaths crossing open meadows rich with the scent of mown hay and passing cornfields turning gently golden, leading to woodland where the pale early leafage is turning a richer green for full Summer.

We recently revisited a walk described in the Saltash Observer's own book of countryside walks and other rural pleasures 'A Quality of Life'. The walk we had entitled 'A Trek around Tideford - a green lane time warp'. We had warned that some of the route was liable to be muddy and overgrown but as we rewalked it on a bright May morning we found it easy going.

The route begins in Tideford village and commences along the lane past the historic village pub, once the 'Tideford Inn' now the 'Rod and Line', the early 19th century church, and continues to Tideford Cross. Now two lanes intersect here though once it was an important crossroads on the old Saltash to Liskeard highway.

Turning right here, past Cutlinwith, look out for a green lane leading through a copse on the left, down to a stream with a footbridge crossing it. You are now on the track that over the

centuries linked the ancient settlements of Trewandra and Wisewandra (already old when marked on a local survey of 1580) to Tideford Quay. Over the centuries farm produce would have been carried down this track for the market boat waiting at Tideford Quay, while lime would have been brought up for use as fertiliser. Now you just hear birdsong, with skylarks far above, as the green lane traverses woodland and meadows, with fine rural views, passing an old cider press before reaching Trewandra. Here another equally ancient and unspoilt track leads left to Trenance Farm where it becomes a metalled lane. At its end turn left and continue forking left back to Tideford Cross. Here you can turn right along a grass-decked lane past Cutcrew down by ancient mills along the wooded River Tiddy Valley back to pass under the A38 and turn

left up the old road back to Tideford.

This walk is fully described in 'A Quality of Life' as are seven other walks in the countryside around our local villages and six shorter walks close to and easily accessible from the town itself. Some have changed over the years, a permissive path described as part of a route in a walk from Landrake is no longer permissive. But overall, the walks, as we have re-discovered, are much as they were when we enjoyed researching the book, indeed much as they were centuries ago when horse transport predominated these old ways.

'A Quality of Life' should be available once more as 'Saltash Bookshelf' in Fore Street re-opens or can be ordered direct from our editor Mary Crawford E: maryecrawford@hotmail.com or M: 07971 484872

## Mortar, Masonry and Memories



### Obituary

By the time you read this, a popular Tamar Street corner of Saltash will be nothing more than mortar, masonry and memories.

Questionably post-Brunel, but pre-Tamar Bridge, the Waterside pub (nee the Wheatsheaf) is scheduled for imminent demolition; ridge-tiles and slates are being removed at the time of writing. Recently given an eye-pleasing, cosmetic paint facelift on local council instruction, the only patrons have been rats and bats for the past decade.

Phoenix-like from the rubble could ultimately rise four apartments, and maybe even a small shop, at least started by December 2021, as required by Cornwall Council.

Known for its links with the fishing fraternity, longer serving patrons recall some memorable charity bashes, and freshly caught scallops cooked and served out front by Phil the Fish. On a slightly more sombre note, the cold cellar served as a mortuary for occasional victims of the Tamar; inevitably, claims of ghost sightings and rumours of hauntings abound, posing the local question 'where will the ghosts go now?!' **Ian Robinson**

## SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...



Over the last month we have seen a change in the way we live our lives but nothing is back to normal and we must remember that Coronavirus is still out there and that there is still a danger of catching this disease. Because of this we must continue to think about what we know about the vectors of the disease and try and stay two metres from anyone who is not in our household group. Please keep an eye on the guidance which is changing frequently. The Government wants to get lives back to normal as fast as it can but is very aware of the dangers and asks us all to be responsible.

Parliament has gone back and I have been back to Westminster to take part in debates and vote. This has allowed me to raise a number of important issues in the chamber as well as being able to talk to colleagues, at a suitable distance, about how we can work together to improve our lives.

I have been very disappointed in the attacks which have taken place, mainly in London, on our police and on our historic statues and monuments. The Home Secretary stated in the Commons that, "This hooliganism is utterly indefensible. There is no justification for it, no excuse for pelting flares at brave officers, throwing bikes at police horses, attempting to disrespect the cenotaph, or vandalising the statue of Winston Churchill. The criminals responsible for these acts are betraying the cause they purport to serve." There are many ways in which law abiding people can protest peacefully through online activities such as petitions during this pandemic. It is clear that people should not gather in massive groups and I hope that all the criminals who join any protest and act in a destructive way are brought to justice.

Many people have written to me concerned that future trade deal will compromise on the quality and protections surrounding our food and the welfare of the animals which are reared for this purpose. The Secretary of State for International Trade, Liz Truss MP, and the Secretary of State for Food, George Eustice wrote to me categorically saying that "This UK

Government will not compromise on our standards. Our manifesto is clear that in all of our trade negotiations we will not compromise on our high environmental protection, animal welfare and food standards. We remain firmly committed to upholding our high environmental, food safety and animal welfare standards outside the EU and the EU Withdrawal Act will transfer all existing EU food safety provisions, including existing import requirements, onto the UK statute book. These import standards include a ban on using artificial growth hormones in domestic and imported products and set out that no products, other than potable water, are approved to decontaminate poultry carcasses.

Whilst I am in Westminster I am going to keep my physical office shut for people walking in off the street. My Liskeard office is very small and it would be very difficult to keep to the two metre rule if we had the public and staff in such a confined space. That said my virtual office with staff mainly working from home is very much still open. Please do contact me on Sheryll@murray.com. Please do ensure you spell my name correctly with one 'r' and two 'l's otherwise I will not receive this email. Please include your physical address as I can only deal with constituents. You can also write to me at The Office of Sheryll Murray MP, The Parade, Liskeard PL14 6AF but please be aware that this is only being picked up once a week.

## Conundrum Corner

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

- 1 Which small Parrots get their name from the great affection they show to their mates? (9)
- 2 By what name is the Australian National Park Ayers Rock also known? (5)
- 3 What is the name of the point opposite the Zenith? (5)
- 4 Bill Clinton is an accomplished performer on which musical instrument (9)
- 5 Which flower is associated with Dame Edna Everidge? (8)
- 6 What was the last novel Jane Austen published during her lifetime? (4)
- 7 Who was the first man in the Bible to be described as drunken? (4)
- 8 The Blenheim Orange is a variety of which fruit? (5)
- 9 Which English County is nearest France? (4)
- 10 Which Country did the Allies invade in Operation Avalanche? (4)

Answers on page 7

## Letter to the Editor...



Dear Editor,

I note from the article in the Observer that there will be a minimum of a five year wait for the A38 from Carkeel to Trerulefoot to be 'improved'.

In the meantime, would it not make sense to close the three lane sections and revert to a single carriageway?

Yes, at times it would slow the traffic down which given the stupidity of a minority (yes, you see them every day) of idiots who treat this stretch of road as a racetrack must be a bonus.

For a minimum of outlay the 'accident' and therefore death rate could be slashed overnight! Is this not the ultimate goal? A note to petition organisers: not everyone is connected to the internet!

P.H. Ashton  
Saltash

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## Essa Files

This is, barring some kind of unexpected future comeback, my last ever column for the Saltash Observer - at best guess Essa Files number 107 (ish). I'm sorry to be finishing: I've enjoyed it tremendously and, unsurprisingly to anyone who knows me, haven't yet run out of things to say. However I have now started my new job so no longer work in Saltash, and feel that I should give the space over to columnists with a stronger continuing connection to our community.

Before I go though, and before the customary farewell thank yous, I am going to take advantage of this being my last ever column to dollop a bit of parting controversy in your direction. I'm not going to argue about which statues of people we should keep on open public display, instead I'm going to ask why keep any? Statues are not museums - they don't give background or historical context, instead they tend to eulogise individuals as heroes, and very few people are in fact 'pure'. Moving statues to a museum allows for much more background and context, and is actually a far better history teaching tool.

Those who have, perhaps facetiously, suggested that without statues in open public spaces we would forget history could bear in mind all the 'bad people' who no longer have statues on display but whom we still remember, as well as the role of museums and other memorials. I would also note that it tends to be a bit random, or based on powerful connections or on who caught the media eye, who gets a statue and who doesn't. Rosa Parks for example is an important figure, but why lots of statues of her but very few of Claudette Colvin, who refused to go to the back of the bus first. Why

scores of Nightingales but far less Seacrofts, why Martin Luther King times many, but no Bayard Rustin? Why indeed, Saltash-wise, Major General Symons, but not William Odgers?

You may notice by the way that I managed to discuss the above without once mentioning race or slavery - that may be why we're currently discussing statues, but the issue is not simply about that - it's about whether statues of individuals on open public display without context (i.e. not in museums) are really the best way to remember and to teach.

That parting shot aside: THANK YOU to Mary and everyone at the Observer for the opportunity to share my thoughts in print every month, to my dedicated column testers Mum and Jen, to my literally dozens of loyal readers, and of course to those individuals, both of them, who took the time over the last eleven years to contact me to complain about what I had written. This is the Essa Files signing out \*drops mic\*.

*Adam Killea  
Thank You... Sadly our last Essa Files from Adam... We have enjoyed reading your column, we will miss you. We wish you all the very best in your new position.*

*Your Editor Mary*

## Street Furniture Refurbished for Re-Opening

While many Saltash residents have been on furlough or otherwise taking an enforced break at home, town council workers have been busy ensuring an improved local environment for the ease on lockdown. The hanging baskets that are traditionally a welcome feature of Spring and Summer in Fore Street have been filled with flowers and were ready to be re-erected as soon as the majority of shops reopened.

Meanwhile bollards were smartened up and repainted and the benches along Fore Street were inspected, removed for repair where needed, and otherwise refurbished.

The long weeks when shoppers came to Fore Street only when strictly necessary offered an ideal opportunity to ensure a smart and attractive foreground for our rich variety of largely locally-owned businesses once they were able to welcome back customers.



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## As Summer Comes to Saltash

While 'Stay Safe' remains the message and Covid 19 cannot be ignored we are, of course, delighted to see some signs of normality returning to our lives, albeit the 'new normal'. Shops are re-opening, other businesses such as our friendly cafes, restaurants and pubs should soon be following, and no doubt we will in time become accustomed to the social distancing that we must continue to practice while enjoying these re-opened facilities.

As your community newspaper we have given up much of your last three editions with messages and advice as to how to stay safe during the heavy lockdown. We are still carrying such messages, and will continue to do so as long as the need remains.

But as a new spirit of hope spreads through our community, and the wider world beyond, we are also able to bring you brighter news. And over the next few months we are delighted to be able to share with you some of the stories and pictures from earlier this year that got pushed aside before but which we feel sure that you will enjoy.

## Join the Latchbrook Leat Hunt

Twenty different animals are concealed alongside the public footpath that follows alongside the Latchbrook leat immediately to the west of the estate. During lockdown local families have been invited to hunt out these varied creatures. But this is not a blood sport, it is just necessary to find the pictures lurking in the undergrowth close to the trail.

The Leat Hunt is designed to add fun and extra interest to the daily exercise which many families have been enjoying during these extraordinary months of Spring and Summer.

## Conundrum Answers:

Letters spell Gunnistake  
Kent 10 laly. Re-arranged the  
Emma 7 Noah 8 Apple 9  
4 Saxophone 5 Gladiaola 6  
1 Lovebirds 2 Ulnur 3 Nadir

## Boats Back in Water as Lockdown Loosens

With the loosening of the lockdown, the yachts illustrated in your May 'Saltash Observer' still shore bound in their Winter quarters have, with full precautions being taken, been returned to the water.

The customary craning in at the Saltash Sailing Club began on the last weekend of May. Boat owners were given timed appointments to oversee their vessels rediscover water under their keels, the event being conducted by a small team, fully briefed and risk assessed.

While sailing could now be enjoyed single handed or



Photo Ian Robinson

crewed by members of the same household, the sailing club was awaiting further advice as to when it could commence its usual programme of weekly races. The clubhouse too remained closed, though the fully

sanitized washroom facilities were opened to members.

Cadet activities are also on hold, awaiting the return to school giving confidence to welcome the seventy or so children and teenagers who enjoy a full programme of

training and racing. There is currently a short waiting list but the club welcome all to enrol, including those with plenty, little or no sailing experience. It is hoped that all cadets will be back on the water sometime this season.

## Wella Brown – Scholar and Teacher of the Cornish Tongue

Since the renaissance of the Cornish language in the 1960's many lovers of Cornwall will have had their interest in its ancient tongue inspired by the classes given, as well as the books written, by Wella Brown, who has recently died at the age of 102. Wella lived in Saltash since around 1949 and taught many residents his adopted second language.

Born in 1917 in Devonport into a service family William Brown (known to all by his Cornish equivalent name of Wella) travelled with them before joining up himself aged 14 as boy tradesman in the Royal Signals Regiment in 1932. He was posted to Egypt aged 18 and served most of the war in the Middle East before returning to Britain where he married Liz in Northwood, Middlesex in 1946.

Wella joined a programme of emergency teacher training and taught in various Plymouth schools while living in Saltash. He subsequently led the special needs teaching at Callington until retirement. By total contrast he also organised a cattle market at Five Lanes over many years.

Wella was proud of his Cornish ancestry, his grandmother being from the Lostwithiel area, and soon became absorbed in the Cornish heritage and language. As well as teaching it locally he wrote a number of books one still being the

standard language text book. He was appointed bard of the Cornish Gorsedd in 1971, taking the bardic name 'Crenner'. This is Cornish for Quaker, Wella and Liz having belonged to the Society of Friends, of which Wella was an elder at the Liskeard meeting house. Wella was made Secretary of the Cornish Language Board in 1980 and held this position for 21 years. He was also President of Saltash Old Cornwall Society on three occasions and once President of Probus.

Wella and Liz, who survives him, had two daughters and one son, with seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, some living in Cornwall others further afield. He had requested a Church of England funeral. Due to ongoing restrictions he was limited to a simple graveside service at Churchtown cemetery with immediate family only on a sunny Cornish Spring day with birdsong accompaniment

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# New Orleans Easter Sunday April 15 1990

## What you are about to read happened 30 years ago.

Photo by Mary Crawford



Six weeks before, Bourbon Street, indeed the whole French Quarter, had been heaving with costumed revellers - Mardi Gras had come to town, quite the party... I'd seen it back in 1985, and had returned, 5 years on, to write about it, this time with Press accreditation and vehicle pass for parades, police barriers etc.

Now, following Lent, Carnival was almost 40 days gone for another year, though I was still around, absorbing Cajun hospitality.

It was the wrong side of midnight, I was sofa-surfing in the empty apartment of friends who'd gone to Alabama for the holiday. I'd stayed behind, intent on more fun in the Crescent City on the Mississippi. I'd heard somewhere that 'God keeps track of just how long a man spends in the Big Easy, such is the sinful reputation of New Awlins!'

Not wearing much and only half awake, I answered a knock at the door.

"Is Dave here?" asked a heavily built man, Hawaiian

This is a slightly fuller rewrite about a sad incident mirrored in the events of today - loved ones taken suddenly and unexpectedly, way before their time. The circumstances are different but the end result, irreversible final loss leaving a bottomless pit of grief, remains the same. For those left behind, life goes on, and we support each other.

In my very tiny way I stopped more deaths. In an astronomically greater way, countless frontline thousands globally today, from the medics to the postal workers, the bus drivers to the refuse collectors and the farmers to the pharmacists, are going above and beyond to save the lives of coronavirus sufferers, and not expecting any thanks. They have mine, and I know they have yours, Observer readers.

shirt, in his 30s, standing in the empty night.

"He's out of state for the weekend" I volunteered.

"Can I come in? I need help."

As he knew Dave, I figured he was OK and let him into the lounge. He was uptight and edgy.

"I really need help. I've just shot three people," he unburdened. I only believed him when he pulled a 9mm pistol from his waistband, put it on the coffee table and sank wearily into the couch. He was tearfully vague about events, except he'd just killed the only woman who had ever loved him. I climbed into my jeans, anticipating a long night.

### Dangerous Fugitive

"I need a drink," he begged. Being English, I started to make a cup of tea. He demanded something stronger... I found Dave's vodka!

He couldn't sit still, pacing the cluttered lounge, nervous, confused, sobbing that he

couldn't believe what he'd done... saying he'd 'fry' if they caught him... he couldn't let them take him alive... he had to escape.

With my arm round his big shoulders, befriending him seemed a good idea. I felt he trusted me, and he said his name was Scottie. Half my brain frantically searched my social worker past, uttering inadequate comfort assurances, at the same time hatching a plan to stop this dangerous fugitive.

In the lonely night it was all on my shoulders. I simply wanted to avoid any further bloodshed, be it his, especially mine, or even possibly some unsuspecting cop!

Scottie asked if I had any dope. Not something I use, I seized the chance to use the phone, albeit with him closely watching. I called Dave's host in Alabama, hoping I might alert someone. A sleepy voice answered. "Who the f\*\*\* are you? Don't you know what time it is? I'm not walking 2 miles to a beach hut to find your friend when you can't

even tell me what it's about. It would have to be life or death to get me out of bed at this hour!"

"Well actually," I started to say, looking at Scottie. "Have him call me as soon as you see him." I said goodnight as abuse poured from the receiver. Two other calls proved equally fruitless.

Then Scottie's pager sounded, telling him to call his father. There followed a heart-rending exchange between father and son... none of it good.

"If my dad can find me, so can the cops," said a panicked Scottie after. "We've gotta get out of here!"

### A Bullet Hole

I denied I had wheels. His plan was for us to get to his brother in the city, then for me to 'lose' his car whilst his sibling somehow spirited him out of the country. Without hesitation I nodded agreement, determined to see this through, to wherever. I couldn't let him walk away and risk more deaths. Descending the stairs, I discreetly grabbed pad and pen from my photo-vest on the hallstand... might need them later.

In the parking lot Scottie's white Chevy had a bullet hole in the door. I opened it to reveal a pump-action shotgun on my seat, the murder weapon. "Careful with that, it's gone off once already," warned a worried Scottie. I buried it deep under coats on the back seat - didn't want him reaching it in a hurry. "Just hiding it from prying eyes," I reassured him.

As we cruised the empty streets of a sleeping city I had one of those recurring crazy thoughts. In car-chase movies, it's always the innocent guy in the passenger seat who catches the stray police bullet at a road block! Up ahead stood my local bar. "We'll get dope here, I know the barman," I lied, in hope. Scottie went for it, "Just one drink," he said.

3am in a neighbourhood watering hole; only 5 punters in - a couple lost in each other at one end of the bar, two guys at the other end, talking fishing, and another shooting pool in back; Willie Nelson on the jukebox - there's always Willie Nelson on the jukebox...

We perched on stools between the two groups, sipping beers. Out in the washroom I scribbled 'This man has just shot three people!' on my pad and slipped it in the pocket of the

barman wiping tables as I came back in. By the optics, I watched him read it... and his face turn ashen, but nothing more.

Scottie began chatting to the couple. I ordered second beers. As I paid I asked the barman if he had any dope. "Keep your voice down, there are cops in the bar," he nervously replied, glancing towards the two other guys.

Second visit to the washroom... "Don't ask, just follow me," I muttered to the two drinkers. Out back I unloaded to a fireman and a cop. "Somewhere in Louisiana the guy with me has just killed three people. I know little more, except he's armed... and I could sure use some help, please."

"Keep him talking, we'll handle it," they assured.

Back at the bar with Scottie still immersed in chatting to the blonde, I caught a nod from the passing cop. He'd phoned for assistance from a nearby 24-hour store.

I slipped out to the car, intending to hide the guns as we were now so close to success. Scottie appeared. "Didn't I lock that car?" I lied I'd mislaid my cigarettes in it.

Back inside, the wait seemed endless before two patrolmen stepped into the bar, seeking the owner of the white saloon. A surprised Scottie stepped out to a blockade of black-and-white police cruisers... plus a police dog. For half an hour he tried to convince two burly patrolmen with hands on holsters, that he was going turkey shooting in Mississippi. Unimpressed, they read him his rights and took him away.

### A Lifelong Friendship

A year later District Attorney Phil Haney flew me out from England to St. Martinville, Louisiana, where I was number one witness at a murder trial. Two years later I attended a



retrial... same verdict. Local placards announced E. DEVON MAN SENDS KILLER TO DEATH ROW.

30 years on, Scott Bourque is still on Death Row in Louisiana State Penitentiary, Angola.

Top surgeons laboured to successfully rebuild Timmy Perry's shotgun-wrecked shoulder. Now in her 80s, she lives happily in Lafayette; I saw her last year. Her daughter Charlotte, Bourque's estranged girlfriend, was shot dead at the family home. Another man was shot by Bourque in a bar earlier that night.

Four surviving brothers now see me as family; one named a son after me - last year I attended Ian Perry's college graduation as a surprise.

For my efforts (the now late) Capt. August 'Butch' Dupuis made me Honorary Deputy Sheriff in St. Martin Parish, Louisiana. He gave me his badge.

The Perrys are lovely people; it only saddens me that they lost a dear sister and daughter for me to enjoy their lifelong friendship.

Current coronavirus restrictions prevent my being with them for this 30th anniversary occasion.

Ian Robinson

## A Home at One's Own Convenience

A disused public toilet block which has for long been an eyesore has been sold and is being converted to a home.

The building in Callington Road adjacent to the rugby fields has been boarded up for decades. Now a local resident has been busy demolishing much of the fabric and converting it to a studio style home for himself. Neighbours opposite who have overlooked the derelict structure are reported as pleased at the evident improvement.

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