

# SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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June 2024 - Issue 384

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## Colin Breed



1947 - 2024  
Mayor of Saltash,  
1989 - 1990 and 1995 - 96  
Liberal Democrat MP for  
South East Cornwall,  
1997 - 2010

Freeman of Saltash

Colin Breed passed away recently, leaving a legacy of community service that will be remembered for years to come. I was honoured to be asked by the

family, to pay tribute to Colin at the memorial service held in Saltash Welsey Church. I am grateful to have the opportunity to share some of this with you.

Colin had a remarkable ability to unite people for a common cause, a talent that became evident in the mid-1980s when the old Wesley building was in dire need of repair. Understanding the need for a new place of worship,

Colin led the project to redevelop the site, ultimately leading to the construction of the church building that stands proud at the top of Fore Street today. Colin estimated the cost of the new church to be around £600,000.

His expertise in merchant banking was crucial in securing the necessary funds – he personally negotiated the sale of the land where Greenwich Place now stands for the sum of £250,000. An additional £150,000 came from church funds, with the remaining £200,000 being raised by the dedicated efforts of church members.

A key element in the fundraising was the Church group PALS, formed in 1981 to support young families. Colin's leadership and enthusiasm inspired the group, fostering a spirit of community and cooperation that saw families working tirelessly to achieve the fundraising target. The bonds formed during this period became a testament to Colin's ability to bring people together.

Colin purchased a 16-seater bus for the Church, with the memorable registration VET 252. The registration plate was probably worth more than the bus itself, but the bus played a pivotal role, not only in community outings but also in fundraising activities. We sold refreshments from the bus from a layby on the A38, and

transported the catering team from Wesley to dish up food at various events across Southeast Cornwall, helping us raise funds to build our new Church.

But Colin's dedication extended far beyond his local community. During his 13 years in Parliament, he was known for his strong sense of commitment and service. He was a champion for justice, always ready to tackle any issue. His parliamentary career was marked by unwavering dedication to his constituents and integrity in public service. After retiring from Parliament, he was a regular visitor to the Middle East, working to promote Arab-British understanding.

Colin's contributions to his community and his country were profound. The Wesley Church stands as a tangible reminder of his vision and drive, but his efforts also brought people together, creating a legacy of community cohesion.

His work on earth is now complete, and he can rest in peace. As we walk past the Wesley Church and remember Colin, we carry his memory in our hearts. His legacy will live on in the community he served so well. Rest in peace, Colin. May God be always with you.

Bob Austin

Former Mayor of Saltash,  
Freeman of the Town  
Trustee of Saltash Wesley  
Methodist Church

## Charity Gladstone Receives MBE



Saltash resident Charity Gladstone at Buckingham Palace last month after receiving her MBE for services to nursing. Charity is also President of the Malawian UK Nurses Association and becomes only the third person from Malawi to receive an MBE.

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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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*Town Messenger  
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## Cornwall Councillors/ Wards

### Saltash Essa ED

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

### Saltash Tamar ED

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

### Saltash Trematon & Landrake ED

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

**Cornwall Councillors  
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Tamar Bridge

## Welcome from the Mayor of Saltash



*So, this is my first column to you as Mayor of Saltash 2024/25.*

First, I'd like to thank our previous Mayor Councillor Richard Bickford for his vision, dedication, and friendship over the last two years. As I've said many times: he leaves huge boots to fill!

It's such an honour to be your Mayor, and I'd like to thank everyone for your friendship, love, encouragement and support. I'd like to think that you all know that I will do my very best for the town that I love.

I have listened carefully over the last five years to residents' needs, and apart from fulfilling our current, exciting projects, together with my fellow councillors and with the help of our brilliant staff I will also be looking for more funding opportunities to further enhance our town.

I'm supporting our healthcare and dental groups to work towards a health hub to save us travelling over the Bridge. It's important that our town becomes a dementia and



disabled friendly community, accepting everyone, no matter what their disability.

I'd like to encourage a "Be proud of our Town" initiative, talking to schools and community groups, to help stop vandalism, littering and the most common complaint: dog poo!!

We want our traders to have confidence in the future and we must support them going forward by shopping locally, not only in Fore Street but all the traders on the trading estates around us.

We must, of course, abide by our resolution to acknowledge our future environmental issues, and evaluate the potential risks to our environment in everything we do.

As most of you know I'm passionate about supporting our youthwork in Saltash, and one of my Mayor's Charities is Saltash Youth Network. This umbrella organisation supports the town's youth clubs, including Cubs, Brownies, Scouts, Guides, St. John's Ambulance, Boxing, Football and Rugby clubs. They are all looking for financial help to keep going in these challenging times. We're incredibly lucky here in Saltash that we do have so many volunteers who are prepared to give up their time

to support these groups. Many towns in Cornwall have nothing like it!

My other Mayor's Charity is our Community Kitchen, who do so much for our residents: those who are in need of support either with mental health or financial issues, who attend the stroke or dementia club or who pop in for a cuppa and a chat, looking for some company.

I'm so looking forward to working alongside our new Deputy Mayor, Councillor Rachel Bullock. We have remarkably similar ideas and values; we are also good friends and neighbours. I know that I will have her support and we'll make an effective team, along with our fellow councillors.

By now, the ferry to Royal William Yard will be in operation and we hope to encourage many residents in Plymouth to come to our town to see what great shops we have locally. This has come about after being awarded Community Levelling Up funding to allow the Town Council to run a Transport Trial Day at Easter. For further information please contact the Guildhall on 01752 844846 option 5.

Also, D-Day 80 will have happened by the time you read this. It's important to

remember that there were army camps in Saltash. Many of these troops crossed the River Tamar, and left for the Normandy beaches along with the 36,000 troops from Saltash Passage. The lighting of the beacon and our lights of peace symbolised our hopes and prayers that something like this will never happens again. I'd also like to thank the Knit and Natter groups, craft groups and swimming groups who knitted and crocheted lots of poppies and flowers to decorate Fore Street, as well as the RBL for the poppy decorations.

I'm always out and about, shopping, walking the Mayoral dog, or working in Victoria Gardens with volunteers. Please stop for a chat with me, or with any other councillor, especially on the Meet Your Councillor days held outside Superdrug on Fore Street, on the second Saturday of the month.

If you would like my husband, Geoff, and I to come to an event or prize giving, or to give a talk, please contact the Mayor's Secretary by email [mayors-secretary@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:mayors-secretary@saltash.gov.uk) or by phone 01752 844846 option 5.

**Councillor Julia Peggs  
Mayor of Saltash 2023-24**

## Meet Your Councillor Cllr Pete Samuels Tamar Ward



Much has changed at Saltash Town Council since I was first elected to represent the old East Ward back in 2017. I remember somebody saying to me back then, that it was a bit of a waste of time, as the Town Council didn't really do much. Even if there was an element of truth back then, the reality is that the Town Council has taken on much more responsibility over the past few years and now does a great deal of work for the benefit of residents.

Devolution from Cornwall Council has handed us the Library or Library Hub as it is now called, no longer being just a place to borrow books, but also a hive of activity with many events throughout the year.

The Town Council now runs a small fleet of vehicles, the latest of which is 100% electric, enabling our team of Service Delivery General Assistants to undertake a multitude of tasks around the town. By the time you read this, the railway station waiting room will be open for the benefit of travellers and casual visitors who will be able to purchase snacks and refreshments from the Trackside Café. Moreover, it is now possible to travel from Saltash to the Royal William Yard in Plymouth, using the new Saltash Ferry which leaves the Jubilee Green Pontoon at 90-minute intervals daily.

During my time with the Town Council, it has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve as Mayor of Saltash, being the first to serve 21 months due to Covid-19 restrictions, since the Town Council was formed in 1974

when it replaced the old Saltash Corporation. For the coming year I will serve as Vice-Chair of the Policy and Finance Committee, having recently been re-elected to that position by my fellow Councillors. I have also for the last couple of years acted as Vice-Chair of the Services Committee, under the stewardship of Cllr Julia Peggs who is the new Mayor for 2024-25.

Together with my wife Brenda, who is also a Town Councillor and Chair of the Planning and Licensing Committee, we run a business that is based in the town that we also are proud to call home. My spare time, such as it is, being taken up by my passion for radio broadcasting, having presented on a number of radio stations in the South and South West, which I continue to do whilst playing music from my favourite era which can be categorised as late 1950s through to the late 1970s.

As with all Saltash Town Councillors, I work on a voluntary basis, something that not everybody understands, it always puts a wry smile on my face when I hear the odd disparaging remark that we are overpaid and underworked – nothing could be further from the truth. It's great to be part of a talented team that works so hard for Saltash and of which I hope to be a member for years to come, nowadays representing the residents of Tamar Ward, with whom I'm always happy to engage, give advice and whatever assistance I can.

*Cllr Pete Samuels*

## Your Town Council & Wards

### Saltash Essa:

1. Cllr Richard Bickford  
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3. Cllr John Brady  
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### Saltash Tamar:

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### Saltash Trematon:

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2. Cllr Brenda Samuels  
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3. Cllr Brian Stoyel  
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4. Cllr Yates  
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### Mayor:

Cllr Julia Peggs

### Deputy Mayor:

Cllr Rachel Bullock

### Town Clerk:

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## New Ferry Service Linking Royal William Yard and Saltash

Plymouth Boat Trips has introduced a new, daily water transport link connecting Saltash and Royal William Yard in Plymouth.

Operating from 24th May to 30th September, the service was introduced following positive feedback for the trial ferry service run as part of Saltash Town Council's Connectivity Day at Easter. The 70-capacity foot passenger ferry leaves from Jubilee Pontoon, which is managed by Saltash Town Council under a tenancy arrangement with Cornwall Council, headed for Royal William Yard every 1.5 hours, with the first ferry leaving at 10am and the last at 6pm.

Owner of Plymouth Boat Trips, Ben Squire, said: "We're thrilled to be working with Saltash Town Council to deliver this important new service for commuters and tourists alike. Water transport is not only an enjoyable way to travel, but is also a more sustainable choice, meaning less traffic and congestion on our roads."

With Beryl Bike docking bays close to Jubilee Pontoon and in Royal William Yard, passengers have the option of hiring e-bikes for their onward journeys. Depending on passenger numbers, there is a possibility that a connecting bus service might be introduced from Saltash Waterside to the town centre, providing an extra boost to the Saltash economy.

The Mayor of Saltash, Councillor Julia Peggs, thanked Cornwall Council, Urban Splash and Plymouth City Council for their support in the new venture before going on to say: "The Town Council is pleased to be working in partnership with Plymouth Boat Trips to offer an additional form

of transport to residents and visitors. Our aim is to further grow transport links in to Saltash town centre, helping residents make more sustainable choices about how they travel and boosting our local economy."

The full ferry timetable is available on the Saltash Town Council website as well as on the Plymouth Boat Trips website, which also has an advanced online booking system covering all Plymouth Boat Trips' services including cruises, ferries, and fishing trips. A single adult fare costs £5.

## Cat Nav

A new law effective from 10th June requires all cats to be microchipped before they reach 20 weeks old. Owners whose cat is found without a microchip will have 21 days to comply or face a fine of up to £500.

Designed to help lost cats get reunited with their owners, a microchip is about the size of a grain of rice, and is inserted under a cat's skin in a process that is no more painful than an injection. Costs vary, typically £20-£30, but may be lower through local vets or rescue centres.

## New Trackside Café at Saltash Train Station

Saltash Town Council are thrilled to announce the appointment of an operator for the café and waiting room facilities at Isambard House, Saltash Railway Station.

Following an award-winning refurbishment, the station building now offers a flexible space to hire. The Trackside Café is an excellent addition, and is operated by Dawn Couch and her team, who are renowned for their fantastic work at the Poolside Café in Saltash Leisure Centre. Dawn brings extensive experience in business, catering and the railway industry, and is excited about working in partnership with Saltash Town Council on this new venture.

Dawn said: "I feel privileged to be able to work alongside the Town Council, bringing the train station to life with the opening of Trackside Café. My team and I are looking forward to welcoming and meeting many people, and will be providing passengers, residents and visitors to Saltash with homemade cakes, cookies, tray bakes, hot snacks and Cornish Tea and coffee."

Isambard House has recently been refurbished to provide

improved passenger facilities and high-quality bookable space, including WIFI and an 85-inch display monitor. The refurbishment project was undertaken by Saltash Town Council with funding support from Cornwall Council's Local Transport Plan Fund. The main space at Isambard House is available for hire directly from Saltash Town Council.

Councillor Julia Peggs, Mayor of Saltash said: "The opening of the Café and Waiting Room at Saltash Station is an important part of the station refurbishment project. It will provide excellent facilities for rail travellers and residents alike. We hope it will help improve public transport connectivity by providing travellers with a space to wait for trains or onward travel".

Follow the Town Council on Facebook at @saltashtowncouncilofficial for the latest updates.

Trackside Café opened on Tuesday 28th May 2024 and will continue to be open Monday to Friday 06.45 to 14.30. Dawn and her team look forward to welcoming everyone!

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## Did you know ...



• Memory Box (formerly Dementia Voice) provides support and activities for those affected by a mild to moderate cognitive impairment, especially dementia.

• Memory Box Cafe - Thursday 10.00am to 12.00pm at the Community Kitchen, 8 Fore Street, Saltash

• Veterans Group every other Saturday from 4.30pm to 6.30pm, SHADO Centre, Plougastel Drive.

• 'Do you mind if I sing' every Wednesday from 10.30am to 12.00pm, Saltash Wesley Church, Collington Road.

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A massive thanks to all our sponsors and supporters who make this event possible, more information will be on our programme - available soon!

## Echoes of the Past; Ringing in the New

The bells of the Church of St Nicholas and St Faith rang out at the recent funeral of Reverend Brian Anderson, a fitting tribute to the pivotal role he played in the 1990s raising funds to restore the

church's bell tower.

Recent challenges, though, including the COVID lockdown and the loss of key members including Tower Captain John White, have led to a temporary halt in regular Sunday ringing. The Church is now calling for anyone with experience or interest to get in

touch to help build a new team of bellringers.

The six bells have a proud, long history of marking events. Three of them date back to 1760, installed in time to mark the coronation of George III. In 1959, a cracked bell was recast, and all the bells were rehung in a new metal frame. The bell-ringing tradition thrived, peaking in 1973 with a team of 33 enthusiasts. Structural issues with the bell tower halted ringing, however, until 1996, when Reverend Brian, supported by Pamela Dorrington, Sir Vernon Seccombe and others raised £37,000 to restore the tower. Post-Covid challenges in rebuilding the bellringing team have been compounded by the frayed condition of the bell ropes. Crafting new ropes is a costly task, requiring great skill. So in addition to the appeal for new bellringers, the church has launched a fundraising appeal to replace the ropes. The initial response has been encouraging, and it is hoped that the new ropes, featuring a special Cornish design, will be installed by autumn.

As the church community works to restore regular ringing, they remember Reverend Brian's dedication. With new ropes and renewed enthusiasm, they aim to ensure the bells will continue to ring out, marking events and bringing the community together for years to come.

## Sustainable Saltash

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

This election will be a crucial one. Decisions made in the immediate period following the vote will set the trajectory of climate and environmental policy over the coming term. The years between now and 2030 are a narrowing window of opportunity for change, and the next government will be in power for most of that time.

We've seen many records broken for climate and nature loss. We are witnessing an unprecedented mix of drought and water pollution that was unimaginable in this country just a few years ago, and blights us all. Thinking what else might be in store in the next 5 years really focuses the mind. I will be giving high priority to nature recovery, water management and climate adaptation this election year. Wise policy and judicious funding can transform a runaway train into a driving force to improve our lives and economy. Yes, it will be costly in some ways and will mean change, but bring it on I say. Goodness knows change is needed and at what cost further neglect?

The first thing to say is I will definitely be voting. I always do, but this time it is so crucial. Please vote. Even if just to earn another 5 years on your winging license. If you don't join in you can't winge. So how to use that vote wisely? Wisdom is born of knowledge and knowledge is easy to come by in today's society, as long as one seeks out a credible source.

I plan to look at our current representation, and review their voting history on issues which mean most to me. This is easily done.

Theyworkforyou.com is an online resource where you can see all this information in one place, sorted into categories such as environment, education, housing, health. Very illuminating.

I then plan to inform myself about the candidates standing in my area. I will read with interest the local press and digest the available information on their websites. Find out what their priorities are. It will help to see them answer questions directly. Cornwall Wildlife Trust have announced they will be holding nature and climate hustings. Ours was to be in September, but the election has been called earlier than anticipated, so keep an eye on their website for more.

Regarding political parties, manifestos will be published. Sounds daunting, but for those who

have not previously dived into one, they are surprisingly compact and user friendly.

I will be looking for cohesive strategy, not token words or gestures. I want us to reach 2030 in one piece. I want to look out over the Tamar and not wonder what is going on beneath the surface. I want my community to be healthier, richer in nature and with a viable plan to manage the challenges we can't now avoid in the coming decades, and can no longer ignore. There won't be a perfect choice, but there will be one that stands out as better than the rest.

**Marc Bramham**

*This column is a conversation starter for our whole community.*

*If you have comments on the subject, ideas of your own or suggestions for future content, please do get in touch at sustainable.saltash@protonmail.com*

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### Lib Dems Advertorial

## Colin Martin: "How MP Colin Breed inspired me to stand for Parliament"



Liberal Democrat Colin Martin is hoping to follow in the footsteps of Colin Breed to become the next Member of Parliament for South East Cornwall. 44-year old Colin explains why his late namesake was his inspiration:

"I first moved to Liskeard nineteen years ago to work for Colin Breed, who served as South East Cornwall's Lib Dem MP from 1997 to 2010. Colin was observant, curious and thoughtful; so he figured out how to get things done, like securing funding for the Dobwalls bypass and establishing the "Grocery Code" to protect farmers from abuse by

supermarkets.

"Witnessing Colin's selfless and effective community service inspired me to stand for election too; and after working for a fuel poverty charity; running a social enterprise; and working as a maths teacher, I gained a deep understanding of local issues."

In 2017, Colin Martin overturned a huge Conservative majority to be elected as the Cornwall Councillor for Lostwithiel, and has used this platform to lead many successful campaigns. For example:

In 2021, he set up a cross-party working group to tackle the housing emergency. Four of the

ideas Colin put forward to control holiday homes have now become nationwide laws!

In 2022, Colin called for independent experts to guarantee that Cornwall's green transition is as fast and fair as possible. This Cornwall Climate Commission is now up and running and will ensure that everyone gets the help they need to cut their energy bills and carbon emissions.

"But there is so much more to do!" says Colin.

Keir Starmer looks certain to become Prime Minister, but the South East Cornwall seat could flip from Conservative to Lib Dem, giving our area a

strong, new voice.

"Our Conservative MP has failed to secure any funding for the Tamar Bridge or the deadly A38.

If you elect me to serve you in Parliament, I will work tirelessly to abolish the Tamar Tolls and deliver affordable homes; safe roads; a thriving, green economy; and public services we can all be proud of."

Cornwall Councillor Hilary Frank is urging Saltash residents to support Colin: "I've worked with Colin at Cornwall Council for over seven years and have been consistently impressed by his integrity and genuine commitment to serving his residents."

## Only one party's MPs support abolishing the Tamar Tolls



On 4<sup>th</sup> July, many voters in Saltash will want to use their vote to protest against the Tamar Tolls.

But what does each party say about the future funding of the crossings?

Individual Labour and Conservative politicians have objected to the recent proposed increase from £2.60 to £3.00, but their concerns have been ignored by colleagues:

**In February, Labour and Conservative Councillors united for a knife-edge vote in favour of the increase.** Just one Councillor could have reversed the decision!

**Lib Dem Colin Martin**

**has shown real leadership on this issue:**

First he joined the Tamar Toll Action Group and led the march over the Bridge.

Then he got every Lib Dem Councillor to vote against the increase.

Next he succeeded in making abolition of the tolls official Lib Dem national policy: **All Lib Dem MPs now support full Government funding for the crossings.**

**Local Conservatives have failed to persuade their party to support abolition of the tolls, whilst Labour's candidates won't even ask!**

**The Conservative petition asks for tolls to be FROZEN,**

**but the Liberal Democrat petition calls for them to be ABOLISHED.**

**You can sign the Liberal Democrat petition here:**

[seclibdems.uk/tamar-tolls](http://seclibdems.uk/tamar-tolls)



Published and promoted by A Sturtridge on behalf of Colin Martin and SE Cornwall Liberal Democrats, all at Eden House, St Germans Rd, Callington PL17 7HX.

## Saltash Regatta and Waterside Festival 13th and 14th July

Get ready for a weekend of thrills, spills and laughter as Saltash hosts its annual Regatta and Waterside Festival, supported by grant funding from Saltash Town Council. With street entertainers and bouncy castles, it promises to be a summer highlight for gig rowers and families alike.

Kicking off the festivities on Saturday 13th July, the Regatta Parade will be

marching down Fore Street to the Waterside to the theme of 'Beside the Seaside.' Leaving at 10:30 from Victoria Gardens, why not dress up and join in?

The bustling market will stretch from Waterside Green to Jubilee Green, and feature over 100 stalls showcasing an array of food, drink, crafts and community groups. The two stages will host live music on both days, featuring the energetic sounds of bands

curated by Livewire as well as the harmonies of groups like Saltash Rock Choir.

Saturday's Gig Racing, hosted by the Caradon Pilot Gig Club, will see teams battle it out on the River Tamar, showcasing their skill and determination in this thrilling sport.

Sunday 14th July is packed with more fun events. The Gables Dog Show from 11:30 is sure to make tails wag and put smiles on faces. Join the colourful chaos of the Paint Party at 1pm, as packets of powder create a vibrant spectacle of hues and laughter. And brace yourselves for the thrilling Cardboard Boat Race at 2pm, where crews will put their creativity and engineering skills to the test, attempting to navigate the river in boats made entirely from cardboard.

It's an event not to be missed!

## Twinnings Honoured to Attend Mayor's Inauguration

Regular exchanges between Saltash and its twin town of Plougastel in Brittany have been taking place since the Twinning Agreement was signed in 1987. In years that end in an odd number, members of the Saltash Twinning Association visit Plougastel. In intervening years, the Saltash residents welcome friends from Plougastel to their homes. This year, the Saltash Association was pleased to host 42 members of the Plougastel Twinning Association at the beginning of May.

The fun-filled, laughter-filled programme included cycling the Camel Trail, wine tasting at Trevibben and laser tag for the younger members as well as a visit to Looe and Polperro. The Plougastel Mayor, Dominique Cap, along with several of the Plougastel councillors were honoured to attend the Mayor Making ceremony of Saltash Mayor, Cllr. Julia Peggs. Twinnings were delighted to be invited to attend the reception following the ceremony, where they provided French sparkling wine and Plougastel strawberries.

Both Mayors attended the Twinning Celebration evening, where gifts were exchanged and short speeches given focusing on

the value of strong friendship in the current, unsettled times. Entertainment was provided by Cornish Jam and Memories of the Future, and there was much dancing and singing of 'This is my Cornwall'.

The weekend of glorious sunshine and activities proved that the jumelage is as strong as ever. Corinne Ashcroft of the Twinning Association says: "We were sad to wave our friends from Brittany goodbye, or, as they say in Breton, kenavo! But we are already looking forward to our visit to Plougastel in May 2025."

Anyone interested in joining the Saltash Twinning Association is invited to message either Corinne Ashcroft or Teresa Lindeyer via Facebook. As well as the Plougastel visits, the Association hosts several events throughout the year including petanque competitions, cheese and wine evenings and Cornish quiz and pasty nights.



### ADVANCE WARNING

## Roads closed for: Saltash Regatta 2024

Old Ferry Road (Pounds Park East TO Lower Fore Street) 06:00 - 21:00 SAT & SUN  
Tamar Street (Lower Fore Street TO Town Quay) 06:00 - 21:00 SAT & SUN  
Lower Fore Street (Silver Street TO Old Ferry Road/Tamar Street) 06:00 - 21:00 - SAT & SUN

Fore Street (Full Length) 10:30 - 10:45 SAT  
Lower Fore Street (Full Length) 10:30 - 10:45 SAT

Old Ferry Road (Jubilee Green TO Adcocks Slueway) 10:00 - 21:00 FRI  
**12TH - 14TH JULY 2024**

## Parking Restrictions for: Saltash Regatta 2024

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Pounds Park (Old Ferry Road TO 7 Pounds Park) (External Side)  
Old Ferry Road (Pounds Park West TO Pounds Park East)  
Old Ferry Road (Home Park Road TO Waterfront Car Park)  
Lower Fore Street (95 Lower Fore Street TO 103 Lower Fore Street)  
Silver Street (Albert Road TO Albert Train Bridge)  
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### General Election

## 4th July 2024

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# General Election 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024 Invitation to Comment

At the Saltash and District Observer, we want to help our readers make an informed choice in the forthcoming General Election. To that end, we reached out via email to all six candidates in this South East Cornwall constituency, inviting them to respond to three key questions. Despite a reminder, the Conservative, Green and Labour candidates chose not to provide a response. We are publishing the answers from the Heritage, Liberal Democrat and Reform party candidates.

## The Questions

**Q1 - What have you done to stop dentists in South East Cornwall from leaving the NHS?**

**Q2 - What have you done to persuade your party to abolish the Tamar Tolls?**

**Q3 - Families and businesses in South East Cornwall care about the environment, but many are struggling with the cost of living. What have you done to help them afford to cut their carbon footprint?**

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### Graham Cowdrey (Heritage)

**Q1 - What have you done to stop dentists in SE Cornwall leaving the NHS?**

Across UK dentists are choosing not to be NHS registered, leaving unspent budget of £25 million! The Government pays £28 per single check up, to multiple fillings. This is not enough to retain or recruit new dentists. Dentists have huge costs and investment, as would most people, then choose the best income opportunity. If dentists keep leaving; clearly the fees applied to their services is not enough! It is basic economics, the fees per NHS treatment need to be higher and maybe a loyalty bonus based upon how many new NHS patients especially children and pensioners the practice provides for.

**Q2 - What have you done to persuade your party to abolish the Tamar Tolls?**

Obviously a easy vote grabber to agree but here's my concerns. TBTF joint committee accounts are £3.466 million in deficit out of £15.419m income, they're not ripping off the motorist. Responsibility of funding the bridge and ferries onto Plymouth and Cornwall councils may put the risks with the all tax payers? Do we trust two separate councils to manage such an important section of infrastructure for this region? Councils are struggling with other commitments, what would happen if they went bankrupt? Should TBTF become toll free the congestion and pollution will increase, clogging local roads, whilst tourists will contribute nothing.

**Q3 - Families and businesses in SE Cornwall care about the environment but many are struggling with the cost of living. What have you done to help them afford to**

### cut their carbon footprint?

We care about the environment especially clean air, food and pure water, it's a fundamental cornerstone for a healthy society but we should question climate change agenda! Environmental taxes raised £52.5 billion with 75% from our energy costs, with duty 63% of fuel cost. Hidden environmental taxes increased cost of living, hurting the most economically vulnerable hardest, stifling growth, hindering access to employment. Environmental taxes should be assessed and dropped should they cause pressure on cost of living. Gas and electricity standing charges could be scrapped paying only for usage, excessive profits of energy companies used to reduce prices.

### Colin Martin (Lib Dem)

**Q1 - What have you done to stop dentists in SE Cornwall leaving the NHS?**

In 2006, Labour introduced a new contract which does not pay dentists fairly for the time taken to deliver complex treatment. Since then, dentists have steadily left the NHS. Last year Lostwithiel's practice owner told me he had lost one of his NHS dentists and was on the verge of losing them all. I personally contacted the Chief Executive of Cornwall's NHS and urged her to negotiate a contract which paid dentists by the hour for complex work. She agreed, and all Lostwithiel's NHS dentists signed up, not just to stay with the NHS but to tackle Cornwall's waiting list.

**Q2 - What have you done to persuade your party to abolish the Tamar Tolls?**

For too long, Cornwall has accepted the Government line: "We could fund the bridge, but then you'd be stuck with a loss-making ferry". As Leader of the Liberal Democrats on

Cornwall Council, I pushed a different line: "Saltash and Torpoint are uniquely dependent on their neighbouring city, and the £18m cost of funding the bridge and the ferry is so tiny that it's not even a rounding error on the Government's budget (0.001%)". I successfully made the case to colleagues, first in West Cornwall, then the Westcountry, then Westminster. Full Government funding is now official national Liberal Democrat policy.

**Q3 - Families and businesses in SE Cornwall care about the environment but many are struggling with the cost of living. What have you done to help them afford to cut their carbon footprint?**

The homes and businesses with the lowest energy bills are those with well-insulated buildings, fossil-free heating systems, solar panels and batteries. But the up-front costs mean that these options are only available to those with large amounts of spare cash or access to affordable credit. I have used my position on Cornwall Council to push for low-interest loans to be made available to all. This service was launched in April in partnership with Lendology CIC, offering loans at 4% interest, meaning that the monthly repayments can be covered by the reduction in energy bills. For more info, visit seclibdems.uk

### Paul Wadley (Reform)

**Q1 - What have you done to stop dentists in South East Cornwall from leaving the NHS?**

As your MP, I am committed to using Reform UK's Contract with the electorate to immediately address dentistry emergencies and standard dental repairs through Independent Health Care Capacity. I believe in a future where people in South East Cornwall don't have to resort to pulling their own teeth out, a future where dental student university debt doesn't incur interest, the cap on training positions ceases, and student debt is paid off over 10 years if they remain in the NHS.

**Q2 - What have you done to persuade your party to abolish the Tamar Tolls?**

As a member of the Tamar Ferry Action Group, I have reviewed the finances of the Tamar Bridge Operating Company. As your MP, I would challenge Plymouth City Council and Cornwall County Council on why one government department (themselves) is charging interest on their wholly owned subsidiary, forcing the Operating Company into further debt. We cannot change past poor decisions made by Labour and Conservative Councils; however, I will work with

present and new Councillors elected in 2025 to identify a proper long-term solution rather than posturing with letters, a statement in Parliament and a Petition.

**Q3 - Families and businesses in South East Cornwall care about the environment, but many are struggling with the cost of living. What have you done to help them afford to cut their carbon footprint?**

I understand the challenges facing people in the UK. The cost-of-living increase is, in part, being fuelled by net zero initiatives. A new heat pump system costs £12,000; and uses more power than a gas boiler costing £900. An electric vehicle costs £50,000 plus, there is no second-hand market, car insurance is significantly higher, battery replacement is £10,000 plus and with them comes a huge carbon footprint as China uses coal-fired power stations, and we conveniently ignore this fact. I will campaign for hydrogen production to support hydrogen boilers and car engines that produce water at a lower cost.

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## Tamar Reflections

### Reflections of a True Friendship

A special service celebrating the life of the late Colin Breed was held at the Saltash Wesley Methodist Church on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May. This followed the funeral service on the same morning held at the Glynn Valley Crematorium.

Hosted by Colin's family, the Church was packed with friends and colleagues past and present, all paying tribute to a man of faith, charity and dedicated service.

So proudly, I can reflect upon many decades of a true friendship with Colin and his wife Janet.

Colin was a former MP for South East Cornwall between 1997 and 2010, where upon he served his constituents with dedication, sincerity and indeed, never faltered in his continuous endeavours on behalf of his electorate.

Colin was also twice Mayor of Saltash, and I had the great honour of serving with Colin on Saltash Town Council for many years where he passed over the Mayoral Chain to me in 1996; this was following his additional year in office. Colin also represented Saltash on Caradon District Council until he took up his seat in Parliament.

I always found Colin to be kind and helpful in every way, no matter what was asked of him. Although Colin of course had a very public profile, which was important



to convey to his constituents of the work that he was undertaking on their behalf; there was also a very low profile of persona when undertaking roles to the betterment of Saltash in particular that he just got on with, and did behind the scenes.

Colin was quietly instrumental in the origination of the Saltash Youth Council (now Saltash Youth Network) furthermore the Saltash Music Speech and Drama Festival.

Colin was the leading light with the initiation, fund raising and the re-building of the new Saltash Wesley Methodist Church in Glebe Avenue, and also led the way for many of the friendship groups within the Methodist family, to name but a few.

During his time at Westminster, amongst other things, Colin took on a pacifist role on behalf of Parliament, endeavouring to foster a greater understanding and to promote world peace; and in that role, undertook

## Anniversary Account of D-Day in Saltash Library

The blend of perfect planning, dauntless heroism and considerable good luck which ensured the success of the greatest seaborne invasion in history formed a fascinating presentation given in Saltash library eighty years after the momentous events of D-Day.

Former Commando Barry Brooking, gave an overall account of the planning and performance of Operation Overlord, concentrating especially on the role played by the local area.

The 160,000 assault troops who embarked on D-Day aboard 7,000 ships included many from Devon and Cornwall, including a large contingent from Saltash Passage. Saltash played a part with an amphibious repair base sited at Sand Quay, while all residents with accommodation took in American troops. With their extra rations they were welcome guests and Saltash's hospitality was acclaimed.

While the operation ultimately led to the liberation of Hitler's Fortress Europe, Mr. Brooking described how easily it could have failed. The invasion was postponed due to stormy weather and a further four weeks postponement was threatened

many visits to the Middle-East to meet people of different religions and cultures.

However, Colin would be the first person to say that he was not perfect by any means and there are many of us that could vouch for that! As Colin did not suffer what he would consider as inadequacies and inefficiencies easily; and he would let us all know his thoughts as a result during those rare moments of frustration!

I could fill this paper with stories of Colin's talent, goodwill, sincerity, service, humility, humanity and fault. A man of faith, hope and charity to the very end.

Colin will be a great loss not only to the people of Saltash and South East Cornwall, but to Countries around parts of the world that he did his level best to foster long-lasting peace and understanding. Our thoughts and prayers are with Janet, Matthew, Esther, families and friends most sincerely.

Sue Hooper MBE  
(Former Mayor of Saltash and Freeman of the Town)

- by which time the Atlantic Wall could have been further reinforced. It was 'Maureen of Mayo', an Irish weather observer, who recorded a 12-24 hour window of good weather - enough for the invasion to proceed. The troops encamped in barracks around Plymouth and in tents at Antony and Mount Edgcumbe joined the flotilla to France.

While there were seven thousand casualties on the beaches, half fatal, these were less than anticipated. Two Saltash men fell in the campaign, Sergeant James Brown and Major Charles Cocking.

All frontal attacks proved

## 50th Anniversary of Saltash United Juniors



Senior figures from Saltash United Juniors, including founder member Norman Gribble, together with Saltash Mayor, Cllr. Julia Peggs, at the dinner celebrating the Club's 50th anniversary. Saltash United Juniors has over 300 registered players and runs teams in every age group, including the girls' leagues and mini soccer. The anniversary dinner formed part of a family-focused weekend of celebrations including a 1970s style sports day and an action-packed football match pitting coaches against former players.

## The Late Reverend Prebendary Brian Anderson

'Brian was a highly spiritual being as well as profoundly grounded. That was his strength.' So spoke the Reverend Prebendary Andrew Lewis while giving the panegyric sermon at the funeral service of his friend, Reverend Prebendary Brian Anderson. The Church of St Nicholas and St Faith was packed with clergy from throughout the diocese and beyond, together with Brian's family and some of the many lay friends he made during a career devoted to the physical and spiritual welfare of others.

Brian was born in Plymouth in 1942 and first met his father who was serving in the Far East when aged seven. His was a Christian family and Brian was struck at his father's forgiveness of his former foes. Brian's first job was as a salesman for a hardware business. This was followed by 25 years with the Children's Society travelling throughout the South West before he felt called to attend theological college prior to ordination.

His first living was St. James, Ham, Plymouth, and while there began what was to become 52 years of chaplaincy to the R.A.F. In 1989 he became team vicar at St. Stephens, Saltash, beginning his close connection with the town. He was also appointed Rural Dean before in 1994 moving to Wadebridge and in 1999 becoming prebendary. He retired in 2010 but continued to take services locally.

Brian married Linda in

1968, she predeceased him in 2012. Their two children Helen and Nicolas survive him with grandchildren Rebecca, Nathan, Chloe and Thomas.

Brian gracefully accepted his fatal prognosis of cancer, and carefully planned his funeral asking for the sermon to be centred on the resurrection. It would certainly have pleased him.

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## Just Thinking Aloud

I want to say a huge thank you to Saltash Town Council. Without any evident party political bias, and without receiving any financial reward other than insignificant expenses, its members these days seem to me to be working their socks off for our benefit. It is entirely voluntary, and they are sometimes cruelly criticised by folk who cannot even be bothered to check facts before opening their mouths.

From personal experience

many years ago I can tell you that when you are into such community activism, you sometimes need a thick skin and could not cope without support and encouragement from your nearest and dearest. So when you look at and acknowledge the obvious improvements to fair Esse, do give credit where it is due. Among such paragons of virtue we should not forget our elected representatives. I name simply their leaders (plus their spouses!) – Richard (and Sarah) Bickford, Julia (and Geoff) Peggs, and also Rachel



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(and Matthew) Bullock.

Of course we do shower with praise other local organisers of worthwhile activities, but have you noticed that – excepting official national and local awards – these super folk often have to wait for a funeral eulogy or a press article to detail just how praiseworthy their activities were? I recall with shame the time when – in another local publication – I sang the praises of a good friend who had just gone to his eternal rest. His widow approached me on Fore St, in tears, and asked: “Why couldn't you have said that while he was still with us?”. Quite. I have been to quite a few funerals this year which brought her vividly to mind.

My other (and better) half and I enjoy walking down Fore St, often on Saturday mornings. She walks both ways. I bus it back. In between we note what is going on, we do a bit of shopping, we pass by politicians on the prowl, we smile politely at prayerful people whether in twos or threes, we meet and chat with friends we have known since 1975. It's all good fun. Which reminds me if, like me and Barry Brooking – you are into second-hand paperbacks from Clic Sargent, don't delay much longer. I hear that they are to close in/by August. I shall miss them.

We enjoy The Bookshelf, both for books, coffee and nibbles. I gather that The Trackside Café, run by the same folk as the leisure centre's Poolside Café, has opened down at the station. We might give it a go. Our eldest waxes lyrical about the one at the leisure centre.

Finally – politics. Theresa May has recently urged compromise as an honourable solution in politics: “Compromise is not a poisonous word... polarisation is bad for politics”. The Tory Theresa May got on very well with the Socialist Frank Field. They were politicians of sense and sensitivity prepared to come to agreement that ignored politics. Field, recently deceased, wrote well. Try his “Saints & Heroes” or his “Politics, Poverty and Belief”

Bob Munro

## Saltash Scrapstore & Too

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

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

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

### Donations & Sales

**Bring your unwanted STUFF along to us!**

We will make sure it is put to good use by recycling it.

**Art \* Sewing \* Craft \* Household**

No clothes, shoes books (*apart from craft books*)

We will take anything that someone can use or reuse and try and find the best home for it!

**Do You...Need Art & Craft Supplies?**  
...Have a Household Project to tackle?

...Have Youngsters to Amuse?

Craft Kits - Card Making – Pine Cones  
Tapestry Wool – Knitting Wools  
Dressmaking and so much more

Partyware & Gifts Galore

Why not drop by and see how we can help you?

...And, of course, our 'members only' scrap shelves

FULL of a great selection of items

**Not a member yet? Come By & Join**

£6 Annual Fee & Save 10% all on purchases.

**New!! Check out our Bulk Buys**  
**And our Daily Specials!**

**You will love these Fantastic Bargains**  
**In Too**

### Scrapstore Too

**We have a variety of Electrical & DIY - items for sale - see our vast range on display**

We have a regular and changing supply of Electrical items donated

All items are tested for electrical safety.

When donating electrical items please be aware that we can only accept items that are working and in good clean condition.

**Items that are not clean are a health hazard to our staff and volunteers**

**Volunteers Required!!**

A variety of roles to suit everyone.  
No experience required.

Please Join us if you have a few hours to spare

**SEE YOU SOON!**

Please call in or

Contact the Scrapstore & Too

66 & 89 Fore Street Saltash or

Visit our Facebook Page Saltash Scrapstore

Recycling for our future Charity No 1129760

New sign - New look - Newly named ...

## Windy Ridge Cafe

It's Just the start of the exciting changes in store this Year

- \* Stunning Views
- \* Children's Play Area
- \* Warm & Friendly Staff
- \* Dog Friendly (*Well behaved only*)
- \* Just off Trerulefoot Roundabout
- \* Coaches & Large Bookings Welcome (*Booking advised*)

### Serving Sunday Carveries

from 12 noon

Vegan – Vegetarian & Specials Board



**See Our Weekly Specials!**

Visit our FB Page for more details

**Breakfast \* Lunch \* Dinner**

We have added Ploughmans  
Plus the Pizza's are back  
And there's more ...

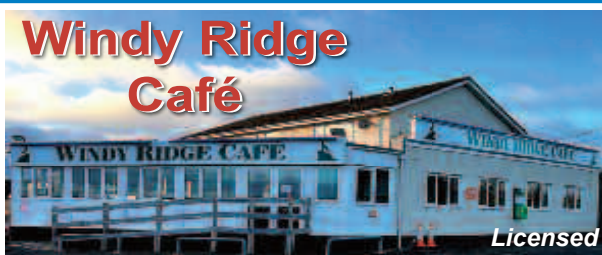
Come in & see for yourself.

**Sunday Carveries \* Daily Specials**  
Delicious Homemade Cakes \*

### Special Childrens Menu

Whole Menu Available  
to Takeaway

**Fish Friday – Sm £15.00 - Lge £22.00**  
2 x Cod Chips & Peas



— Large Car Park —



See our Stunning views while enjoying your meal

**Open 7 Days a Week**

Mon - Thurs 9am - 5pm

Fri - Sat 9am - 8pm Sun 9am - 7pm



Monday - Saturday served until 11:45am  
Sunday served until 11:30am

**Whole Cheesecakes to Takeaway - two sizes**  
& a wide range of flavours to choose from

**Sat 29th June**  
**Biker Buffet**  
**Breakfast**

Everyone Welcome  
See Our FB for More Info



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