

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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March 2015 - Issue 272

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Its Bill and Hilary for Mayor and Deputy

This year's deputy Mayor Councillor Bill Phillips was honoured and delighted to be unanimously elected by his fellow Councillors as Mayor of Saltash for 2015 – 16. He will be formally chosen in May to take over from current Mayor Mrs Jean Dent.



Bill and Jean Philips

There were two candidates put forward for next year's deputy mayor, Councillor Hilary Frank was proposed by Councillor Bob Austin and seconded by Joe Ellison, Councillor John Brady was proposed by Councillor Gloria Challen and seconded by James Shepherd. On a vote Councillor Frank was chosen by 8 to 3.

The Mayor elect, Bill Phillips, whose wife Jean will serve as Mayoress, is a man of Kent but has lived in Saltash for over thirty years where his three adult sons have been educated. He has retired after a career in engineering and has been prominent in various organisations including Saltash Rotary, of which he is Past President, and the Tamar Trotters. We are pleased to confirm that he is happy to continue the tradition, followed by every Mayor in the 'Saltash Observer's' twenty three year history of contributing a monthly column 'From the Mayor's Parlour' to update readers on his year of office.

The new Deputy Mayor elect is a 'proper Cornish maid' born in Redruth and educated in Penzance and Truro. Hilary Frank then

studied Japanese at London's prestigious School of Oriental and African Studies before moving to live in Japan for eleven years. It was there that she met her husband and 'Deputy Mayor's consort elect Shojiro. They met at a sumo wrestling ceremony and were married in a Shinto Shrine, subsequently having their marriage blessed in Landulph Church. Hilary joined the Town Council at a by-election in 2010 and has been a County Councillor since 2013. As well as being a mother to two girls aged nine and five attending Bishop Cornish School she is Vice Chair of Governors at that school and sits on the young children's' portfolio advisory committee of Cornwall Council. As Deputy Mayor she intends to focus especially on young people's issues.

She has also been highly involved in organising major events from the Olympic Torch run to the annual Christmas festival and still finds time to work as a self employed translator of Japanese.



Wreckers Morris cheque presentation
See Article on page 4

Town Councils Example as Living Wage Employer

Seeking to set an example to responsible businesses Saltash Town Council has become a 'living wage employer'. This means that the eleven full and part time staff currently employed by the town, plus any additional employees will as of this April be paid a minimum wage of £7.85 per hour. As well as this the Council will seek to ensure when agreeing or renewing contracts that all contracted staff working on Council premises or property receive at least this same living wage. The Living Wage Foundation calculates this sum annually and payment of it is voluntary, unlike the lower assessed minimum wage.

Saltash Town Council staffing committee recommended to full council that staff salaries be raised to ensure that all received at least the living wage while fair differences in pay were retained to reflect different levels of responsibility. The Council accepted the recommendation.

"We are very mindful of our duty to spend public money responsibly but we are also mindful of our responsibility to be a good employer, to care about the standard of living in our community and to set a good example," said Mayor

of Saltash Councillor Mrs Jean Dent. She added, "We believe that we are one of the first Town Councils in Cornwall to make this move and we are very pleased to be setting this example".

South East Cornwall has one of the lowest average wages in the country, according to the TUC, with around 40% of the working population receiving less than the living wage. Saltash Council's action is calculated to raise the Council Tax bill by around 3%.

Vandalism and Neglect

Saltash Town Council recently wrote to Tesco to express their concern over the vandalism at their site on the edge of the town.

There had been some security measures put in place by Tesco but these had been unsuccessful. They have since negotiated with Cornwall Council for CORMAC Ltd to have free use of the site as a compound from which to conduct road repairs, enabling them to store their vehicles on site.

Hopefully this will solve the problem of vandalism and neglect on this prominent area at the edge of our town.

Road West of Saltash Is Bad For Business

Top priority for local businesses in South East Cornwall is a major upgrade of the A38 between the Tamar Bridge and Bodmin, according to a survey carried out by the South East Cornwall Collective Chamber of Commerce. The group, of which Saltash Chamber of Commerce is a member, is calling on Cornwall Council and the Local Enterprise Partnership to make the A38 their next priority now that funding for the A30 has been secured.

Top priority for businesses is increasing the reliability of the road, especially the single carriageway stretch between Carkeel and Trerulefoot where accidents frequently cause delays and road closures. Half of the businesses who responded said that their business was seriously affected by the unreliability of journeys on this road leading to late deliveries, overtime payment for staff and difficulties for customers.

"This was just a quick and small survey but it revealed a real strength of feeling that we really need the A38 to be improved to help our businesses compete and grow", said local business

owner and Liskeard Chamber Secretary Jane Pascoe.

Phil Hutton, the Liberal Democrat candidate for South East Cornwall has given his support to the campaign to improve the road. "The local Chambers of Commerce have done a great job in providing the evidence needed to support my campaign", he said. "Business leaders in the area are fed up with the unreliability of the A38. Time and again businesses have delays in deliveries or miss vital meetings because of issues on the A38. Only recently huge problems were caused by a crane tipping over at Trerulefoot. South East Cornwall deserves a better road system."

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We live in a Cornwall of stark contrasts. I do not mean just the differences in terrain and topography for which the county is famous. Neither do I mean the tremendously varied, or as some people put it, "interesting" weather that we receive. Unfortunately I mean something rather more unpleasant. Yes, this is going to be an interestingly depressing column, so stop here if you wish.

To put this in context, I was present at a discussion about what threats there are to the life and well being of the residents of Cornwall - including to you and me in Saltash. This informal debate centred around Cornwall Council and discussed a variety of aspects such as health; roads and other services - all the usual stuff caused mostly and directly by government cuts to the rate support grants. However as I see it most people there shied away from discussing what I sincerely believe are the biggest threats to our futures in this county.

In the long term one of the physical threats will be the steady rise in sea levels caused by global warming - sadly most of this threat is absolutely unavoidable now because of the built-in thermal expansion of the seas, which will cause most of the rise. Many seaside communities will be affected, including Saltash, and sadly no government will have the resources to deal with the immense nature of the problem.

But it's not that I'm most concerned about. Nor is it the other real issue which is the mounting distrust in and cynicism about politicians, councillors and governance generally (of both the national and local type), although that is bad enough if it leads us into the hands of extremist parties.



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For Observer readers

Derek Holley, Cornwall Councillor,
Saltash East



No, my real concern about the future of both Cornwall and the UK is the seemingly inexorable rise in inequality in our society. Effectively that means the widening wealth and resources gap between the rich and the poor, the haves and have-nots, the well-paid and the poorly paid, the housed and the un-housed, the second-home owners and the un-homed, even the house owners and the resentful forced renters. This is undoubtedly something we all give some sort of lip service to - and then push under the carpet. Unfortunately history shows that every society that has ever been that does not address inequality, and allows it to grow, ends up with social unrest, then riot and then revolution. As a town, as a county and as a nation that will be our future if it is not dealt with.

Don't delude yourself into thinking this won't affect lovely Cornwall. Do not think this does not affect Saltash. In our nice middle class town are five pockets of registered child poverty, of food poverty and much depression. Most people do not want to, or cannot, or do not have the tools to look beneath the surface. So why am I saying this? True this will probably not trouble us for some years yet but surely as swedes are not turnips this will come back to bite us if nothing is done.

What can be done? Probably what most people want, what would satisfy them would be the likelihood of a job giving

self respect, some money in the pocket, food on the table and a house of their own (and being able to put down a deposit and not being at the financial mercy of a landlord). So we need proper jobs in Saltash, not minimum wage jobs, and enough houses to bring prices down - and yes that means considering building all around our towns, spoiling our views of Latchbrook, Churchtown Farm, North Pill, wherever. I have totally changed my mind on this. That means building on the "green belts" around the town, building at the bottom of our gardens and ruining the local countryside - I don't like it either but - tough - the alternative in the long run is unthinkable - see above.

This is what you do. You start off by constantly harassing your MP. Ask them what they are actually doing, really doing about inequality and follow up their answers. What practically are they doing about local jobs? How much do they pay their staffs? What are they going to do about the huge deposits asked for house purchase? What do they really think about the buy-to-let phenomenon, which by pushing prices up is effectively seriously harming the chances of young people buying a house? What are they really doing about second homes and how it is pricing (with buy-to -lets) a whole Cornish generation out of home ownership? You might care to ask them how many members of parliament have one or more second homes. Constantly hassle Cornwall Councillors like myself and all the Town Councillors. Do it. Write to the Prime Minister, ask him to sleep on a mattress on the floor and eat sandwiches for every meal. Do it.

I know by now I will have upset quite a few groups of people. Tough. I know too that I am not in a poor position myself; I suppose I am a typical baby-boomer. But it is worth thinking about. I think that in the long run, this issue is by far and away the biggest threat to nice, rural Cornwall.

I promise to get back next time to litter louts and the few dog-owners who spoil our streets and parks. Outside things are stirring in the soil, my seed potatoes, though expelled (unfairly) by my wife from the bedroom, are chitting nicely in the shed, I have sown tomato seed, spread some manure and all I want is a bit of drying weather - please. Have a good spring.

Saltash Citizen Award And Saltash Young Citizen Award 2015

Each year Saltash Town Council, in conjunction with the Rotary Club, select a Saltash resident to receive the Saltash Citizen Award.

This is a prestigious award which goes to a man or woman who has served his or her community in some special way. It could be an outstanding one-off contribution to the well-being of the Town or consideration will be given also to a person who has given a period of service to the Town, not just in the prior year, however the person must still be active and cannot be an employee or member of Saltash Town Council.

There is also a similar

award for the Young Citizen, who should be under the age of 21 and living in Saltash.

Nominations for this year's awards are now being requested. A note specifying the reasons for the suggestion should accompany each recommendation.

Nominations should be sent to the Town Clerk, Mr. Ray Lane, The Guildhall, 12 Lower Fore Street, Saltash, PL12 6JX or by e-mail to reception@saltash.gov.uk by Monday 13th April, 2015.

Ray Lane, Clerk to the Town Council.

Town Supports A38 Improvements

Plans to improve the A38 between the Saltash by-pass and Trerulefoot Roundabout are now being reconsidered.

There were plans drawn up in the 1990's which included a controversial road viaduct over the river at Notter Bridge. They were subsequently shelved and now traffic from London or the North comes for hundreds of miles on motorway or fast dual carriageway to Saltash, then suddenly reaches a winding and hilly two lane highway. Accidents are frequent, often resulting in lane or road closure as well as injury and sometimes loss of life.

Saltash Town Council agreed to put representations to Transport for Cornwall supporting proposed improvements especially including by-passing the villages of Landrake and Tideford.

Second Arts Festival Gets Go-Ahead

Following the success of last year's highly successful Saltash Arts Festival funding has been granted to ensure what is hoped will be an even better second such event.

A wide variety of activities based largely around local businesses in the town centre helped increase footfall in the town as well as providing interest to residents and visitors, the Town Council has agreed. It has therefore agreed to a £2,500 grant towards this Summer's event.

This will be between 26th August and 9th September. Mrs Jill Male of 'Saltash Bookshelf', who organised it last year hopes that as many businesses as possible will organise an event during this period to ensure an even wider range of attractions.

In space no one can hear you...die !

After the success of their recent production, The Only Way is Panto, Burraton Community Players have announced their plans for the spring and summer.

Saturday April 4th sees the group host their regular fun quiz at the Burraton Community Centre. Teams of up to four will as usual pit their wits against each other as they attempt to win insubstantial prizes but untold of glory. With an entry fee of just £1.50 per person (payable on the night) an inexpensive fun night out is promised.

Meanwhile preparations are underway for the annual "Murder Mystery Evening". This has become a much appreciated feature of the Saltash dramatic calendar with audience and cast interacting in a night that features murderous mayhem, dastardly deeds and scandalous secrets.

July 11th is the date for murder on the moons of mars! a futuristic thriller from the pen of Miss Jill Price.

As usual, the price of a ticket (£6.00) includes a free pasty as sustenance for all who choose to exercise their little grey souls in deducing which of the characters has perpetrated the foulest of crimes.

Both events will begin at 7.30 pm

Further details may be obtained from Leigh Hughes on 01752 842109.

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Essa Files

In January Saltash Town Council voted in favour of my motion to become a 'living wage employer' - something that made me feel quite pleased and proud. The living wage is calculated each year to be the amount that a full time worker could afford to live on, based on prices and the cost of living. At the moment it is £7.85 outside of London - about £50 a week higher than the National Minimum Wage of £6.50, which over a year makes a significant difference.

Although the council is not a large employer - we have eleven full and part time staff - our duty of care to our staff is very important to us. It's also important that local councils lead by example when it comes to their role as an employer as well as a local authority.

Of course this decision had a financial implication - not least because we also raised the wages of our other employers, to ensure that wages still rise fairly with responsibilities, meaning that it amounted to between 3 and 4% of our annual budget. Obviously this then has a knock effect to local taxpayers. However, speaking as a taxpayer, I would personally much rather pay a bit more to know that the people working on my behalf were being properly looked after.

I do realise though that not every employer can afford to take this step, and I wouldn't criticise those owners or managers who genuinely feel that they cannot afford it and that paying the living wage would mean having to lose jobs. I also appreciate that other employers cannot do what we could do and raise their budget to pay for it by raising local taxes.

However I do think that those who know in their heart or hearts that they could afford to pay their lowest paid

workers a bit more should do so - not only because it has been shown to have a knock-on effect on staff morale and performance, but because it's the right thing to do.

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From The Mayor's Parlour...

Over the last few weeks there has been a lot of work done by Town Councillors in the different committees to decide on the precept that we need to carry out the projects for the coming year. Many of these are on-going, such as grit bins, grounds maintenance, staffing and the Guildhall. Some are newer projects such as public toilets, the new cemetery and youth working. We have always looked at the priorities that the town gave us when making decision.

At the last full council meeting the councillors decided on the next Mayor and Deputy Mayor to carry on from mid-May. I would like to welcome Cllr Bill Phillips as your next Mayor and Cllr Hilary Frank as your next Deputy Mayor. However I do have a lot of work still to do between now and then!

A recent civic event that Bill and I attended was The Saltash Festival of Music Drama and Dance. I am aware that I keep repeating myself, but it is amazing what there is to do in Saltash. The talent that was on show from all age groups!

In a similar vein we were asked to The Burraton Community Players' pantomime ...The Only Way is Panto. What a glorious evening's entertainment. I shall always remember Cllr Yates as Rowland Arbuthnot singing 'I love to go awandering'. It will stay with me for quite some time!

The saga of the bridge and roundabout carries on apace. If you see construction vehicles on the hopefully-soon-to-be Tesco's site, these are there because Tesco has negotiated with Cornwall Council for them to use the site as a parking area for the work on the bridge. The Town Council had spoken to Tesco regarding the security of the site and this initiative will mean that the site is used, and that this will hopefully deter vandalism.

Cllr Jean Dent, Town Mayor

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Hail and Farewell At The Bookshelf

After seven years as the friendly faces behind one of Saltash's most popular independent shops Jill Male and her sister Pip are at last taking well deserved retirement. But the good news is that the Bookshelf will continue to offer the same friendly and efficient service with its new owners continuing to provide the attraction that only an independent bookshop can alongside the popular tea room, and with new themes planned for the near future.

While looking forward to retirement Jill admitted to having regrets, particularly in missing her many regular customers who have become friends. "Many of them remember our birthdays and we have been overwhelmed with retirement cards and presents. I cannot thank them enough", said Jill. She originally took over a smaller shop before moving into the bright corner site and with Pip's aid running a tea and coffee shop specialising in homemade fare alongside the books. "I have especially enjoyed bringing writers, and readers together by organising events in the shop and at outside venues", she added. She now looks forward to



having more time to enjoy local walks and is undergoing training to become part of the Cornwall Coastwatch team. She will continue living in Saltash, while Pip, who lives near Totnes, will be working from her home.

The Observer particularly

thanks Jill and Pip for continued friendship and support over the past seven years and wishes them all happiness in their retirement. We also welcome newcomers Andrew, Debbie and Paul and wish them well in their new venture.

Police Vehicle Check Brings Results

A recent vehicle check organised by the special constabulary in Saltash resulted in 39 vehicles being stopped. One driver was summonsed for road related offences and two vehicles were searched resulting in a driver being given a warning for possession of cannabis. In addition five drivers were issued with vehicle defect rectification forms, three were told that their details would be forwarded to the central ticket office for further consideration and one driver was instructed to produce driving documents at the local police station.

During January there were 178 calls received by the police from Saltash and the rural area around, a written report by local police to the Town Council advised. Many of these related to domestic matters where police assisted and other cases where vulnerable children and adults were referred to appropriate agencies. Of the offences reported 27 related to anti-social behaviour including neighbour disputes, rowdy individuals, noise and nuisance vehicles.

In Saltash there were also 20 thefts reported, 8 criminal damage, 5 assaults, 5 burglaries, 1 robbery, 1 drugs offence, 3 public order offences, 2 animal related offences, 1 communication offence and 1 driving offence. There were also burglaries in Landrake and Pillaton, and also in Pillaton a drugs and a handling of stolen goods offences.

Support for St. Mellion By-Pass

The village of St. Mellion which suffers from constant traffic including heavy goods vehicles pounding through its narrow village street is desperate for a by pass.

The main Callington to Saltash road, an important commuter route for those working in Plymouth, has long ago been improved to allow faster movement north and south of the village. As a result villages complain that traffic is endangering lives as it speeds through the village despite electronic signs informing drivers of their speed as they approach the narrow section through the village. Saltash Town Council, at the submission of County Councillor Derek Holley, has agreed to write in support of the St. Mellion parish council's efforts to seek that Cornwall Council provide a by pass.

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Saltash will Fund Support for Town's Youth

Saltash Town Council agreed to double its proposed financial support for youth work after discussion as to the affect on local ratepayers. Cornwall Council has now stopped giving any support for youth work, Councillor James Shepherd told fellow Councillors, save for extreme cases of children threatened with going into care.

There was no support for the majority who needed help through local youth organisations such as Livewire, which had lost all its financial backing from Cornwall. He had himself set up a youth service in St. Austell and from experience felt the £20,000 proposed from the Town Council budget was inadequate. He proposed doubling this to £40,000, adding that whatever the Town Council gave was likely to be match funded by outside bodies. "We are taking on a massive responsibility to the town's young people", he believed.

The council's precept had previously anticipated an increase of 39%. The additional increase for young peoples' support would up it to around 45%. This would mean an increase in Council Tax for a Band D house of around forty pence a week that is £20 per year. "This would still be among the lowest Council Taxes in Cornwall, certainly for the County's major towns", added Councillor Adam Killeya.

It was unanimously agreed by the Town Council to approve the proposed budget as recommended by its policy and resources committee with an amendment to increase the funding for youth services to £40,000 for the following two years.

The overall budget was set using the results of the consultation process which last year sought public comments on where priorities should be. It included setting money aside for public toilets, the Christmas event, new parking orders and on-going commitment for street furniture and grit and litterbins. There will be £5,000 taken from reserves on the basis that the town is likely to be taking over various initiatives from Cornwall Council which Town Councillors believe that they can run better for the benefit of the town.

Museum Stewards are Thanked in Song

Following a year when record visitor numbers flocked to the Saltash museum to view the World War 1 themed exhibition it was fitting that the stewards who had welcomed these visitors should be entertained by a concert of 'Songs that Won the War'.

The musical troupe put together by committee member Sharon Lambert performed at the party traditionally given to the stewards by way of thanks for being the welcoming faces of Saltash Heritage. "We have had many reports of how excellent our volunteers are in making visitors from near and far feel welcome and in

Ann Speaks Again

A local lady who has been telling of her life on the Tamar since October 2013 recently lost her voice. Saltash's famous talking bench talked no more.

Now, Ann Glanville speaks once more to residents and visitors about nineteenth century Saltash and her own legendary life as an oarswoman racing on the Tamar and beyond. After repairs costing £162.00 and paid for by monies given by Waitrose for town centre enhancement the attraction, especially popular with children, is in full working order.

The Talking Bench is believed to be unique, at least in the South West, and visitors to the town's museum from across the region have said that they came to Saltash especially to sit next to Ann Glanville and hear her tell her tales in her rich local accent.

Well done! Amanda Wells



Saturday 7th March 2015 a group of Morris dancers namely "Wreckers Morris" presented "Cornwall Air Ambulance" with a cheque for £1,100 at Newquay Airport, this had been raised by the group over the last year. After the cheque presentation Wreckers Morris were allowed to dance in front of the helicopter, which was a real joy. The Morris Team

between May and September they rattle there collecting tins and have various events within the group. Our Annual Duck race is always our big day when 500 ducks swim for there life and raise money for our charity and also a prize for the owner of the winning duck. Amongst our group 1 individual Amanda Wells raised over half the money herself she did various car boot sales, Raffles and Table Tops, you name it she sold it, a massive commitment on her part.

Hopper Bus: "Use it or Lose it"

Saltash residents are being given a "use it or lose it" warning over the Hopper Bus service run by the town's not-for-profit community interest company.

Saltash Gateway CIC has been operating the 16 seater wheelchair accessible minibus as an on demand (not scheduled) bus service to enable journeys not easily served by public transport within the PL12 area and beyond. The service has been heavily subsidised from the start, but needs to be self-funding if it is to continue.

Marketing Director Helen Neville said: "The CIC board members have agreed to fund a make-or-break push for business, to test whether there is sufficient demand to sustain a community bus in Saltash. We will review the situation at the end of the summer and go forward from

there. We could be faced with cutting the Hopper Bus altogether – but if passenger use soars we may need to consider increasing the fleet.

"The Hopper has the potential to be a huge asset for the area. It could be taking youngsters from villages like Cargreen and Hatt into Livewire or the Saturday Cinema, it could be enabling pensioners and wheelchair users to get into town to shop. But so far there has been limited uptake. There is so much happening in Saltash every day which the Hopper Bus makes accessible to people not served well by public transport."

The CIC is putting together an enthusiastic team of 'bus champions' who will be key to matching unique Hopper journeys with passenger groups. There could be regular runs connecting PL12 villages with Saltash, tailored trips to events like Port Elliot Festival or days out off the regular public transport routes.

Helen added: "Money has been set aside to offer some free or very cheap seats during the trial period, and there will be extensive advertising to get the 'Use it or Lose It' message across. It is important people use the service and show there is a need for it to continue."

If you think the Hopper Bus could solve your transport problem get in touch on 01752 848348 or call in to 4 Fore Street to discuss your trip.

explaining the exhibits', Heritage Chairman Martin Gee told them, adding that the visitors book is filled with favourable comments on the volunteer stewards.

The concert of World War I songs, interspersed with readings of local wartime memories, followed refreshments with hot pasties much appreciated on a chill January day.

This year's exhibition will feature a selection of the fascinating and amazing exhibits held in store by Heritage and not previously shown – thus entitled 'Tales of the Unexhibited'. It will open at Easter and be on through the summer.

Anyone willing to give a few hours of stewarding is always welcome. Full training is given and stewards are never left alone in the museum. Anyone interested is invited to call Heritage Secretary Elizabeth Sharp-Sprey on 01752 847800



Do you live in PL12 and struggle to get out and about on public buses?

Would your local group or club enjoy day trips but can't find affordable transport?

Have you thought about asking the Hopper Bus for help?

- 16 Seater Minibus - can carry up to 6 wheelchairs
- Driven and managed by volunteers
- One-off or regular trips
- For organisations and individuals in and around Saltash area

Interested? Call the Hopper Bus Team in the Community Market

Tel: 01752 848348

email: info@communityenterprisespl12.co.uk

A Saltash Gateway CIC initiative

March Ahead – With Spring In The Air

The chill easterly winds that blew across the Tamar in early February gave way, by Valentine's Day, to our more customary warm westerly winds. Almost overnight it seemed there were signs of spring about us. The birds, who according to custom find their mates on Valentine's Day, were busy singing as though their minds were already on spring nest building.

The Cornish lanes had long been lined with snowdrops, and harbingers of late Winter. On a sunny walk along the lanes from Callington to Launceston in mid February we had delighted to discover hedge banks around Linkinhorne and Trebulet smothered in snowdrops, to be captured in photograph. But we also enjoyed spying the first early yellow awakening of celandine and primroses peeping through, encouraged by the sunshine.

Soon the lanes will be bedecked with wild daffodils as well as amassed with primroses. Our resident birds will be in full chorus competing in song with early arrivals of summer visitors.

While each of our season brings its own delights a Cornish Spring has a magic that can never fail to bring new life and promise to those of us fortunate to live hereabouts, just as the sap rises and the first leaves unfold.

Now is the time to shake off any winter lethargy from dark days and get out to enjoy early spring sunshine. The days are already lengthening, mod March brings the Spring Equinox and with Palm Sunday on the 29th an extra hour of evening light as Summer time

officially begins. Then a week later is all the fun and excitement of Easter with Easter bunnies and chocolate eggs to enchant the youngest, and the first long holiday of the year for us all to get out and rediscover the delights of our glorious countryside and coastline.

For discovering the countryside close at hand your own Saltash Observer special book 'A Quality of Life' is still available with its wide variety of gorgeous walks short and long, close to town and further afield.

*And as we move on to a season
'when daisies pied, and violets
blue*

*And lady-smocks all silver-
white*

*And cuckoo – buds of yellow
hue*

*Do paint the meadows with
delight'*

*We wish all of our readers the
very best of spring and summer
to enjoy and share all the
delights that the longer,
warmer days have to offer*

*those of us fortunate enough to
live in our corner of Cornwall.*

To purchase a copy of "A Quality of Life" our book of walks you can call Mary Crawford on T: 01579 345699 M: 07971484872 E: marye.crawford@virgin.net

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Observer Charity Quiz – Interest is Hotting Up

The interest and excitement is already building since we made mention of our Grand Saltash Observer Charity Quiz last month. We have already been overwhelmed with those who have booked Wednesday 15th April to come and share in what promises to be a fun evening to remember.

But with up to sixty tables to be filled and with our hope of raising a truly spectacular sum for a charity with which almost all of us can identify we are hoping to bring even more of our great readership on board. We now have every hope of breaking a record for the biggest quiz ever in the Ploughboy Inn where landlord Mike is waiting to welcome us all at 7.30 that evening.

We are also already collecting prizes from our ever-generous friends but would welcome even more for the mega raffle.

The evening is in support of Cancer Research in general and Prostate Cancer in particular – the South West being a black spot for this particular form of the dreaded disease. Most of us can sadly identify with the cause as there are few who have not suffered a family member or friend affected. Our Editor Mary is one whose family has recently been so affected and she with other family members are all organising a wide variety of charity fund raising events of which the Ploughboy quiz promise to be one of the major attractions.

Quiz teams will consist of four members each but we will be happy to help match up those who cannot make a foursome. The entrance fee of £3.75 per

head includes a platter of food per table. Those who book and pay in advance are promised their own special table reserved in advance for the evening.

To help ensure that approximate numbers are known and can be catered for it would be greatly appreciated if prospective entrants contact Mary in advance to book their places and help us confirm full tables. Payment can be in advance or on the evening.

With sixty tables to fill we hope for a bumper turn out but we are aware that a few who are keen to support us are unable to attend and have instead promised a cash donation or raffle prize. These of course are greatly appreciated, and any non-quiz person would be more than welcome to volunteer as runners, raffle sales person or general helper.

Raffle tickets are already on sale at 'Petit Pain' in Fore Street by the Brunel, Sue and Geoff having kindly offered to sell them in advance. Our thanks go to them and to the many others who are already committed to supporting us.

Please help us to fill the last of the tables...do it today!

Book a table by contacting Mary on

Telephone: 01579 345699

Mobile: 07971 484872 or

E: marye.crawford@virgin.net

Young Players to the Fore in Burraton Pantomime

For their twenty-fourth annual pantomime the Burraton Community Players broke from the classic musicalised magic tale of good triumphing over evil. Instead they chose to showcase in particular their younger talent in what was more a pantomime about panto.

'The Only Way is Panto' written as usual by thespian troupers Leigh Hughes and Jill Price was more in the 'High School Musical' tradition following as it did the fortunes of the six girls (and one boy) Burraton Belles seeking to realise their big chance.

Featuring as it did curmudgeonly coach driver (Gordon Neighbour) harassed producer (David Yates) and the ultimate in embarrassing competitive mothers (Diane Swallow, Jill Price and Sue Court) it allowed plenty of cues for humour and drama as well as song and dance.

Dame of a plethora of pantomimes Leigh Hughes this year played retired theatrical landlady Marlene with her monosyllabic sister Madge, (Christine Woolcock).

The plot pursued much of the panto tradition involving as it did disappearing juvenile leads lost in the woods, and concluding with pairing of

principals and grand transformation scene before the final walk down. All the cast entered fully into the pantomime spirit, especially the youngest member Harry Collicott a very lively portrayal.

We now look forward to a really special 25th panto production next Winter when our friends at Burraton will reprise an updated version of their very first show 'Sleeping Beauty'.

**The Saltash Observer
Big Charity Quiz Night
The Ploughboy Inn
Wed 15th April
7.30pm**

Please Support us by
Booking a table of 4 People
(It is important to
confirm tables)

To confirm your table
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M: 07971 484872
E: marye.crawford@virgin.net

Donations for Raffle Prizes
are very welcome!

Tales of Your Observer Told to Inner Wheel

A current colourful copy of the 'Saltash and District Observer' was contrasted with its very first edition dated August 1992 by members of Saltash Inner Wheel.

The Observer team of Mary Crawford, Editor, and 'ace' reporter Martin Lister had been asked to address the monthly meeting on the history of your independent local newspaper, its beginnings and its objectives. Martin Lister read from the first editorial in which your 'Observer' promised to keep its readership aware of local news and events while ceaselessly promoting local business and encouraging shopping in Saltash, aims which it has continued to promote into its 23rd year.

He spoke of the many interesting people whom he

had met along the decades, prominent local and national figures and lesser-known individuals who have quietly worked for the community. He also outlined some of the more amusing events of the last 23 years.

Editor Mary Crawford then spoke of the Observer's various charitable events she had organised and in particular the forthcoming charity quiz at the Ploughboy in regard to which the Inner Wheel promised to participate and be among the sixty or so teams competing for super prizes while enjoying a fun evening out in the community.

New Parking Charges to be Fixed

Parking charges in Saltash are to be varied by Cornwall Council with a view to standardising them throughout the county.

Two alternative scales of charges have been put forward. One is sixty pence for the first hour and £1.40 for two hours, the other is fifty pence for one hour and £1.60 for two. Charges would rise to £3.50 and £4.50 for longer stay.

The Saltash Town Improvement Group has opted for the second alternative as had the town's Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The Town Council however, after discussion, sought a third alternative of fifty pence for one hour, £1.50 for two. This was on the basis that less coins would be required if parking fees were rounded off, making matters easier for motorists. This option was referred back to Cornwall Council.

Whatever rate is decided upon the Saltash Town Centre Improvement Group (STIG) hopes to introduce a scheme whereby local traders will refund parking fees when tickets are produced as a purchase is being made.

Suggestions Sought on Bus Routes

The Community owned Hopper Bus is not being used to capacity and public views are sought as a full scale review of community transport is planned. Saltash Gateway Community Interest Company is keen to increase usage and its Chair, Peter Thistlethwaite, advised that if it is proved viable grants might be available to purchase a second bus.

Any suggestions as to occasional or regular routing of the disabled-friendly vehicle are welcome.

One suggestion has been to provide a regular scheduled service to Derriford Hospital. Another local company has been considering this.

The town's Community Interest Company would be delighted to run a hospital link, Mr. Thistlethwaite confirmed. This could only be done however if there were two buses and a paid driver would have to be employed as with hospital appointments fixed at all times and running for indefinite periods of time it would be a full time service for one such bus.

Suggestions for use of the vehicle can be put to the CIC through their shop 'For Saltash' at the foot of Fore Street or via email chair@communityenterprisepl12.co.uk

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The Saltash & District Observer
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Phil Officially Adopted as Election Candidate

Phil Huddy has been formally adopted by the Liberal Democrats as their parliamentary candidate for the forthcoming General Election. The adoption, which is not legally required but comes from a long tradition of formally adopting candidates as a 'starting gun' to the election campaign, took place in St Keyne village hall on Friday.



Phil was introduced by Dan Rogerson, MP for North Cornwall, who described Phil as 'a dedicated, hard-working campaigner who will be a strong voice for the area'. The motion for adoption was then proposed by the President of South East Cornwall Lib Dems George Hocking, who has been a member of the party for around 70 years, seconded by Colin Breed, MP for South East Cornwall from 1997-2010, and unanimously passed.

From Dickensian London to Today – The Barnardo Experience

Dickensian London, when half of the funerals were for children under ten who had died of malnutrition or disease, was the background of the talk to Saltash Old Cornwall Society in February, Mrs Mo Harris spoke on 'The Barnardo Experience' being herself a member of the National Council of Old Boys and Girls.

She first outlined the life of Dr. Thomas Barnardo who was training to be a medical missionary in China when he founded a ragged school in a donkey shed in London. When one ten year old boy was reluctant to leave as he had no home or family to go to Dr. Barnardo began to discover the extent of child poverty alongside the wealth of Victorian London. He began with a Home for Destitute Boys in Stepney, accommodating 25 such boys. After one boy, for whom there was no room, died of hypothermia, Dr. Barnardo placed a still extant sign 'No destitute child ever refused admission' and adopted the policy of 'the ever open door'!

Later with his wife he was to establish a village for destitute girls in Barkingside. It was to that village that the guest speaker, Mrs Harris was

taken aged three with her siblings. Though they were to return intermittently to what proved a chaotic family lifestyle, Dr Barnardos' was always open to them. Mrs Harris described her childhood and how, as an adult, she worked with young people in order to give something back, after Barnardos' had supported her at a critical time and made her a stronger person for it.

Barnardos' no longer run large children homes, she advised, but continues to serve children within the community alongside social services. In his vote of thanks Society Secretary Martin Lister referred to the many changes since the horrors of Dickensian London, and the changes that Barnardos have made to ensure that while the need is there they remain true to Doctor Thomas' promise of 'the ever open door'.

Speaking after the meeting Colin said "This area deserves a listening, caring MP who will dedicate themselves to serving local people. Phil is my personal recommendation as a successor to fight effectively for the residents of South East Cornwall"

Phil said "I am delighted to have been formally adopted as the candidate. I have already knocked on thousands of doors this year, and pledge to knock on thousands more, to engage with residents and listen to what they have to say".

Conundrum Corner

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

- 1 In which fictional land does Noddy live? (7)
- 2 In which group of Greek Islands is Corfu found? (6)
- 3 Which fruit is obtained from the tree of the genus Phoenix? (5)
- 4 In which Country did the October Revolution take place? (6)
- 5 Who marries Mr. Winkle in the Pickwick Papers? (8)
- 6 In which English county would you find the Slimbridge Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust? (15)
- 7 Apart from the Kangaroo which other animal appears on the Australian Coat of Arms? (3)
- 8 Which section of an Orchestra is known as the Kitchen Department? (10)
- 9 What name is given to the strong tail feather which directs a bird's flight? (6)

Answers on page 8

SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...



I was delighted to take the Justice Secretary Rt Hon Chris Grayling to visit Livewire Youth Project in Saltash a few weeks ago. For those of you not aware of the project their website describes, "Livewire is an independent long-standing youth charity based on the banks of the River Tamar in Saltash, Cornwall, offering support to young people through music and traditional youth work, helping steer them through the trials and tribulations of growing up. Our work includes aiding with difficult situations such as self harm, low self esteem, eating disorders, family and personal relationship issues, sexual health and drug and alcohol issues. We rely on the generosity of our supporters, fundraising and grants to help us continue delivering this valuable support."

Livewire was economically affected by the funding cuts to the Youth Service introduced by Cornwall Council but the Youth Workers Andy Rance and his wife Julie, along with the Management Committee, did not sit back a do nothing and are keeping the club going. They have received help from many organisations, including the Saltash Lions Club and Saltash Rotary Club. The club is still fundraising and you can make donations through their website.

Devonport dockyard plays a very important role in the economy of Saltash as well as the rural areas around the town and neighbouring Torpoint, Callington. Devonport Dockyard is the only site in the country capable of refitting and refuelling nuclear submarines.

In an unstable and uncertain world in which numerous countries are trying to develop nuclear weapons Britain cannot become defenceless against this threat.

That is why the

Conservatives are committed to replacing Trident and maintaining Britain's independent nuclear deterrent. Although a final decision will be taken in the next Parliament, we are already investing £350 million in design work for the new Successor nuclear submarines, securing 1,200 jobs, and £1.1 billion to build new nuclear reactors for the Royal Navy's submarines.

We remain committed to nuclear disarmament when it is done on an international basis and in a credible way – but as long as nuclear weapons exist Britain is committed to maintaining a continuous at sea nuclear deterrent.

Our coalition partner however seems to take a different view. The Defence Secretary, Michael Fallon MP, said in parliament on the 20th January 2015, "On one hand, the Liberal Democrats have said that they want to spend billions to "replace some of the submarines" and to make our deterrent part time. They have also committed themselves—at their most recent conference—to allowing our submarines to go to sea with unarmed missiles. Those would be pointless patrols, and that is a pointless nuclear deterrent policy. There are no Liberal Democrats in the Ministry of Defence, and the fact that they have adopted such a reckless and, frankly, dangerous approach explains why.

"This country faces the threat of nuclear blackmail from rogue states. It is therefore contemptible for the Scottish nationalists or the Liberal Democrats to suggest that they might use the ultimate guarantor of our freedom and independence as some kind of bargaining chip in some grubby coalition deal. To put it more simply, it is only the Conservative party that will not gamble with the security of the British people."

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St Stephens Community Primary School Represent S E Cornwall in Nationwide Parliamentary Project

I love being a parent and have enjoyed being part of every stage of our son's life so far, and as he plans his future it is wonderful to see him start to spread his wings.



Part of that process, is him starting to learn to drive. I can't say its been easy. Sitting in the passenger seat the first time as he tries, mostly in vain, to find the biting point on the clutch, has been an experience. But all too soon, I'm sure, he will be driving with confidence and it must be only a matter of time before he is asking to borrow the car for that "urgent" trip to the shops.

So far this must seem very familiar to you, either as a parent, or recalling learning to drive yourself.

What might be different though is the cost of the insurance for a young person driving a car today. For those of you who don't know, the insurance cost is simply eye-watering. For even the most basic of cars and cheapest insurance will undoubtedly set you back thousands of pounds, even if you have the maximum excess and agree to the most exclusions and restrictions, you may well still be looking at a quote which could easily dwarf the cost of the car itself.

This for me is a real concern, because of the impact this may have on his generation as they start the

road to working life.

Saltash, I know has a good bus service, but step a little bit out of the town and public services are limited and a car becomes a necessity rather than a luxury.

Of course I know that statistically younger drivers are the most likely to have an accident, but actually modern cars and roads are much safer now and yet the cost has spiralled ever higher. What concerns me is that we may well reach a tipping point and the occasional young person who fails to get any insurance becomes a more frequent event. I am sure the insurance companies will point to stats and costs as a way to justify the increase and cite ways to reduce the premium, but I am concerned that this cost may have already reached a point where it hinders job opportunities or may lead to a rural community without young people who are able to live and work there. There is much to do.

Phil Hutty
PC Lib Dems

St Stephens Community Primary School, Saltash in South East Cornwall has been revealed as one of 650 schools selected from across the United Kingdom to take part in a unique project that aims to connect young people with the democratic process and heritage.

In 2015 the Houses of Parliament will be celebrating two historic anniversaries that signify the beginnings of a journey to rights and representation in the UK, namely the 800th year of the sealing of the Magna Carta (1215) and the 750th anniversary of the Simon de Montfort parliament (1265).

To mark the Montfort parliament anniversary, where elected representatives of the shires and the boroughs came together for the first time, Parliament has selected a primary school in every constituency to create a flag that represents their area or community. This project forms part of Parliament's 2015 'Parliament in the Making' programme.

Artist Jonathan Parsons commented: 'The 2015 Flag Project has demonstrated not just the wonderful creativity and imagination of all the participants, but also affords a genuinely unique child's-eye view of the entire UK and its variety of local identities. From highlighting the natural environment of a constituency to drawing on myths, legends and history or showing a local

trade or industry, I have been delighted by the creativity and diversity of the submitted flag designs. The project has also offered a creative way to connect young people to the special 2015 de Montfort anniversary year, celebrating 750 years of the House of Commons and the local representation we know today. Flags are a perfect vehicle to encapsulate the project, being one of the key methods of representation for individual and group identities. I am thrilled to have been involved with a project designed to enable children to learn through creative work.'

Sheryll Murray MP very kindly arranged and gave the St Stephens School Council a tour of the Houses of Parliament on the 9th of February, which all the children thoroughly enjoyed. They also attended a 2 hour workshop on "How Laws are made". After travelling so far and in order to get the most out of their day, a little sightseeing was also included. The children from St Stephens School Council have worked together to create a fantastic design to reflect how they see South East Cornwall, using traditional flag making rules about colours, shapes and emblems. Nine children ranging from Year 6 down to Year 3 were involved in the design and creation of this flag.

In spring 2015 flags from all the selected schools across the UK will 'fly' online via a digital exhibition and a limited number will be stitched into



large flags to fly at a special event in Parliament Square. The project will then be rolled out as a national opportunity for all schools to join in and add their flag to the digital exhibition with support from a free flag-making kit. Schools that take part from that point will be able to add their flag to the online gallery until December 2015.

The online exhibition will also enable schools to share their flag design with the rest of their community and the wider public and generate a profile for South East Cornwall amongst their peers.

Neighbourhood Plan Consultant Agreed

Up to £25,000 is to be spent by the Town Council on professional consultants to guide the town's neighbourhood plan.

Such a plan is essential, former Mayor Councillor David Yates has stated, in order to ensure that the town can plan for its own future development and not have such development enforced upon it from outside. For such a neighbourhood plan to be acceptable there must be consultation and input from every section of the community.

Three prospective consultants, Councillor Yates advised the Council, has been interviewed and he recommended that two such consultants with different but wide-ranging experience be appointed.

The Council agreed to delegate authority for two such consultants to be appointed, with the Town Council to approve costs before any contracts were signed.

Bus Wars Create Chaos in Town Centre

Buses from two rival companies chasing and overtaking each other around Saltash are coming together to create gridlock in Fore Street.

This was the complaint of Town Councillors who agreed to write a strongly worded letter to both Citybus and First Bus companies asking them to re-arrange their schedules so that they do not arrive together. This would also provide a better service to passengers who would no longer have to wait up to twenty minutes for two buses to arrive at the same time.

'One day there were five buses gridlocked at the top of Fore Street', said Deputy Mayor Bill Phillips.

'Citybus have confirmed that it is their policy to drive First buses off this route,' added Councillor Joe Ellison.

It is hoped that the council's comments will be considered when the Summer schedules come into force in April.

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Local MP Sheryll Murray visited the Liskeard and District Museum for the launch of the new Enlightened Eye mining exhibition today. The event, opened by Lord

Lieutenant Colonel E T Bolitho OBE, took place throughout the museum with the new interactive segment in the mining exhibition.

The enlightened eye, which uses a digital microscope to mix art and science with close ups of minerals, allows the user to annotate and draw on the image selected and then upload these to the internet.

The Museum, which has been a part of the local community for many years, has grown from one room to four, housing everything from Liskeard's War artefacts, early twentieth century memorabilia and of course our mining culture.

Mrs Murray, who has always held an interest in the heritage of South East Cornwall – particularly the mining aspect – said, "As a Member of Parliament who has put through two Private Member's Bill, one on Deep Sea Mining, I am very pleased to be a part of the future of our

mining industry and also be a witness to our past and mining history at this museum in such an interactive and exciting new way."

The Museum which houses maps from Liskeard's history as well as showing the mining and geological elements of the District also had on display a map of Liskeard dating back to 1949 put together by Carlos and Fitzgerald Surveyors. This still holds relevance to the Liskeard we see today.

Sheryll said, "This Museum is really the jewel in the crown of Liskeard and anyone who can, should visit to ensure that they can get the most out of the heritage that is stored here."

Pictured: Sheryll at the opening of the Enlightened Eye.

Celebration of Achievement

Saltash.net's annual celebration of Post 16 Achievements took place in the school's main hall. Presenting the Advanced Level and BTec certificates to last year's Year 13 students was David Doidge, a former student of the school and now the Repetiteur of the Welsh National Opera.



Headteacher of saltash.net, Isobel Bryce, and Chair of Governors, Kate Waghorn, welcomed the ex-students and their family and friends, as well as many colleagues who had come along to share in the celebration of many successes – academic achievements and outstanding contributions to the school and local community.

Head of 6th Form, Nick Scantlebury, also commended the year group, emphasising how proud he was that for the first time in the school's history 100% of students had achieved the A Level results needed to take up a course at their first choice university.

David Doidge's message to the ex-students present was extremely well received. He spoke about the key things he had learnt during his undergraduate course in Music at The Royal Welsh College and during his Masters which he also undertook at the Royal Welsh College in Cardiff. His main focus was his belief that 'Life is a journey, not a destination' and that when things become difficult it is important to go back to the thing we feel most passionate about, for example music, reading, art, sport or dance.

David presented a number of individual awards to the following students:

Rebecca Hill - Warren Memorial Award
Lily Hemmett & Oliver Gilford - Award for Academic Achievement
Ella Fadida - Award for Academic Endeavour
Pearce Hancock - Award for Sporting Achievement
David Wunderle, Megan Day, - John Buller Awards
Chris Stafford, Jack Screech, Jamie Pullan

Giving the vote of thanks were Year 12 students Jasmine Donovan and Paul Gerry. They thanked David for giving up his time so generously and for continuing to give so much back to the Saltash community.

Closed Care Homes

The recent closure of three care homes in Saltash, Kingsleigh, Boisdale and Pengelly has resulted in a shortage of appropriate care facilities in the area. Cornwall Council's Chief Executive Andrew Kerr has agreed. Since the closure of the homes was driven by their owner and provider there was nothing that Cornwall Council could do to prevent this. However Mr. Kerr confirmed that all former residents had been found suitable alternative accommodation while those receiving respite had been offered alternative care as required.

In a response to a letter from Town Mayor Councillor Mrs Jean Dent, Mr Kerr went on to advise that Cornwall's Education Health and Social Care Commissioning Team is in the process of commissioning appropriate accommodation from which care services can be delivered.

The aim is to ensure that those who wish to live in Saltash can do so and benefit from the support network of familiar family members, friends and carers.



Local MP Visits Enlightened Eye

Easter Half Term activities 2015

Saltash Leisure Centre

Monday 30th March
Dance Academy

1pm - 3pm 5 - 10 years £5.00
A High Energy Fun Dance Class with choreographed routines to the latest music. Please wear suitable clothing and bring a drink

Tuesday 31st April - Nothing Planned
Wednesday 1st April - Nothing Planned

Thursday 2nd April
Aquatic Skills Workshop
10am - 12noon Stage 5 and above £11.60
A Fun Water Based Workshop, which aims to build a large range of skills including diving, water polo and synchronised swimming. Please bring swimming kit and a drink.

Friday 3rd April Bank Holiday

Saturday 4th April
Family Inflatable Session
3 - 4pm & 4 - 5pm 6 years & over (and adults) £4.10 per person
FREE to Breeze Learn & Swim/Breeze Active Member

An inflatable session for all the family to enjoy! Try out your skills on our new inflatable assault course! Great fun for all!
Please Note: All under 8's Must be accompanied by an adult, and all participants must be able to swim 25m unaided and be comfortable submerging in the deep end

Centre Opening Times

Mon - Fri 6.30am - 10pm

Sat 6.30am - 8pm

Sun 7.30am - 7pm

CONTACT US:

Tel: 01752 840940

saltash@tempusleisure.org.uk

www.tempusleisure.org.uk

Saltash Leisure Centre Callington Road Saltash PL12 6DJ

Monday 6th April - Bank Holiday

Tuesday 7th April
Activity Afternoon

1pm - 3pm 5 - 8yrs £5.00
Please bring a drink. An afternoon of activities and games guaranteed to keep your little one(s) entertained!

Wednesday 8th April - Nothing Planned

Thursday 9th April - Nothing Planned

Friday 10th April

Pool Party
10am - 12noon All Ages £3.50

Body boards, balls, super soakers and great music make this session great fun for all ages. Please note that all children under 8 years, must be accompanied by an adult & under 4s will still be charged the full price due to a restriction on numbers in the pool

Saturday 11th April
Family Inflatable Session
3 - 4pm & 4 - 5pm 6 years & over (and adults) £4.10 per person

FREE to Breeze Learn & Swim/Breeze Active Member
An inflatable session for all the family to enjoy! Try out your skills on our new inflatable assault course! Great fun for all!
Please Note: All under 8's Must be accompanied by an adult, and all participants must be able to swim 25m unaided and be comfortable submerging in the deep end

For more information on Holiday Activities please see our website or contact the centre Tel: 01752 840940 www.tempusleisure.org.uk

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