

# SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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March 2020 - Issue 336

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## College Closure Reason Given to Council

Mr John Evans, Principal of Cornwall College, put the reasons for the shock announcement that Cornwall College's Saltash campus will close this July to the Town Council. Cornwall College has been facing financial challenges for a number of years, he explained, and eighteen months ago the government stepped in with a bail out and paid off all current debts. This was however conditional on there being a rationalisation of the College's eleven sites. Mr Evans, who took on the post of Principal in October 2019 had to look at which sites were financially viable and which were struggling. Faced with a £5 million deficit over the next few years' decisions had to be made.

The decisions to close Saltash College was based on a number of factors, principal of which was that there was another college seven miles or so away which was rated fifth in the country, whereas closure of other campuses further into Cornwall would leave students with no viable alternative. All learners are on a one-year

programme and so could transfer, while the 74 staff could only be retained if learners wished to stay. "We had to look at it globally, while accepting that for students in Saltash it was not good news", Mr. Evans stated.

There were 169 students at Saltash College aged 16 - 18 of whom 45 came from Saltash, 58

from Plymouth, 38 from Liskeard and the remainder from elsewhere.

The entire Saltash site will be closing at the end of July, though Flying Start Nursery and The Core Youth Centre, not owned by the college, will continue.

The buildings will go on the market shortly and there has already been considerable interest both from those wishing to redevelop the site and those wanting to retain it for education purposes.

It was pointed out that Saltash Community School was built for 600 pupils, now has around a thousand with a long waiting list; so, could not the College buildings be adapted for their needs? If they wish to purchase the site it is open to them to put in an offer, Mr. Evans replied.

## Tamar Tested for Plastic Pollution

The Tamar estuary around Saltash is one of seven pilot sites in which data is being collected as part of the fight against plastic maritime pollution.

A major project involving eighteen partners in France and Britain have come together to reduce the volume of plastic in the English Channel and prevent the release of further such pollution. As a part of this an analysis of the volume of plastic passing into the Tamar is to be carried out by a number of agencies including the Environment Agency and Plymouth University and the Westcountry Rivers Trust.

## Roads 'Gig-Locked'



Photo Ian Robinson

Saturday March 7th, roads into Saltash were undisputedly 'gig-locked', as 78 six-oared, clinker-built 32-footers descended on the Tamar waterfront. The enthusiastic event was the annual 6-mile Three Rivers Race, (seen as a benchmark in the boat-racing calendar for the World Pilot Gig Championships in early May in the Scillies).

For 5 hours Brunel Green, a peaceful dog walkers' haven, became a buzzing boat-park, a serious maelstrom of multi-coloured craft, plus cox's, coaches, cushions and competitive crews, enhanced by such imaginative names as Pegasus, Arwenack, Black Ven, Rodney Bey, Phoenix, Tristan and Troy. Beneath the towering spans of the two bridges and a sombre sky,

almost 1000 very fit rowers fought it out, representing 51 clubs from the four southwest counties, as well as London, Bristol, Portsmouth and even Wales.

Battling the downriver long haul of a "challenging, but not horrendous" stiff breeze and incoming tide, they attained as much as 6 knots when going well. Saltash's own team, Caradon Gig Club, reputed as

'respected, and one of the clubs to beat', lived up to that claim with their combined ladies' and mens' times making them overall winners of the day. Well done, Caradon!

Come Sunday morning, as they trailered away protective runway boards, Old Mother Tamar kept on rolling, the dogs were back and all was quiet again.

Ian Robinson.

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April 2020

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## Town Must Pay New Staff Member to Handle Persistent Complaints

The council taxpayers of Saltash are to be faced with paying the salary of another full-time employee who is to be hired simply to deal with the persistent complaints and freedom of information applications of what is estimated as 0.005% of the town's population.

The current administration staff have for some months suffered an extreme workload dealing with the issues raised by this tiny minority, chair of the personnel committee Mrs Brenda Samuels told the full council. They are having to work longer hours to do so, approaching the 48 hours per week that is the EU limit. However efficient they are they cannot deal with these issues in less time and this situation cannot continue into the new financial year.

The cost of around £20,000 per annum is equivalent to a full-time salary based on a living wage. In a situation she described as "completely unprecedented in the history of Saltash Town Council" Mrs Samuels advised that there was no alternative to hiring another staff member to deal exclusively with these issues. All other alternatives had been considered. Unfortunately, the staff member's salary will have to

come out of the town council precept which means it will be fully funded by the town's council tax payers. The council voted evidently reluctantly but unanimously to accept the situation and employ a further full-time administration officer.

Deputy Mayor Peter Samuels who was chairing the full council meeting added his thanks to the current staff for all of the additional work that they had been putting in.

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# Town Messenger

Working for the People of Saltash

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**Highways Department**  
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news is supplied  
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Council*

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**Saltash West**  
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Tamar Bridge

## From the Mayor of Saltash



Dear Saltash Residents,

So much going on in Saltash that we should celebrate, and give thanks to all those that are actively making a difference to making Saltash a hive of things to do and to participate in, and here are just a few updates...

Another fantastic community activity held at Saltash Library, Crafts Galore. Recently, the Library Hub had 32 adults and 43 children being creative with various arts and crafts.

The event was created and organised by a valued member of the team at Saltash Library. Jane went above and beyond in not only making the activity a success for residents of the town but she also created an area for family and friends to come together.

Our Town's Library hub has proven that with strength, experience and community spirit, plus caring and sharing, that they have become a strong team and force for the residents of Saltash, and users further afield. The wide range of books for loan is always there for the community too!

May last year I presented Cornwall Air Ambulance with a cheque for £105 raised from the Saltash Library Launch Day.

Cornwall Air Ambulance flies more than 800 lifesaving missions each year throughout Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. The donations have contributed towards the purchase of the new air ambulance, the video of it landing can be viewed at

<https://www.facebook.com/cornwallairamb/videos/1115960825431004/>

Over the next month, the Pilots and Paramedics will undertake specialist training in the aircraft's technical features and the new medical equipment. Cornwall Air Ambulance anticipate the aircraft will be operational in early April.

On behalf of myself and Cornwall Air Ambulance we would like to thank the town councillors, staff and members of the public for taking part in the raffle to make this possible; saving many more long into the future.

I attended a marvellous performance of 'WE WILL ROCK YOU' performed by Saltash Community School children. The children from all age groups entertained their very enthused audience of parents, families and the discerning audience from the catchment area. Saltash is blessed here with talented teachers and young people, and their show was a platform to display such talents. Good team spirit of the whole school!

It was an honour to visit a former Mayoress of Saltash Mrs Winifred Brooking for her 100th Birthday.

Councillor Julie Rance and myself attended a two day Assist Training course which provides Suicide Prevention First Aid support, this was organised by Safer Saltash through Healthy Cornwall.

I personally would recommend this course; and details of how to do so can be obtained from Lucy Allison - Community Safety Officer - East Cornwall - [lucy.allison@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:lucy.allison@cornwall.gov.uk)

Bodmin Mayor Councillor Jeremy Cooper held a Ball at Lanhydrock in aid of local charities. Myself and the Saltash Deputy Mayor and Mayoress Councillors Pete and Brenda Samuels attended this amazing evening which was also attended by many of Cornwall's leading citizens.

By the time you read this, the nominations for Saltash Citizen, Saltash Environmental, and Saltash Young Citizen would have been selected.

These worthy citizens, reflect the good work that goes on in Saltash and their outstanding contribution. I give sincere thanks for what they and other individuals and organisations do for our town and beyond.

Councillor Averil Pickney

has been working hard with locals by holding tea and cake afternoons at the SHADO Centre and also supporting our community with items of need to individuals and families. I add my sincere appreciation to those that will be given by the residents of Saltash, and in particular to those who have benefitted from such kindness and help given by Averil. I also thank the management of SHADO for their kind help and support of this most worthy project.

Saltash Town Council sub

committees have been pulling together to help to improve areas in and around Fore St and hopefully, to bring more community events to the Town. Watch this space to learn more of these future events. The primary aim is to increase footfall, boost enjoyment and at the same time play our part in supporting local businesses and the local economy.

As Mayor, I also acknowledge that our Town Councillors volunteer their time and energies in so many

additional local pursuits and have Saltash at heart, and happily devote their resources for the place we live and hopefully enjoy; our lovely town of Saltash.

**Forthcoming events which I am asking for support...**

March 15th Civic Service at St Nicholas and St Faith Church from 2pm and March 21st Live Music Charity night at the Guildhall in aid of Saltash Fire Cadets, tickets available from Saltash Guildhall.

## Your Town Council

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**Deputy Mayor:**  
Pete Samuels

**Town Clerk:**  
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**Councillors telephone numbers can be obtained at the guildhall.**

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Tel.: 01752 844846 Email: [enquiries@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@saltash.gov.uk) Website: [www.saltash.gov.uk](http://www.saltash.gov.uk)**

## Meet Your Councillor



**Councillor Sarah Martin  
South Ward**

Sarah Martin joined the council in October 2018 after winning a by-election for South Ward. She had a long career in Marketing and Communications in this

country and abroad in Germany, working most recently for the NHS in Community Health Services in Cornwall. She now works freelance from home fitting her council and work duties around looking after her two young children.

Sarah is Vice-President of Saltash Chamber of Commerce and is an active member looking at measures and efforts to increase footfall in Fore Street and the town as a whole. "Joining the Council has seen me get involved in lots of projects which all have the

growth and well-being of the town at their heart", she said.

Sarah is a keen member of Saltash Regatta committee and also a member of May Fair committee, and the Kalan Gwav committee which succeeded in delivering a vibrant community festival last year thanks to the general public's enthusiastic response to its crowdfunding appeal. She said, "It was a big ask of Saltash residents to help us keep the event alive but so many people rose to that challenge and backed us in our hour of need. It was a truly humbling and

amazing experience."

Sarah is also the lead councillor looking at the Climate Emergency and how it will affect our lives here in Saltash. She said, "However much some of us would like to deny that a climate emergency is happening, it's no longer an option to delay the changes that we will need to put in place, from changing to energy efficient lightbulbs or alternative forms of transport, or even just increasing our recycling rates. Contact Sarah on [s.martin@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:s.martin@saltash.gov.uk)

## From the Deputy Mayor of Saltash Councillor Pete Samuels

As I head towards the end of my year as Deputy Mayor of Saltash, the Mayor has kindly invited me to write this column. For me, the past ten months or so have absolutely flown by, since being elected to the post of Deputy Mayor. It has been a pleasure to work alongside a popular and well known Mayor, attending events in and around the Town and also an honour to represent Saltash when travelling further afield.

My first 'official' engagement was when I travelled to Nottingham to support a team from Saltash Community School who had established themselves as one of the top teams in the Country in the finals of the Rotary Youth Speaks competition. The team were amazing and did us proud.

Since then I, together with the Deputy Mayoress - my wife Brenda, have represented Saltash at official and Civic functions in Bodmin, Falmouth, Truro, St Austell, Liskeard, Launceston, St Columb Major and across the water in Plymouth, to name but a few.

It has been a pleasure to meet so many interesting people who, like the Town Councillors here in Saltash, give up their spare time to represent their communities and to assist residents in their areas.

A delight to be invited to so many fund raising and charitable events and to see people from all walks of life who put so much effort into supporting the Community. I could try to list those wonderful organisations who support the Community, but there are so many of them that I would risk missing out some of them. Let me just say a big thank you, one and all.

By the time you read this column, the Town Council will have asked for nominations to decide who will be the next Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Saltash. Whatever role I play in the Town Council during the coming year, I will never cease to wonder at the course in life that brought me to Saltash almost ten years ago, being elected to the Council and then finding myself in the position of Deputy Mayor, something I could not have foreseen in my wildest dreams. It has truly been a privilege and an honour to serve in this wonderful town of Saltash.



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

I am pleased to say that the residents of PL12 have supported the town centre car parking initiative which was the idea of the Town Centre Regeneration Forum and adopted by the Chamber to increase footfall. Statistics can prove anything but, as I reported to the Chamber meeting on the 2nd March, both visually on Fore Street and in the car parks, along with feedback from some retailers, reflects that more people are visiting Fore Street and dwelling longer. The Chamber hopes to be able to continue this initiative beyond the present trial which ends the 31st March.

Much discussion took place at the Chamber meeting as to whether to continue with the Christmas Festival in view of the Town Council's ideas to hold a similar event 3 weeks earlier in mid-November to accompany the switching on of the Christmas lights in Fore Street. No decision was made but we hope to get further feedback upon which to make a decision in April.

We were pleased to hear that those members who organise the May Fair have agreed with the organisers of the V. E. Day commemoration - which is a week later, to have a common 1940's theme and, with smaller events/activities taking place during the week, to have a week long celebration/commemoration. But, don't worry motorists Fore Street will only be closed on Saturday May 2nd and Bank Holiday Friday on the 8th May.

Turning to another one of the hats I wear, I am pleased to say that I have managed to agree with our Landlords at Scrapstore that we can remain in the property for, at least, the next 3 years. I know this unit is proving popular both in sales and classes run and I would take the opportunity to thank all those involved on a day to day basis for their help. This shop has proved over the last 18 months that recycling is important in our lives to help save the environment. We look forward to the continued support of the people of Saltash and don't forget that we are always looking for donations of those unwanted items.

Reverting to the Chamber, the members welcomed a potential new member, Paul Butler, who will be opening a Micro-pub in Fore Street in the next couple of months. This will be one of only three in Cornwall.

### Chamber of Commerce Have Introduced 2 for 1 Parking 2 Hours for 50p In All Town Centre Car Parks

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## Bridge Suffers Shortfall in Toll Income

Income from Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry tolls over this financial year is estimated as one and a third million pounds below that anticipated.

This is largely due to the fact that bridge management anticipated the 33% increase in toll revenue from both tag holders and other users would come into effect last Summer. Due to the proposed increase going to public inquiry and being referred to the Secretary of State before they could become effective over four months of the increased revenue was lost.

Now Cornwall Council is increasing its demand on central government that it should take over management of the bridge and free it from tolls, as the two Severn bridges have now been made free. At the very least Cornwall is seeking that as the Highways Agency is responsible for surfacing the A38 on both sides it should also carry out necessary resurfacing work on the bridge itself. Cornwall Council's cabinet has

been assured that together with Plymouth City Council, representations were to be made to attract further financial support from government for this vital road link. As ever the problem arises that were the bridge to be adopted and made free the Torpoint ferries, currently subsidised by bridge users, would face an astronomical rise in tolls to make them financially viable.

The reduction in revenue from the bridge tolls could also be partially attributed to long distance drivers avoiding the dangerous A38 through Cornwall, with its above average accident rate, in preference for the continuous dual carriageway A38, claimed one Cornwall Councillor. He was assured that safety improvements on the A38 were a top priority for Cornwall Council.

## Saltash Town Band Overwhelming Success



Photo Back row (left to right) Matthew Early, Alison Ellis, Eleanor Styles, Temujin Townson. Front row (left to right) Alfred Thomas, Neythen Powell-Jones.

At the recent Saltash Music Speech and Drama Festival (music brass section) Members of the band proudly came away with 10 trophies for various sections. **Solo Prizes:** Alfred Thomas - Matthew Early - Eleanor Styles - Alison Ellis **Duet Prize:** Eleanor Styles and Alison Ellis

**Ensemble Prizes:** Saltash Training Band & Saltash Senior Band **Gala Concert Winners:**

Eleanor Styles (The musician who showed the most love and enjoyment of music across all instrumental classes) Alison Ellis (Best Overall Instrumentalist Award and Best in Brass)

The training band members pictured (Temujin, Alfred and Neythen) are also members of the Senior band and going from strength to strength.

## Our Community Hub is Among the Top Such Shops in Britain

The Saltash Community Shop at 4 Fore Street, the hub that serves the community in so many ways, is among the top five community shops in the country. It was shortlisted for the community category of the Good Retail Award, an accolade for the hard-working team of volunteers who have built it up since opening seven years ago. Its objective was described by newly appointed Chair Jo Baskott on Radio Cornwall as "to promote a feeling of pride and belonging in the community".

Over these years it has developed as a base for many community projects including the community Hopper Bus, the Saltash discount card, boosting local businesses and hosts the Dementia Voice Café. It also offers an outlet for locally hand made products, locally grown produce, and is a champion for Plastic Free Saltash. Apart from the hub manager, all who man it are volunteers giving time freely to achieve a better working and leisure environment focused on Fore Street.

News of shortlisting for the award closely followed appointment of new Chair person Jo Baskott who told the Observer, "I am looking forward to working with a dynamic team on projects which benefit the Saltash community."

"I would like to thank our

retiring Chair, Peter Thistlethwaite, for all his hard work and dedication over the years and I hope that we can continue to build on the solid foundation that he has helped to create".

"We have several new projects in the pipeline and 2020 promises to be an interesting and exciting year for us. Our motto "Together we can, together we do", could not be more fitting".

## Beware the Dog Snatcher

Saltash dog owners were warned by posters around the town of an attempt to forcibly remove a dog from a local dog walker. The would-be snatcher was reported to be a woman and all pet owners advised to be on their guard.

## Saltash is Top Town for Public Transport

Improvements to bus and train services have resulted in Saltash being named as one of the eight best public transport connected towns in the West of England.

While other towns complain of loss of public transport, resulting in total car dependency and isolation of the youngest and oldest residents that do not have their own cars, Saltash has, as reported in your January 'Observer', the best train service since the 1950's with frequent services into Cornwall and to Plymouth and beyond.

As well as buses every ten minutes or less to Plymouth there have been gradually increasing regular bus services to Callington, Launceston and Bude, to Liskeard, Bodmin and Padstow, and less frequently to Looe and Polperro. The bus service is set to improve further this spring, to include a direct, Cornwall Council subsidised bus to Derriford hospital.

As a result of the Campaign to Protect Rural England has named Saltash, with Penzance, as among the top larger towns for public transport connections. This is largely due to the fact that while many local authorities have been cutting down on their subsidies, Cornwall has been increasing its spending on buses by 18% over the last decade. This is reflected by bus passenger numbers in Cornwall rising by 5% over the past year while nationwide they continue to fall.

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# Roper James - Guiding you Through the Legal Process

A well-established firm of solicitors which set up ten years ago to offer a specialised service to clients suffering from industrial injuries, has now expanded to meet client demand, and now offers a fuller range of legal services to their expanding clientele. Roper James Solicitors are delighted to have located to the ideal premises in the heart of Fore Street, in order to offer Saltash and the surrounding area the friendly and approachable professional legal advice that their Plymouth clientele have come to appreciate.



David James (Director)

Tim Roper and David James, the Directors, are especially pleased to welcome to their expanding practice two highly experienced solicitors who already have an excellent reputation in Saltash. John Northey who specialises in residential conveyancing and Debbie Elson who will join their

expanding wills and probate team in April.

Tim and David will be personally supervising their Saltash practice and will ensure that their new clientele will receive the same friendly welcome and legal advice given in jargon-free and understandable English that

their Plymouth clients have come to appreciate over the past ten years.

As part of their client-based approach Roper James are pleased to offer a free half hour interview in order that potential clients may make a considered decision as to whether to press ahead with any potential claim, or in respect of a potential Will or property purchase. Should the client choose to proceed a full estimate of potential costs will be given at the outset and regular updates as to costs incurred to date and likely future costs will be offered. In respect to conveyancing and Wills, a set fee can usually be quoted at the outset; while for personal injury or medical negligence claims, Roper James are pleased to offer a 'No Win No Fee' service.

Roper James are proud of their fully refurbished premises at the foot of Fore Street, in the heart of the Town, and look forward to welcoming potential new clients into their newly opened offices. For those unable to come in, for whatever reason, home visits can be arranged at no extra charge anywhere within Saltash and the surrounding

area.

Following the sudden and unexpected closure of long-established local firm Blight Skinnard, Roper James, who were already planning their expansion into Saltash, have been pleased to assist former clients of that firm by taking on all of the wills, deeds and other documents held by Blight Skinnard when they closed in December 2019. Many of their former clients have already been among those who have sought legal advice and help from Roper James, and the two directors Tim Roper and David James, look forward to welcoming clients of Blight Skinnard together with others from Saltash and the surrounding area. They promise the same friendly welcome and no-nonsense approach to all manner of legal issues that have gained the firm an enviable reputation at their Plymouth Office.



## Roper James Established in 2010 Now Open in Saltash



Tim Roper and David James, established their own practice in 2010 to provide a specialist service for those suffering from industrial disease, especially mesothelioma and other asbestos associated conditions. They are also leaders in the field of noise induced hearing loss. While maintaining a specialist service in these fields, as well as enjoying an enviable reputation in clinical negligence and personal injury in general, with a no-win no-fee service where appropriate, their Saltash clientele will be able to take advantage of a greatly extended variety of legal services added as the firm has expanded with specialist lawyers joining the team.

The latest addition to the services offered is residential conveyancing and Directors Tim and David have been delighted to welcome to their Saltash based team a very well-known

local solicitor, John Northey. John, also known to many as the doyen of local quiz teams, has many years of long and trusted experience at buying and selling property in and around Saltash and will be happy to quote without obligation a fee for any residential conveyancing package.

This is added to Roper James well established commercial conveyancing service. Andy Luggier is delighted to offer to Saltash businesses his long experience of business conveyancing and leaseholds in which he has dealt with all manner of commercial enterprises but specialises in particular in agricultural and licensed premises conveyancing. If you are selling a farm or part of a farm then Andy Luggier is your man.

Wills are a particular speciality of Saltash based Melanie Cotterill who is shortly to be joined by Debbie Elson who also has an enviable local reputation in this field from her long years of practice at Blight Skinnard in Saltash.

As Benjamin Franklin famously said: "Nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes..." and Melanie strongly advises that everybody should give serious consideration to ensuring that their loved ones are looked after in accordance with their wishes, and this can only be done by making a Will. Failing this, the laws of intestacy might enforce an estate to be passed on totally contrary to the wishes of



Melanie Cotterill (Head of Wills and Probate Department)

the deceased. Once a Will has been signed it is advisable to review it periodically with a view to updating it to ensure it reflects current wishes. Melanie, who is an accredited Solicitor for the Elderly, will be happy to advise and offers a first free half hour interview for general discussion, after which she can quote a set fee for the preparation of a Will. She can in particular offer advice on property trusts, which are a means to ensure that one's assets are protected in order to be passed on in full to one's loved ones. She also offers full advice on bereavements, when many clients are confused as how to proceed, and can offer a choice of packages on probate matters, to minimise the costs of settling an estate.

A lasting Power of Attorney is another issue that all, not only the elderly, should consider in order to avoid what might otherwise be lengthy and costly procedures should they, for any reason, be no longer capable of looking after their own affairs. Again, Melanie and her team are happy to advise and assist in this for a set fee.

The breakdown of a marriage

or of any relationship can also be a difficult time. Issues will arise over a home, finances, possibly future pensions, and crucially any children involved in the relationship. Roper James have been pleased to welcome to their team Teresa Cussen who has considerable local experience of offering sympathetic and practical advice to all of those involved in family breakdowns which can include grandparents and co-habitees as well as married couples. Again, a free first consultation will be followed by a full estimate of costs and practical advice on how to proceed, if possible, with minimal confrontation.

The law has traditionally been considered a complicated and confusing field of specialists speaking in unintelligible jargon. Roper James pride themselves in Plymouth in demonstrating to their clients how the law can work for them in a friendly and easily understandable discussion. Already a growing number are coming to appreciate what Roper James have to offer to Saltash and the local team look forward to welcoming many more to their new attractive Fore Street premises.



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John Northey (Consultant Solicitor)

## The Festival of Easter Marks the Coming of Spring



The festival of Easter marks the coming of Spring and the rebirth of the year as well as the resurrection of Christ. As such it has for time immemorial been a holiday in Cornwall as elsewhere. Even the Knockers, who supposedly lived deep in the Cornish mines and tapped to show miners the way to rich lodes, would not work at Easter or other Christian festivals, this apparently contradicting the legend that they were the spirits of the Jews who had crucified Christ. Anyway they set an example to the miners who would not work on these days for fear of offending them.

The holiday began at Polperro on Palm Sunday when apprentices were given a day's holiday to visit their parents. Palm Sunday could be less happy for those living near Newquay and who would go to drop palm crosses into St. Nant's holy well. The historian Carew wrote of 'these idle headed seekers' that, 'if it swam the party should outlive that year, if it sank a short ensuing death was boded'. A happier tradition was attached to the hold well at Roche where a pin thrown in on Maundy Thursday would give indication of a future husband.

Good Friday was ever the start of the feast and the tradition of hot cross buns goes back as far as one can see. In Cornwall they would be of saffron, they might be highly spiced, eaten with butter and sugar, or just 'washed over' with saffron and given a few currants. Penzance had its own bun of 'rich currant paste highly covered in saffron .... Four inches in diameter and marked with a cross that divides it into four equal portions.' Most buns would be eagerly and hastily consumed as an annual treat, but in some farms around Polperro Thomas Quiller Couch reported that the bun would be kept hanging to a string from the bacon rack, slowly diminished until replaced the following Easter. 'It is of sovereign good in all manners of diseases afflicting the family or cattle. I have more than once seen a little of this cake grated into a warm mash for a sick cow', he reported.

Seeds sown on Good Friday will supposedly all grow, bread baked that day never goes mouldy and young ravens, it was believed, always hatched then. It was a good day to collect shellfish or simply then as now, relax perhaps over a picnic in a favourite spot with family and friends.

Polperro folk would rise

before dawn on Easter Day 'to see the sun dance', but the liveliest town in Cornwall that day was Lostwithiel where a mock prince would have been elected by the freeholders. He then 'gaily attired and gallantly mounted, with a sceptre in his hand, a crown on his head and a sword borne before him and respectfully greeted by all the rest on horseback rode' through the principal street in solemn state to the church. 'Here the minister respectfully greeted him as he attended divine service before riding back in like manner to a house where he would be feasted with all the reverence normally accorded a true prince. This was held to be a tradition dating to when a real prince held court at nearby Restormel Castle and it was written, 'this mimic grandeur stepped forth as its shadowy representative and continued for many generations as a memorial to posterity of the princely magnificence with which Lostwithiel had formerly been honoured'. A 'mock mayor' was recorded as having been elected as late as 1884 but the custom was then apparently dying.

Easter Monday was Fair Day in St. Day and also in Penzance where tables laden with gingerbread cakes and crockery were brought into the streets. These were to be played for in a game of dice known as 'lilly bangers'.

The following week was Hocktide, a time for wrestling and other Cornish games, as well as the less popular activity of paying rent and other debts. And so, the workday day year wound on.

Customs change, traditions pass, but the excitement of waking on a fine Easter morning with the Spring bursting into life remains one of life's simplest but richest pleasures.

## Players Face the Final Curtain

Thirty years of entertaining and amusing generations of local audiences while sharing the fun of putting on a show came to an end for the Burraton Community Players, but they were determined to go out on a high, by staging their 'Grand Finale'.

The Burraton Community Centre, scene of 26 pantomimes and 18 other performances welcomed many of those who had supported the shows over the years and who were able to relive them as they viewed a display of programmes, posters, press reports and photographs.

Leigh Hughes, familiar as the Doyen of Pantomime Dames, compared the finale, first introducing stalwart and founder member Christine Woolcock who shared her own recollections from when, in 1990 "in a cottage in Burraton

Hylida Clay, Peter Harris and myself decided to write a pantomime".

The Grand Finale evening included some dialogue and songs from the pantos that were to follow, songs being sung by the cast and community. A quiz featured panto related questions with others relating to the thirty years during which the players brought fun to the community.

As well as fun the Burraton Players have raised funds for various local and other causes so it was fitting that at their Finale Sue Shaw of the Youth Arts and Health Trust was invited to accept a cheque for £800 towards this cause which provides arts-based therapy for those aged 5 to 25 in deep distress.

Then it was on with the show, a break for refreshments and more music culminating in all joining to sing to the tune of 'Cabaret' "Life is a pantomime come to the pantomime.

Sadly, dwindling membership had resulted in the players deciding to call it a day.

So, as the stage went dark for the last time on the Burraton Community Players, their cast and audience were left with just the memories of what founder member Christine Woolcock described as "those golden days of Pantomime where all our dreams came true".

## Waterside Residents Thanked for Cleaning Cobbles

The historic cobbles with which the streets of Saltash were formally paved now, remain in just two sites, one behind the Guildhall and the other behind the derelict former "Waterside" inn. Both segments, as readers of the 'Observer' will have noted, have attracted recent concern over their condition.

The Town Council has formally thanked the volunteer Waterside residents for the hard work and time committed recently to cleaning and maintaining the Waterside cobbles. It was a planning condition of the proposed development of the former inn that the cobbles be retained, and also that there be an archaeological survey of the site prior to any new building.

Also, on the Waterside it was noted that the bunting, which has become tatty over time, be removed and consideration be given to replace it with Plastic Free Community Bunting, such as is being planned for Fore Street by Easter.

It was also confirmed that arrangements were made for spraying and weeding the other ancient cobbles behind the Guildhall.

Some unpleasant things in our lives, like coronavirus, are big but go, and some things we do or have to do in our work are small but stay, niggle and bite us as we do them year upon year. This article though is not about coronavirus, it's not about why Public Health Cornwall don't trust us to know where in the county a case is, and nor is it about shortages in the county of hand sanitiser and empty shelves of surface cleaner. Those things are all important now and will be important for a while - and sadly there may be some tragic outcomes ; however most of this is largely out of our control , except perhaps for some personal hygiene attempts to do our bit to avoid transmission .

But this is about one small thing that we ( Cornwall Councillors ) have to do pretty regularly - if we're honest . It's disagreeing with people - and that's a pretty obvious thing if you think about it, but it affects those people and it nearly always worsens relationships as it ends up with people feeling disgruntled . Another way of putting it is that in a whole load of county issues we have to see the big picture when the people who come to us are concerned only with the small picture. In a grand way it's us doing something for the greater good when



CORNWALL COUNCIL and our PL12 community For Observer readers Derek Holley Cornwall Councillor, Saltash East. [dholley@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:dholley@cornwall.gov.uk)

others want things for themselves or for their neighbours or their street .

Let me give you an example . A group of residents come to me about a county footpath in a terrible state : they have a proper , justifiable , understandable case - except that the footpath serves , affects and is very useful to only the half dozen houses concerned. I dearly want to support them in getting something done but the cost in this case is very high . So I have to tell them, "Look, I have Blank Road with fifty houses where three hundred cars a day drive through . It's in a rotten state . If I can get cash from somewhere I'm going to do that " . Result? Misery. "I don't know why I pay my rates". "Where does all the money go ?". In the end I manage to find some money and do what I know is a half job on the footpath . No one is happy and I've lost a couple of dozen votes.

Yes I'm bleating on about this , I know , but one day you, reader, are very likely to be on the receiving end of something like this in one form or another . So if a

councillor comes along and agrees with everything you say and everything that you want, then that means either he or she is bulling you or they are likely to be not doing their job. In the face of continuing government austerity we have to do what's best for the biggest number of residents and not necessarily do what you want. Sorry.

Next time I'm going to tell you about pains-in-the-neck, interferers , wingers and general work-makers ( for me ) - and how I love them , encourage them and wish there were more like them . Basically I'm going to give you a short course in these valuable civil attributes.

But for now I just would love to take you to our study where I can show you a tray of "seed" potatoes balanced on the windowsill , busily producing shoots ready for planting - or take you down the garden where you can smell the change in the earth, see the growth starting and note those lovely weeds pushing through the soil amongst the brussel sprouts . Fantastic . Spring.

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**Sunken Dwelling Would Reduce "Green Gap"**

An amended application to build a single storey sunken dwelling on Barkers Hill, St. Stephens, has been recommended for refusal by the town's planning committee who held that previous reasons for refusal were still not satisfied. In particular they were concerned that building between Saltash and Forder would reduce the "green gap" between the two built up areas and reduce the effectiveness of the environmental corridor between them.

There were also concerns that the amended road access was still close to a tight junction into an already busy narrow lane to create a traffic hazard. Further concerns related to the fact that the site is in a flooding area and more attention should be given to possible effects downstream towards Forder of reducing the water absorption capacity of the site.

**Singing Out Boosts Brain Power**

The launch of a new fun session "Do You Mind if I Sing" organised by Dementia Voice PL12 proved a fantastic success attracting over thirty singers of mixed musical abilities, as featured in your February 'Observer'

This is a new venture encouraging those who would enjoy company and some mind enhancing fun experience to participate in a communal activity which is proven to be of help in those who may be affected by dementia. Sessions will be held at Wesley Church at 10.30 a.m. generally on the second and fourth Thursday of each month but exact dates can be confirmed at 4 Fore Street or on 01752 848348.

The Dementia Voice walking group similarly is flourishing with the support of trained walk leaders and also welcomes all those caring for or supporting someone with dementia. Walkers are invited to attend outside the Leisure Centre fifteen minutes before the start of the walk on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Again, walk details and times

are available for the address and phone number above.

"Turning the Cogs", an activity club proves to provide stimulating, interactive experiences designed to keep the mind active for those with mild to moderate dementia. It also offers respite for their carers, during a fourteen-week course of two-hour sessions and again full information is available as above.

**Conundrum Corner**

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

1. Who was the mythical hero who boasted he could kill any creature on earth? (5)
2. Along which river would you find the Valley of the Kings? (4)
3. Which plant has a variety called Ailsa Craig? (6)
4. Who wrote The Thieving Magpie? (7)
5. What is the correct term for the fleshy growth that hangs from the neck or chin of Turkeys? (6)
6. Fletcher Christian and the Bounty mutineers landed and settled on which island in 1790? (8)
7. Which instrument features in the score to the classic film comedy Genevieve? (9)
8. In fiction to where did Tom Brown graduate? (5)
9. In Greek mythology who slayed the Minotaur? (8)
10. Which city is known as the Granite City? (8)

Conundrum Answers on Page 7

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**SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...**

I was pleased to attend a Saltash Rotary Charity event at the China Fleet Club. It was a delightful evening and I would like to thank Saltash Rotary for the very warm welcome that I received.

Last month I was able to ask a Defence question about any action that can be taken to halt current prosecutions whilst a review of the historic allegation our Northern Ireland veterans are facing. I was also able to ask about the future of our fisheries. These are issues I will keep raising.

I also met with Google to learn about their Digital Garage which helps teach digital skills around the country. I encouraged the company to come to South East Cornwall to help spread the skills needed to run a successful online business.

I have been elected as the Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Cats. I would like to thank my predecessor Maria Caulfield MP for all the hard work she did and to The Cats Protection, Battersea Cats and Dogs home and The Blue Cross Hospital for providing assistance to the group. I have visited all three of these groups during my time as an MP and know the excellent work they do to help our feline friends. I love my own cat Millie very much and know what fantastic companions on life's journey they can be.

It was good to catch up with our local Police and Crime Commissioner Alison Hernandez in Parliament last week. Since 2017 Devon and

Cornwall Police have been leading a national programme to better equip police forces across the country to tackle modern slavery, safeguard victims and bring offenders to justice. The event was an opportunity to meet the team, discuss the threat posed by modern slavery and see how the local and national policing response has developed over the past three years. It was fascinating to hear about the work they were undertaking. If anyone needs help or thinks someone may be a victim of slavery please contact the confidential UK modern slavery helpline which is a 24 hour number on 08000 121 700.

Back in the Constituency I met with Ed Halford from the Highways Agency to get a detailed update on the A38. As regular readers will know I have been pushing for much needed improvements for some time. Whilst we await the budget to see exactly what money is available I am constantly pushing the Transport Secretary for approval and of course our new Chancellor Rishi Sunak MP for improvements to be granted. It will be unlikely that the announcement will be made in the budget speech but as part of the Road Improvement Strategy second stage or RIS2 for short.

I would like to thank Anne James who is the Chief Executive at Derriford for an informative update on services.

I also led a hour and a half debate on Fisheries in Parliament. It was good to hear the Minister reiterate the words of the Prime Minister that UK Fishermen will not have to comply with EU rules and British fish stocks will be first and foremost for British Fishermen after the 31st December 2020. I also congratulate George Eustice on becoming the new Secretary of State. It is good to have such a local person fighting our corner.

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## Community Hall Seeks Funding to Upgrade

A historic hall at the heart of the town is seeking to upgrade itself to serve as a community centre for all of Saltash. Sited in Alexandra Square adjacent to the Church and Guildhall, the hall has a long history associated with the town and in particular its young people. Originally built as a National School to educate the children of the artisan classes, it more recently housed a youth club. Since 1986 it has housed a pre-school in which many hundreds of local citizens enjoyed their earliest education. The hall with its curtained stage has seen many plays and concerts giving pleasure to the passing generations of local residents.

Recently a group of volunteers has worked hard to redecorate the building, enhancing it for the various groups and societies who meet there. However, surveys have confirmed the need for complete rewiring, at a cost of around £11,000 and replacement of all twenty-one windows.

It was hoped that modern PVC windows designed to fit in with the architecture could be fitted at comparably reasonable cost and Saltash Town Council recommended approval for this. However, Cornwall Council have insisted that any replacement windows be of wood, at a cost of up to £48,000. This means that up to £60,000 might be required to ensure that this historic building can be made fit to serve the town for another century or so.

At a pre-funding meeting of concerned individuals, the Revd. Cathy Sigrist advised that although the church owns the building traditionally known as SS Nicholas and Faith Church Rooms it has always been used as a community asset, and hopefully should be even more so in the future. As well as the pre-school, it is used for Scottish dancing, yoga and various local clubs and organisations such as Saltash Old Cornwall Society. Ideally its use could be extended and a number of empty rooms upstairs could also be brought into use for the local community or some other beneficial purpose. It is a fine building, well situated, structurally sound once the wiring and windows are fixed. "We need a group of people passionate about the church and the area to ensure it continues to function", Revd.

Sigrist told those present.

Mayor Councillor Gloria Challen suggested that when a final estimate for the windows had been obtained, local businesses and organisations might be approached for funding this community asset, perhaps invited to sponsor an individual window.

Although currently owned by the Church, the hall and indeed the historic Church adjacent, which itself needs around £40,000 to restore historic stained-glass windows, receive no funding from the church authorities. Indeed, the church needs around £30,000 per year to continue to be maintained and to serve the town, and for this sum it is totally dependent on the generosity of those who pass through the doors.

A fund-raising campaign for restoration of the wiring and windows so that Saltash may have a town centre community hall with stage and rooms above for local use is to be launched and any helpful suggestion as to fund raising to provide a facility fit for the 21st century will be warmly welcomed.

## Town Joins Cornwall Dog Fouling Campaign

A Cornwall wide campaign to ensure that dog owners pick up after the pets is to be supported in Saltash which has previously reported as the second worst town in Cornwall for dog fouling.

During discussions it was suggested that larger dog bins be provided to assist the public with disposal and that more bins are needed throughout the town.

It was agreed that the most suitable location for monitoring be identified and

## Festival Flourishes Though Fewer Local Entrants

Around four hundred and fifty entrants of all ages from 6 and 7 to senior citizens flocked to participate in the thirtieth anniversary of Saltash Music Speech and Drama Festival. For many of them, children in particular, it is their first opportunity to sing, recite or play an instrument in public and receive a professional critique from an experienced and fully trained adjudicator.

**This is the good news.**

The less good news is that the number of entrants has been falling off over the last few years. There are fewer local school age participants. Fortunately, the festival can depend on receiving substantial entries from a number of private schools in Devon and Cornwall attracted each year by the prestigious standing of the Saltash Festival. The reason for this is that since local state schools are obliged to conform to the national curriculum any pupil taking time off to appear and have their musical or vocal talents assessed after a public performance will be judged as taking unauthorised absence from school.

Following an official opening by Mayor Mrs Gloria Challen the very youngest entrants from school year 2 and undertook turns to run forward grinning to recite their verses, happily applauding each other's performances. As speech adjudicator Vivienne Redford summarised "everybody's faces enjoyed the poem" and she instructed them "these poems are just words until you start to breathe magic with your voices and faces, colouring the words" The same could apply the following day as the ten and eleven year old entrants paired off to share with their audiences the fun

that they evidently enjoyed from dialogues with such anarchic titles as 'An alien stole my underpants', 'Our sister the mad scientist' and 'The dragon who ate our school', the latter with a rollicking chorus enchanting the audience. "There was a buzz of excitement and pride as I entered the room", confirmed Ms Redford. The children's recitals were alternated with classes of adults to encourage, Chairman Phil Taylor confirmed, the children to continue their efforts towards adulthood.

Following the speech section of the festival audiences were enthralled by the joy emanating from the vocal performers, commencing with children's choirs. Here local schools were eagerly participating including a first visit from St. Germans Primary who delighted all in singing 'Seeds of Friendship'. A two-part setting from King's School Music Makers of 'I am the Earth' rightly

reminded us 'We share the future' while Marlborough Primary songsters tunefully declared 'Let your spirits fly, with music you can reach the sky'. The pleasure derived from coming together in harmony was evident to see as was the especial excitement of Modbury School Choir leaping up at hearing that they had won the Saltash Youth Council Cup. They too were gaining the skills that could provide lifetime pleasure as was evidenced that evening when a variety of adult male, ladies and mixed choirs came to compete for cups and trophies.

The second week saw instrumentalists stepping shyly forward to perform, in many cases for the first time in public, on violin, accordion, brass instrument, or piano. And as soloists, duets and ensembles came together to share the pleasure of creating harmony the thirtieth annual Saltash Music Speech and Drama Festival continued to

encourage young and old to enhance their talents and submit to positive criticism that might enable them to share with others a lifetime of pleasure in the performing arts.

## Gaming Arcade Sought for Saltash

A former betting shop at the foot of Fore Street will become a gaming arcade if an application for change of use made to Cornwall Council is successful.

The three storey building facing up Fore Street was home to Corals' until its closure last year. The current plans include an array of gambling machines and adult gaming centre with electronic bingo. It would also serve customers with hot and cold drinks and snacks. The developers claim that five new jobs would be created and plan to open twenty-four hours a day. The upper two floors would be retained for office use.

The application should be considered by Cornwall Council in early April.

## Essa Files

Firstly this month I need to let you know that June will be my last Essa Files. After nearly fifteen year of teaching in Saltash, and almost ten of writing for the Observer, I'm moving to a new post near Paignton. Although I'll still be living in Saltash, at least for most of the week, I'll be pretty occupied with the new job and the commute so it seems like a sensible time to finish. I'll write more about this in May or June.

Aside from moving on, my thoughts this month have been on self-improvement. I was recently on an internet discussion about what people have been working on about themselves, and my list was longer than I expected. Before anyone thinks this is me tooting my own horn, remember that I'm saying that this stuff all needed working on! Amongst my recent self-improvements I've got better at handling uncertainty (I've never enjoyed situations where I'm not clear what's going on), clearer at expressing my emotions and, most recently, better at taking compliments. My general response to people saying nice things about me in the past was to either crack a self-deprecating joke, or to stare at the floor and mumble 'thanks': I'm now more likely to nod, smile, and thank them for the compliment and that makes me happy - I feel I'm doing myself justice more, and also respecting the sincerity of the compliment more. Equally I'm still working on being less irritable with other people when tired or stressed, and on being more confident with my personal style of dress and appearance.

I don't see it as a contradiction to wish that people criticised each other a little less, but worked on their own self-improvement a little more. We're all a work in progress and it's too easy, and honestly a bit lazy, to always fall back on 'well that's just the way I am'. This isn't a plea for us all to be the same but we should all have enough self-awareness to distinguish between characters quirks, which makes us different and interesting, and character flaws which we can work on. Some of these are about how we feel in ourselves, like our self-confidence or our self-esteem, and some how we treat others like our patience, our kindness or our empathy. If you're really not sure what you could work on your loved ones can probably gently tell you: the good news is that once you've successfully worked on it they'll probably tell you that too.

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## Conundrum Answers:

1. Orion 2. Nile 3. Tomato  
4. Rossini 5. Wartle 6.  
Pitcairn 7. Harmonica 8.  
Oxford 9. Thebesus 10.  
Aberdeen Re-arranged the  
letters spell Portlowan

## SALTASH

### U3A

Many members braved the weather to attend the February meeting. It was going to prove well worthwhile. 2 volunteers from mha's 'Live at Home' filled the Community slot and gave a good insight into what they provide from befriending at home to trips out, coffee mornings and a mens' lunch group.

After refreshments Mark Barnwell was introduced talking about the Spanish guitar. Not only did he talk about the history of the Spanish guitar from the Greek Kithara through the 13th. century Gittern, the Lyre, the Vihuela and the Lute, but he also gave renditions of different types of music.

It was only in the 16th. century that the Spanish guitar started to take over. In the 18th. century Italy was more renowned for the 6 string guitar than Spain but in the 19th. century the Spaniard Francisco Tarrega changed that to become regarded as one of the greatest guitarists of all time. He wrote more than 270 classical works.

Mark concluded by playing his own composition 'Mar de Suenos' or 'Sea of Dreams'. It was truly mesmerizing and it was not surprising that a long queue formed to buy his CD's.

The next meeting will be on 9th April when Ian Parker will be talking about the 'Literacy Box Trust'

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# Saltash Celebrates and Commemorates Victory in Europe May 8th 1945

Led by the Saltash VE 75 Committee made up of voluntary members of the Saltash community  
Young and Old Asked to Participate in "VE75"  
Celebrations

Each and everybody from junior school pupil to senior citizen is being invited to become involved in Saltash's plans to mark the 75th Anniversary of VE Day that brought peace to Europe. The celebrations will mark the climax of a week in which the town will recreate the 1940's, following a May Fair with a specific forties theme.

Seventy-five years ago, as VE Day marked the end of six years of war, "Against Germany "Saltash like most" other communities celebrated with street parties. And seventy-five years on, on 8th May (a public holiday) one and all are invited to what should be a street party to remember as Fore Street is closed to traffic. Tables will extend down the street and guest is invited to bring their own picnic party food or buy from the shops, many of which will be open for the event. Live and recorded music of the era, party flags and hats, and a few surprises are planned to add to the atmosphere. An array of period vehicles along one side of the street and a model exhibition in the Guildhall are part of the plan to ensure a day that Saltash should long remember. Should it be wet the picnic will take place in the lower Wesley Church. The event is planned to end in a mass conga down the street.

The commemorations continue on Saturday 9th May

with a concert of big band music from a swingtet in the Saltash Social Club, while on the Sunday there will be a Civic Service to remember the Peace and those that fell locally and worldwide, held in St. Nicholas Church with the Mayor laying a wreath. A full programme should be presented with your April "Observer".

In order to encourage the participation of our youngest citizen's local schools and being invited to help their pupils become involved. They are asked to submit a poem, a prayer, or perhaps a letter from an evacuee, with a view to them being read out at the civic service and the poems set to music. More artistically inclined children may prefer to illustrate their ideas of the peace celebrations.

And at the opposite age range any of those who remembered the peace celebrations of 1945 in Saltash or indeed elsewhere are asked to share these memories with the VE Day

Committee, they can either submit their memories in writing or arrange for a committee member to come out and interview them and write out what they remember. It is hoped that these memories, together with some of the children's letters, poems and prayers, might be put together in printed form as a lasting memory of a truly special day.

## Apologies

The Saltash VE 75 Committee wish to acknowledge that indeed May 8th 1945 marked the end of WW2 in Europe. It also recognises that the War continued in the Far East until 15th August 1945.

The 75th Anniversary will provide our nation and friends around the world to reflect on the tremendous sacrifice and courage of all those who suffered through those most embattled times.

The committee apologises for any inconvenience this may have caused readers of our publicity flyer



Saltash VE Committee are sincerely grateful to Saltash Heritage for the use of the photographs used within this feature  
Photographs were taken in Saltash on VE day 1945

**Early May Bank  
Holiday Friday  
8th May 2020**

For further details please contact any of the following ...

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Saltash VE75 Committee Events are kindly sponsored by...

Saltash Town Council, Floorsite.uk, Saltash RBL, Saltash RNA  
And S106 panel - which is a partnership comprised of Cornwall Council, Saltash Town Council, Community Enterprises PL12 and Saltash Chamber of Commerce.



## Concerns Continue Over Derelict Pub

The former "Waterside Inn", previously the "Wheatsheaf" and once a popular riverside watering hole and restaurant, is continuing to concern local residents after recent vandal attacks.

Since 2009 when it was closed the building has been the subject of various applications for redevelopment into an apartment block with retail outlet below. However, despite an amended application being approved no work was begun and eventually Cornwall Council considered court proceedings towards compulsory purchase. More recently following a Court Order to clean and tidy the building it was shuttered up and cosmetic improvements made.

In February Waterside residents became aware of young people targeting the

## Explore the Saltash Countryside with The Saltash Observer Book of Walks

"For, lo, the Winter is past,  
The rain is over and gone,  
The flowers appear  
on the earth,  
The time of the singing of  
birds is come"

These words are an ancient reminder of the timeless miracle of Spring when our Cornish woods and hedgerows are once again adorned with primroses and wild daffodils and the trees and hedges put on that pale green mantle that will later turn to a richer deep green. Already our native birds are vociferously welcoming the new season as they start to nest and will soon be joined by Summer migrants winging their way back from the Winter homes.

Now above all is the time to shake off the Winter blues and experience the annual Magic of Spring's arrival. This can be enjoyed within a few miles radius of Saltash on ancient footpaths and through woodland ways little changed for centuries. Our own book of local walking "A Quality of life" is brimming with ideas for enjoying our Saltash countryside. Eight walks around our neighbouring villages include "A Canter round Gargreen", Trek around Tideford" and "Lingering around Landrake". A further six walks take you from the town itself into deepest unspoilt countryside within just a mile or two. All of this is in addition to notes on local natural history and even a few traditional local recipes and much else besides.

"A Quality of Life - In and Around Saltash and Countryside" can be obtained from "Saltash Bookshelf" in Fore Street.

building and throwing missiles at it, seeking to gain an entry. Later an entry was forced and there are fears for the safety of the building and the young people who enter it. There have been previous reports of drug deals being conducted next to the building.

Local police have been informed of the forced entry and of residents' concern.

Tell your friends & family to visit us at...  
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