

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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June 2025 - Issue 395

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New Playground for Academy

Brunel Primary and Nursery Academy in Saltash are the proud recipients of a brand-new playground with a frame made of 100% recycled materials having won the nationwide Sistema® Recycled Playground Contest

Brunel Primary and Nursery Academy in Saltash has today unveiled its newly installed top prize for winning the nationwide Sistema® Recycled Playground Contest: a new playground with a frame made from 100% recycled materials including recycled plastic food storage containers and lids, as well as reusable plas-

tic water bottles and caps. The recycled playground comprises two slides, an approach ramp with rope and a large joining platform amongst other features.

The recycling contest allowed primary schools around the country to take part, with the aim of collecting the most used plastic food storage containers and lids, as well as reusable plastic water

bottles and caps, of all brands, to send these back to TerraCycle to be recycled. In order to participate, primary schools such as Brunel Primary and Nursery Academy School signed up to the Sistema® Food Storage Container and Reusable Bottle Free Recycling Programme: a free national recycling programme for all brands of



Pictured above (left to right): Teaching staff (including Head Teacher Darren Woolner (2nd left) from Brunel Primary & Nursery Academy with Mayor of Saltash Cllr Rachel Bullock and her consort Matthew Bullock and Ali Humphreys (from the Recycling for Charity Project) at today's ribbon cutting event proudly posing in front of the schools contest winning prize, a brand-new playground with a frame made of 100% recycled materials. It comprises two slides, an approach ramp with rope and a large joining platform amongst other features.

used food storage containers and lids and plastic bottles and caps, which cannot typically be recycled through conventional kerbside recycling collections and would otherwise end up in landfill. The school called upon the pupils, teachers, parents and the local Saltash community to help collect the largest amount of this waste stream in order to win the contest, by bringing this to the school's own collection box.

Darren Woolner, Headteacher of Brunel Primary and Nursery Academy, commented: "We are incredibly proud to have won the nationwide Sistema® Recycled Playground Contest. This initiative has inspired our pupils

to lead the way in promoting sustainability by rallying support from families, staff and members of our local community to collect and donate plastic food storage containers, reusable water bottle and caps.

This project has not only benefited our school with a wonderful new playground, but more importantly, it has reinforced the importance of environmental responsibility and collective action. Through this experience, our pupils have gained a deeper understanding of recycling and its positive impact, while fostering a stronger sense of community and shared purpose.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Sistema® and

TerraCycle for their support and to everyone in our community who contributed to this meaningful achievement."

Ali Humphreys, Project Lead who helped coordinate the school and local community recycling efforts in the contest commented: "This is a brilliant result, and a little overwhelming as everyone emptied out their kitchen cupboards, lockers and storage to support us. Our Recycling for Charity project volunteers were kept busy boxing up all the items. We're all delighted to have won the playground and as a result have many new followers collecting now. In addition, Sistema® awarded points for each kilogramme of plastic food storage

containers and lids, as well as reusable plastic water bottles and caps we sent in, so with over 100 boxes weighing 10kg each, that is over 1 tonne! These charity points will equate to £1,335 which TerraCycle will donate to our nominated charity KICKS COUNT, who aim to reduce UK stillbirths. I can't thank the local community enough for helping us achieve this. Keep on Recycling!"

Amy, a Year 5 pupil commented: "It feels amazing to know that by recycling things like hard to recycle plastics, we didn't just help our school win a new playground—we helped the planet too. It shows that even small things we do can make a big difference to our world."

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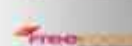
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Email: schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk

Education Welfare:
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educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk

Housing Department
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Email: info@cornwallhousing.org.uk

Social Services Department
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adultcare@cornwall.gov.uk

Highways Department
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Email: roadstransportandparking@cornwall.gov.uk

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Saltash Tamar ED
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Saltash Trematon & Landrake ED
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From the Mayor of Saltash

Welcome to my first column in this new role that I have taken on for the next year. I'll try to make my column interesting and informative, and hopefully you will enjoy it.

Firstly, I must thank my fellow town councillors for voting for me to take on the role of Mayor for the year. In particular I would like to thank Councillor Julia Peggs and Councillor Richard Bickford, who were kind enough to support my nomination. I have lived in Saltash most of my life, so it is an honour to be representing this town that I love so dearly. Mayor Julia Peggs has had a great year, and I think you would all agree what a fantastic Mayor Julia has been for this town; I have certainly enjoyed working alongside her as her Deputy Mayor.

I would also like to thank my family for their support, and especially my husband Matt, who will be taking on the role of Mayor Consort alongside me. I am sure we will have a fun year representing the town at many events, near and far. I feel lucky that my Deputy Mayor for the next 12 months is Councillor Brian Stoyel, along with his consort and wife Maxine. I know they will fulfil these roles with dedication and enthusiasm. There is much to do, and the role of the town council and town councillor is ever-changing, as we seem to take on more



responsibility and projects. We do have a great team though, in both councillors and our officers who work so hard for the whole town.

Since I have become Mayor, my husband and I have already had the pleasure of attending some local events. I enjoyed handing out trophies to the winning photographers at the Saltash Camera Club awards evening. We also had the pleasure of attending Brunel School to cut the ribbon on a new play park that the school had won from collecting plastic. Some of the plastic recycled was used to make their new play equipment.

We have had some amazing events in Saltash since the last Mayor's column: the Saltash Mayfair and VE80 celebrations. The Saltash Mayfair was an amazing weekend that saw a wide variety of activities in and around the Town Centre. I think you will all agree that the evening of live music in Longstone Park was fabulous. On the Sunday, it was great to see the Tamar Trotters working with the Mayfair

committee again, organising several running events. I enjoyed running as back marker for the Saltash Half Marathon again, whilst my husband Matt was one of the lead cyclists.

The Saltash Half Marathon is one of the oldest and hardest half marathons in the country, so it is good to see it well supported. If you like running, then please give it a go next year! The fact that the half marathon is challenging also makes it fun – in a weird sort of way.

The Town Council are pleased to have organisations like the Mayfair committee and Tamar Trotters to run such events, and whilst we might have limited input into what goes on, we do provide significant levels of funding to ensure the events can take place.

May 8th was the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe. The day started at 9.00am with the Town Crier making a VE80 proclamation in Fore Street. I may add that our usual Town Crier was away, so Andy Williams of the Cockleshell Micropub kindly stepped in for the day. I have to say he did a great job. At 6.30pm the church bells rang in celebration in unison with the Commonwealth. Then at 9.20pm, the public joined us at Waterside Green for wartime songs followed by a message from the Mayor. Finally, at 9.30pm, the beacon was lit on Saltash Pier. It was a very poignant, moving event.

If you have visited Fore Street in the last few weeks, you may have noticed some new planters and benches. Saltash Town Team, in partnership with Saltash Town Council, is delighted to introduce the next phase of the Fore Street Public Realm Project. Thanks to funding from the Town Delivery Fund

Meet Your Deputy Mayor

Cllr Brian Stoyel

In my preamble prior to election as Saltash Deputy Mayor, I emphasised the importance of being a team player. If lucky you can sometimes just run with the ball but usually far more demanding is the passing of the ball to achieve the desired result.

Everyone must learn quickly in life but little happens overnight! There can be frustration, irritation, delays, so we must be considerate and understand time is needed to plan and maybe modify our thoughts. Councillors may be considered as custodians and leads for the future. Team strength, diversity, success,

and Cornwall Council's Vitality Accelerator Fund, we're excited to unveil the new planters and benches. From what I've observed so far, they seem very popular and well used.

In addition to the planters/benches, we have also installed some new signage. The new "England" sign that points towards Plymouth, in particular, has put a smile on many faces. Saltash Town Council will be taking on the ongoing maintenance of these fantastic additions.

Let's come together as a community to keep them looking their best, by treating them with care and respect.

Thank you for taking the time to read my first column. I'll be back next month with more town updates.

*Town Mayor
Cllr Rachel Bullock 2025/6*

imagination and realistic ambition are essential for the future of our town. During my council tenure I have registered with residents the importance of a local, workable and economic health initiative perhaps using St. Barnabas, an embracing youth and adult forum on education, a well-appointed and used leisure facility, a picturesque, social and serviceable waterside and a colourful vibrant safe town that is attractive and inviting for residents, workers and visitors throughout the day, evening and weekend.

Our Town Business Plan is an important aspect of our local development and will continue to be under constant review. Together with the Chamber of Commerce, shop proprietors and trading estate business leaders we will strive to serve our residents.

Saltash is steeped in history and every council



establishes an identity, equally I suspect you, the reader, will have thoughts, priorities and aspirations for our town. I welcome you to join our Council meetings and our monthly Saturday morning 'Meet Your Councillors' sessions in Fore Street - come and have a chat and add your ideas to the rich tapestry of our town.

I look forward to, and thank you, for giving me the honour and privilege to serve you in the capacity of Deputy Mayor for the coming twelve months.

STC 'Letters to Heaven' Post Box Continues to Offer Comfort and Connection at Saltash's Churchtown Cemetery

Over a year since its installation in mid-January 2024, the 'Letters to Heaven' post box at Churchtown Cemetery continues to provide a touching and meaningful way for people to connect with loved ones they have lost. The initiative has been warmly embraced by the community, offering a gentle outlet for grief and remembrance.

The box is emptied twice a week, on Wednesdays and Sundays, and is consistently near capacity on each collection day, a positive indication that the service is appreciated by visitors to the cemetery. Whether used to express love, share memories, or simply maintain a sense of connection, the post box continues to be a valued feature for those navigating loss.

"Two years ago, a local resident approached Saltash Town Council requesting if we could install a "letters to heaven" post box in our Churchtown Cemetery. We as a council thought this was a lovely idea and set to install one as soon as possible. Since then, the post box has proved popular with visitors to the cemetery. It's great to



see the box receiving a fresh coat of paint in its new colour, 'heavenly blue'" Mayor Cllr Rachel Bullock.

Due to natural fading from sun exposure, Saltash Town Council agreed for it to be repainted so it stands as a respectful and welcoming presence for all who visit.

After receiving some well-deserved attention, the post-box has been carefully repainted in a crisp, elegant blue. Its refreshed appearance brings a renewed sense of dignity and presence, offering a more respectful and welcoming space for individuals to pause and pay their respects.

Saltash Town Council would like to thank the community for its ongoing support and respect for this special space. The continued use of the "Letters to Heaven" box is a reminder of the importance of small gestures in supporting emotional wellbeing and remembrance.

Your Town Council & Wards

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5. Cllr Pete Samuels
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Saltash Tamar:

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Deputy Mayor:

Cllr Brian Stoyel

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Councillors' Telephone Numbers can be obtained at The Guildhall.

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Pete's Point of View

Another year of watching arguably one of the most popular shows on TV, Britain's Got Talent, with the previously unknown magic-ian Harry Moulding crowned as the winner. He was quite amazing, just how did he perform those tricks I still don't know and the more I recall his act, the more perplexed I become.

But it got me thinking, that magic is all around us, although it has to be said that some magicians are better at what they do, than others. I'm sure we must have at some time seen a performance and immed-

iately understood how the trick was performed.

Step forward, Rachel from Accounts, whom most people had probably never previously heard of and most pensioners still wish they hadn't. She conjured up a £20 billion 'black hole' then promptly made billions more disappear in interest payments. Then, out of the hat comes an announcement that billions will be spent in the midlands and the north, improving transport and infrastructure. I heard absolutely no mention of Cornwall! This is my first red buzzer (as viewers of BGT would understand).

Even less convincing is the would-be magician who I will refer to by his initials, P.M., who with a single stroke of a pen, set in motion an act that will make our

fishing industry all but disappear. For his next trick, he will attempt to pull a white rabbit out of the hat, in the form of a defence budget increase, but apparently that will take several years to perfect. Using smoke and mirrors, he will attempt to make the public at large believe that the working man will pay no more in tax. Second red buzzer!

What has become of the hopes and aspirations of generations? I remember the optimistic days of the 1960s when the restrictions and staid conventions of the past were cast aside and new freedoms asserted.

Individuals could decide the path of their lives and make their own way in the world. We could laugh, tell jokes and have a good time whilst working hard to build for our future, knowing that when old age came to us, our pension contributions would make life comfortable for us in our later years. Huh! Is it any wonder that when a populist politician appears on the scene, confronting issues affecting the wellbeing of this country and its' inhabitants, that millions feel he is speaking up for them?

I am at the moment saving my golden buzzer until such time that we magically make this current woeful government disappear.

Pete Samuels.

Any views expressed are personal views and not that of any organisation with which Pete is associated.

The Voice of Saltash Patients

Finding Money for a New Life for St Barnabas Hospital

Letter to the Editor...

Dear Madam,

I wish to express my gratitude to you, Mary Crawford, as the Editor of this newspaper, for helping two 'old ladies' from the Antipodes (Australasia) ascertain the passing of another older lady who lived a very quiet life and had no relatives left to pass on this information to her old friends outside England. Many, many thanks Mary for your invaluable help and decisive discovery. We are very grateful, Jan (Aus) & Anne Toneycliffe (NZ)

Thank you, for your kind words, it was a pleasure, I am pleased we were able to help, thank you to Rachel Bullock our New Mayor of Saltash who also helped.

Contact the Observer on Mobile Number 07971 484872

Even in the recent past, local people have made bequests in their wills to help St Barnabas Hospital, a fact proving the esteem in which this local healthcare service has been held. We only recently learned that quite a number of these individual bequests have not only remained unspent, but have built up into a six-figure sum - which we think should be used to benefit the current generation of patients who need care and support locally. This is the line being taken by community representatives on our Healthcare Action Group.

The ideas which have just begun to be considered feature the modernisation and re-equipping of the 40-year old "day room" area at the rear of the hospital, where there is parking and level access for pedestrians. It will be seen as a community resource to provide an extended range of support and clinical services. It is conveniently next door to Port View Surgery, and not far from the Health Centre. NHS leaders have responded well to this opportunity, and are pursuing the next steps necessary to build up a vision for this facility which we can all share.

Nothing is going to happen

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overnight, but this looks like good news at last for all who have contributed to the efforts made by the Group over the last 2 years.

There is also a decent sum of money raised in the past by the old League of Friends, now the St Barnabas Charity for Community Healthcare. Trustees of the new Charity will have to decide soon on whether to offer this money to support these new plans as they are developed.

For the new project to make an impact, the Action Group knows it will have to draw in more money from a range of sources. Therefore, if any local people, families, businesses and financial advisers would like to discuss offering further donations or bequests, please make contact with us at 07813 890416 or patient.voice@icloud.com for more details.

We will keep readers up to date with progress.

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Mike Pitches Media 8 May 2025 at 21:14

Saltash Truly Remembered VE80

Saltash was resplendent in red, white, and blue as the town came together to mark the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE Day), commemorating the end of World War II on 8th May 1945.

Across several days, events honoured the bravery and sacrifice of those who served. The Saltash Royal British Legion held a poignant Remembrance Service at St Nicholas and St Faith Church. At Ashtorpe Rock, a joyful 1940s

sing-along led into a vintage-style tea party, full of nostalgia and community spirit.

Saltash Town Council hosted a special evening at the Waterside, with Councillor Rachel Bullock lighting the commemorative Beacon. The air was filled with wartime melodies as Florence Hope beautifully performed the beloved songs of Vera Lynn.

An inspiring exhibition of WW2-themed written works by local schoolchildren was

displayed at Saltash Library Hub, where a musical and illustrated VE80 lecture also took place. Landulph School enjoyed a themed tea party, and Forder Village hosted a colourful and lively street celebration.

The grand finale at Saltash Wesley Church, on 10th May, featured a sell-out Saltash Community Chorus concert, organised by the Sue Hooper Charitable Foundation. Veterans and townspeople alike were treated to rousing songs, moving

poetry, famous wartime speeches, and the timeless Big Band music of Glenn Miller. A sea of flags waved as the audience joined in for a stirring rendition of We'll Meet Again, followed by heartfelt cheers for peace and the National Anthem.

Saltash lost 122 personnel during the war — each remembered with dignity, gratitude, and honour.

Saltash truly remembered.

Sue Hooper MBE
Freeman of Saltash

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Photos Mary Crawford

Forder Village Celebrate VE 80 With Spirited Wartime Village Party

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Forder Village proudly came together over the May Bank Holiday weekend to mark the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day with a vibrant community Village party, rich in wartime nostalgia and intergenerational spirit.

The Forder Village VE 80 Party, organised by residents and community champions, including Carole and Colin Brown, Nigel Crabb and Viv Barfield, brought together more than 80 villagers and guests. Attendees ranged from just 14 months old to an impressive 91 years young - testament to the unifying power of remembrance.

At the heart of the celebration was a striking tribute: 80 hand-crafted poppies spelling out 'VE' in front of the village's 'Tommy' silhouette, made by Keith Rawlings using recycled 45 rpm vinyl records. This creative and sustainable homage symbolised each year since 1945 and served as a focal point for reflection and photography.

The village was decked out in patriotic style, with 14 Union Jack-covered tables brimming with food—"at least ten times more than on the actual VE Day," one villager joked. Many guests entered into the spirit of the occasion by donning 1940s-style attire. Flat caps, braces, headscarves and vintage frocks were seen in abundance, while Colin Brown turned heads in his authentic ARP Warden uniform.

Musical entertainment was provided by a charming 1940s wind-up gramophone, playing timeless tracks from Glenn Miller, Vera Lynn, George Formby, and Bing Crosby. Favourites such as 'White Cliffs of Dover' and 'We'll Meet Again' stirred memories and prompted singalongs. Wartime music CDs added to the soundtrack of the day.

A poignant moment came midway through the festivities, as villagers paused to remember those whose sacrifices secured the freedoms we enjoy today. This act of remembrance brought solemnity and gratitude to an otherwise joyful event.

A spokesperson who helped coordinate the celebration, reflected:

"The feel-good atmosphere was just wonderful. People of all ages chatting together, sharing stories, and smiling in the sunshine. It was truly heart-warming - the kind of event that reminds us of what community means;" - and added with a smile: "Interestingly, the weather forecast on VE Day in 1945 had predicted rain. The Daily Mirror noted, 'the sudden warm snap of yesterday will not continue.' Never has a country so joyfully celebrated a weather forecast being wrong!"

The event was not only a tribute to history but also a showcase of community collaboration. Contributions came from across the village, with volunteers helping to decorate, serve refreshments, and clean up afterwards.

"One of the best yet!" an attendee resident said!

Sue Hooper



Community Chorus Perform VE80 Concert to Packed House

The grand eightieth anniversary VE Day Community Concert, a culmination of three months hard work accompanied by much 'laughter, fun and friendship', played to an appreciative packed house in Saltash Wesley Church.

The concert formed the finale of the commemorations of what was probably the last significant anniversary that those who recollect the joyous celebrations to mark the ending of six years of conflict are likely to share.

The concert was the

brainchild of Mrs Sue Hooper MBE who had worked tirelessly with a dedicated team since February to put together a truly memorable event in tribute to the millions who lost their lives to preserve the freedom that we enjoy, as well as those who returned. Those

from the strains of wartime. Then the community chorus took to the stage to relate what they described as 'the Greatest Story' in song, poetry and speech. The music was composed especially for the event by musical director Julian Barnicoat and followed the war

some of whom attended.

As a fine finale the Carlton Big Band was joined by Saltash based singer and song writer (and Sue Hooper's granddaughter) Florence Hope who's beautifully voiced songs of the period concluded with one and all invited to join in



Photo Rachel Bullock

lost included 122 residents of Saltash, fifteen of them civilians killed in the blitz, all of whose names were shown during the performance.

The event opened in fitting forties style with the strident sounds of the Carlton Big Band directed by Elaine Keith-Hill playing a selection of the Glenn Miller tunes which had helped servicemen and civilians relax

in all its moods from fear and foreboding through to the tears of joy, blended with those of sorrow for the fallen, that marked the 8th of May 1945, a day never to be forgotten by those who shared its momentous rapture and relief. Interspersed with the music and poetry were speeches from wartime figures and from living Saltash survivors of the war,

that perennial wartime favourite 'We'll meet again.'

As well as bringing together the community both as members of the chorus and as the wildly enthusiastic audience, the evening raised funds for the Sue Hooper Charitable Foundation to assist talented local young people further their interest and skills in the performing arts.



Photo Mary Crawford



Photos Mary Crawford



Cllr Rachel Bullock lit the Saltash Beacon in unison with the Commonwealth

Saltash Town Council marked the historic 80th anniversary of VE Day, as the people, families and communities of our great nation came together to celebrate 80 years of peace since the end of the Second World War in Europe

Honesty, Friendship, Loyalty and Respect

To celebrate VE day the staff and children at Landulph Primary School dressed in 1940s outfits and held a street-party style lunch outside in the school grounds surrounded by bunting and union flags while 1940s songs played on the loudspeaker to create a celebratory atmosphere. Members from the Landulph Parish Council also came to celebrate and make it a real community event.

The school, which celebrated its centenary in 2024 has been an important part of the local community since its opening and encourages 4 key values: Honesty, Friendship, Loyalty and Respect; and these values led the learning around the VE day celebrations, with children making flags, bunting and using the lessons of the past to create thoughtful and knowledgeable citizens of the future.

To find out more about the school, see the school website at www.landulph.net or call the school office on 01752 845572.

Photo Mary Crawford



SALTASH STUDIOS

JUNE:

Thu 26th, 6.30-8.30pm, £10

WORKSHOP: Tetra Pak Printing

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Fri 27th, 6.45-9.40pm, £8 / £7

FILM: Wicked Sing-Along (PG)

Gather your friends and family and get ready to defy some gravity with the witches of Oz.



JULY:

Fri 4th, 7.30-9pm, £8 / £7

FILM: Ocean with David Attenborough (PG)

Stunning cinematography showcases the wonder of life under the seas.



Thu 10th, 6.30-8.30pm, £12

WORKSHOP: Felted Bowls

Transform natural wool fibres into a delicate bowl. Suitable for beginners or crafters looking to learn a new skill.

Fri 11th, 7.30-9.05pm, £8 / £7

FILM: A New Kind of Wilderness (12A)

The true story of an off-grid, home school family in the Norwegian wilderness.



Sun 13th, 6.15-7.45pm, £12

Wellbeing: Gentle Yoga & Relaxation

Accessible meditation, breath work and yoga-based movement.

Fri 18th, 7.30-9.05pm, £8 / £7

FILM: Oh My Goodness! (12A)

A hilarious comedy about cycling nuns set in France's beautiful Jura region.

French with English subtitles.



Sat 19th, 10am-3pm, Free entry

MARKET: Makers Market

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Sustainable Saltash

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

I am going to write candidly about something I can't manage. I hope that you will appreciate the honesty!

We have worked hard to drive down the amount of stuff entering and leaving our home. We've come up against many an obstacle, but the trend has always been gradually downward. Yet one area of our lives firmly resists all progress.

Children are our greatest asset. Our futures rest with them. Most will agree that the years in which we parent are when we model attitudes and behaviours that we want to see in those who will surround us, enrich our lives and eventually take over from us as the driving force in our society. Yet passive over-consumption and wastage plagues this period almost more than any other.

When our daughter was very small, we brought her up to school age through limited iterations of cherished pre-loved clothes and toys, nearly all of which we passed on with attached stories and memories. Most of the way through primary school, we are struggling. Weekly there is some new fad. A tiny cheap item that has no real function, a 'fidget' that breaks in days, or some different kind of water

bottle (I could go on about water bottles all day. We have so many- why are there no water fountains?!). Myriad small collectibles which are relentlessly promoted and advertised. All feel essential to keeping up with friends and enjoying life. None are wanted a few weeks later. It's exhausting! I'm sure none of us want to teach the idea that consumption is necessary for status, that constant acquisition is a path to happiness. It's the opposite of what many adults have learned. We are stuck in a successful and very unhelpful system here.

A personal insight- the culture of consumption was much the same through my own childhood. My head is awash with memories of that time, but I have very little recollection of most of those coveted objects because they were far too numerous and unimportant. They are white noise on a background of sunny Cornish summers, family gatherings and neighbourhood playtimes that dominate my recollection. They simply didn't matter. They won't matter to my daughter either. Sadly, that won't have any effect on the heap of forgotten fads that sits

Overcoming Loneliness When You're Struggling Financially

Facing financial struggles and unmanageable debt can cause people to experience immense loneliness. At Christians Against Poverty (CAP), we find that those suffering from debt and poverty are often trapped in an endless cycle of isolation and fear that can prevent them from seeking help for a long time. People don't need to suffer in silence. With Loneliness Awareness Week taking place in June, we want to share some practical ways to help you

overcome the loneliness that can be brought on through financial hardship. **Access free, professional debt help** At CAP, we recognise the value of being able to offer face-to-face support to those in need. Our debt coaches and befrienders meet people in their homes and are therefore able to provide in-depth, holistic and emotional support which can really help those experiencing loneliness when trapped in financial difficulty. So, if you're struggling with debt, call CAP's free helpline (0800 328 0006) to see how CAP can help you.

Utilise safe places

From weekly drop-ins to community cafes and Warm Welcome spaces, many local churches and organisations offer plenty of free safe places to go for somewhere to belong and connect with others, build friendships and receive support.

Share your difficulties

It can be difficult to confide in someone about your financial worries but if you are experiencing financial problems, it won't do you any good to keep your anxieties bottled up. If you have a friend or family member that you trust, you could try speaking with them about it, so you're not carrying the burden alone.

Get emotional support

We understand that some people who are financially

unloved beneath the soil.

Where might we start with turning the tide on the unnecessary in this case? I just don't know. Peer pressure and growing personal awareness loom large in this part of a young life, and that is so easy to capitalise on. It's not just a case of saying no to one child every time. That's not fair. As is happening in so many other areas, the change must be gradual and universal.

Something is holding us back. I've no idea how to help this change to happen. If you do, please get in touch.

Marc Bramham

This column is a conversation starter for our whole community. If you have comments on the subject, ideas of your own or suggestions for future content, please do get in touch at sustainable.saltash@protonmail.com

struggling can find it difficult to even leave the house, and if trapped indoors, loneliness can become even more prevalent, so it's really important to be able to chat to someone. Consider using a listening service such as the Samaritans (116 123) for emotional support, or perhaps chat with your local church minister who may be able to provide a home visit and offer both pastoral and spiritual support.

Attend free financial workshops/groups

Joining a local community group will really help you connect with others. There are plenty of options available in Saltash and they can be so encouraging, with many people who attend them forming long-lasting friendships. Check out more information here in the Saltash Observer or ask a friend or on Facebook if you want to find out more.

For CAP help, email me direct at timsquires@capuk.org. For wider support, visit moneyhelper.org.uk

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a UK charity working with over 1,100 affiliated churches to deliver debt help, budgeting guidance, support to find work, life skills education and more. Visit capuk.org to find out more.

'Codes and Communications' In Museum Exhibition

'Codes, secrets and communications' is the theme of this year's fascinating exhibition in the Saltash museum recently re-opened for the new season. While based around the whole spectrum of means of communication throughout history the exhibition concentrates in particular on secret codes and, with the aid of several uniquely exciting exhibits, those which helped to win World War II.

A replica of the once top secret but now renowned enigma machine which enabled the 'boffins' of Bletchley Park to read enemy signals has been painstakingly created especially for the museum by Jim Thompson.

Certain British prisoners of war in Germany were enabled to send coded messages in seemingly innocuous letters to their families. One such man was Lt. John Pryce RN, captured at Dunkirk. His son Stephen has made available to the museum some of these letters which form part of a display on his father's wartime experiences. 'I am impressed by the impeccable research carried out by Saltash Heritage which has uncovered

facts which I did not know, putting my father's story into a greater context' he said at the official opening of the exhibition.

The display also features carrier pigeons, semaphore and much more including the secret codes that children have enjoyed.

All of this is alongside the permanent exhibition of Saltash memorabilia and, specially for this year, a room has been converted into a station 'booking office' providing a feast of local railwayana for train buffs and for all of those who like to recall how our railways used to run.

'You have done an amazing job', now ex Mayor Councillor Mrs Julia Peggs told Saltash Heritage volunteers at the official opening. 'Many residents may not realise what a treasure we have in our museum. Bring your children and grand-children!'

The museum in Lower Fore Street will now be open through until December on Wednesday afternoons and all day Saturdays. Admission is free though contributions to Saltash Heritage, the voluntary organisation running our museum and local history centre, are appreciated.

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Pentillie Open Day Raised £2,500 for CEPL12

Sunshine, spring blooms and a Garden Open Day raising over £2,500 for a local cause at Pentillie Castle! Pentillie Castle opened its gates for a special Garden Open Day on Sunday 18th May, welcoming over 350 visitors in support of Saltash's Community Enterprise PL12. With clear skies overhead and the gardens at their springtime best, it was a day filled with joy and community spirit.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Mary

Saltash Rugby

It could be a Saltash quiz question: What is the connection between Saltash rugby club - the 'Ashes' - and Ann Glanville and her ladies' rowing team? The answer: They were so good that their opposition often opted out of competing against them for fear of being beaten heavily!

As an 'Ashes' supporter, may I share with your readers what a successful season our men's 1st XV has had.

They won their Cornwall Counties league and gained promotion without losing a game, amassing a record number of points, despite receiving only token points from some games - when the opposition did not turn up.

They also won the Cornwall Clubs' cup for the third consecutive year, and the Plymouth Lockie Cup. Their only defeat was in the National Papa John trophy semi-final, where they lost to the eventual winners.

Other 'Ashes' teams have been successful in their leagues and cup competitions, including the Women's XV. Some players were selected to represent Cornwall. No players are paid. In fact, they pay a membership subscription to play.

The club is integrated well into our community, offering rugby training and coaching for all ages, and holding charity events. The clubhouse provides a welcoming social base for when members return home after leaving Saltash. Players are 'supporter friendly', and seem to appreciate our support, always ready to stop and discuss games.

I believe we should be proud of everyone involved with Saltash rugby, and what they contribute to our town.

Barry Brooking, Saltash

Guests wandered through Pentillie's historic woodland gardens, making their way down to the riverside quay, familiar to many as a filming location for Beyond Paradise. Children got stuck into the Pentillie Treasure Hunt, while grown-ups soaked in the scenery and sunshine with delicious refreshments from the Castle's pop-up café.

The event raised over £2,500 for CEPL12, a brilliant local initiative supporting community-led projects, including the Saltash Community Kitchen who tackle food waste. Organisers were thrilled with the turnout and generosity from attendees: "It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces, enjoying the gardens and getting behind such a meaningful cause," said a member of the Pentillie Team.

Community Enterprise PL12 also shared their thanks: "This kind of support really does make a difference - it helps us continue to grow projects that support the people in our community."

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us!

Saltash Steps Up for Marathon Man

Stress fractures in his left leg have forced Simon Wengrad to withdraw after completing 33 of his planned 50 marathons in 50 days. Inspired by his efforts, local people are walking and running to complete the remaining marathons, with 1st Saltash Brownies already clocking up the first marathon. Simon is raising funds for Saltash Youth Network, which supports the town's youth groups. Chair of the Network, Charlotte Carpenter said: "Simon's dedication has been extraordinary. We're incredibly proud of him, and of everyone stepping forward to complete this challenge together."

Scrapstore Nominated for Green Award

Scrapstore has been nominated for a regional green award, as Rosie Waters of Scrapstore discovered by listening to Radio Cornwall.

She heard that the nomination for BBC Make a difference "green award" had come from a customer who wished to shine a light on the amazing contribution that Scrapstore makes to art, craft and upcycling. Scrapstore was described as a total treasure cave with its take on arts and craft supplies while opposite Scrapstore Too specialises in electrical equipment all professionally checked and made safe. All that is sold would likely have ended up as landfill if the Scrapstore team had not given it a new lease of life and their Saltash customers the chance to purchase a bargain.

We feel really honoured to be nominated" Rosie told the Observer. She is now waiting to discover whether they will be among the winners invited to the awards ceremony in September.

Saltash U3A Band Charity Dance

Fri 11th July Saltash based U3A band Last Chance, a group of 5 musicians with a total age of 384 years will be putting on a free dance at the Saltash Social Club. The dance will also feature Biased Blues, a Plymouth based band with similar aged musicians. The dance is in aid of the Cornwall Air Ambulance, collection buckets will be readily available to take your spare cash.

If you fancy something for nothing, then come along and enjoy yourselves.

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Essa Voices

One and All

A new Council, new challenges and a new role

One and all. Those words from the Cornish motto feel particularly important right now.

Following the Cornwall Council elections in May, Saltash is represented by three councillors at County Hall: me, a Liberal Democrat, along with two newly elected Reform UK councillors.

Looking across Cornwall as a whole, no single group actually won a majority of seats. There are 87 Cornwall Councillors in total: Reform UK is the largest group with 28 councillors, followed by the Lib Dems with 26, and 16 Independent councillors as the next largest group. In this kind of situation, forming alliances is the standard way

to ensure a Council can get on with its work.

With no outright majority, councillors took time to reflect and consider next steps. As no proposals emerged from Reform UK, the Independent and Liberal Democrat groups reached an agreement to work together. Councillor Leigh Frost, a Lib Dem councillor representing Bodmin, was nominated as Leader and elected with 53 votes in favour, none against, while 25 councillors, including all members of the Reform UK group, abstained.

In Leigh's words on the day he was elected as Leader: "Let's move forward, let's work together, let's do better. We're in tough times. No one can pretend otherwise. But I truly believe that by working together not just as councillors, but with our communities, we can get through it — and build something better."

Saltash Model Club

Saltash Model Club continues to go from strength to strength with membership increasing, with various competitions to tempt the skilful members to build various military and other interesting objects.

At the Club's recent event which was a Charity Build - 15 members entered into the model making challenge.

The Charity Build challenge is to build a model from scratch using a level one Airfix kit assemble and paint ready to display in just 4 hours. With drying time, it is a challenge, and members need to be organised.

Each year the Saltash Model Club selects a local Charity to support, and all proceeds raised is donated to that Charity.

Over the past few years, including 2025 the Club has raised around £4800. This year it has raised approx. £1,000.

Although 15 members took part in the build - over 20 members raised money from other sponsorship. The event was sponsored by Moor 2 Shore cleaning which is owned by Darren Smee a club member.

The winner of the Charity build was Jim Thompson, whose most impressive model was of a farm scene of Sheep Dog trials with models of the Sheep Dog, Sheep and farmland seen in the photograph, with Sue Hooper, chair of the Sue Hooper Charitable Foundation, the beneficiaries of this year's Saltash Model Club's Charity.



Photo courtesy Kim Murphy

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Leigh's new Cabinet has 4 councillors from the Lib Dem group and 5 from the group of Independent councillors. He has asked me to join his Cabinet, taking on the role for Children, Families and Schools. It is an opportunity that I am proud and excited to take up, in an area that I care deeply about.

Our new Cabinet team has been working with the Council's senior officers to shape our approach. We have agreed on three guiding values: Cornish, Caring and Common Sense. That means being rooted in Cornwall and proud of our shared heritage, whether we are Cornish by birth or by choice, caring in how we serve people, and practical in how we find solutions.

The vision must be grounded in reality, though: in the same week I took on my new Cabinet role, new figures showed Cornwall has one of the highest child poverty rates in the country, with around 21,500 children under the age of 16 living in relative poverty here. That stark data drives home the urgency of what we must do together, both locally and across Cornwall.

I'm a volunteer at The Core and the Saltash Youth Network. I'll continue supporting community groups, schools and charities



Councillor Hilary Frank
cllr.hilary.frank@cornwall.gov.uk

in Saltash, but now I will also be taking that commitment across Cornwall and working with MPs and councillors of every political persuasion and none, because it is only by working together that we can give every child the chance to thrive. **One and all.**

From Sinking to Swimming

Saltash Leisure Centre has come a long way since its future was cast into doubt. Saved by people power, it will now benefit from a £1.8m Cornwall Council investment creating a home for the registrar service and a Safe and Wellbeing Hub, with changing rooms and the café area getting a fresh new look. Work runs from June to January 2026, and the Centre remains open throughout.

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Just Thinking Aloud

Would you believe... that if a general election had been called very early this month it would have resulted in overwhelming victory for Reform UK? It would have produced a Reform majority in every single ward in our SE Cornwall constituency.

A predicted 35.2% of the votes cast would have given the Reform parliamentary candidate a 76% chance of winning the seat, resulting in him/her being one of the 362 Farageistes forming our next government at Westminster. Mindboggling, n'est-ce pas? But to believe all that you would have to swallow the predictions by Electoral

Calculus, a reputable body which updates its forecasts on a monthly basis. Whatever, we live in interesting times in which we count some things out at our peril.

For instance, I would never even in my wildest dreams have believed that a Labour Party MP who has become our latest Prime Minister would be encouraging us all to come together. To do what, pray? To work at becoming a "battle-ready armoured nation" moving towards "war-fighting readiness", building half a dozen more munitions factories, plus twelve or so nuclear-powered submarines, and so on. But that is fact. It is also fact that the UK only has one nuclear repair and refuelling facility for the whole of the Royal Navy. A single nuclear strike on Devonport – because that's where it is – might

cause us a bit of a problem here in SE Cornwall, never mind the wider political stage.

But let's stop frightening ourselves about a future which might never come about and concentrate our interest on what might be happening politically in fair Esse. My ramblings are requested by my favourite Editor by June 3. This is being scribbled the day before. After that I run out of my availability until next month.

As we all know, we were not sufficiently interested at the time in the democratic process which would have produced a new sixteen strong town council. By the time you read this, the problem ought to have been solved. On June 5th – hopefully – the three vacancies will have been filled by co-options at a council meeting. I understand that eleven folk

who did not submit themselves for election now appear to fancy their chances of being selected/anointed via the vagaries of the co-option process. Hang on a minute though. Another vacancy popped up following the unexpected decision of my pal Sheila Lennox-Boyd to give up as one of the Tamar ward councillors. If ten electors demand a by-election, then one will take place. If the magic ten is not reached, then – guess what – it'll be another co-option. Unless my cogitations are in error, that will mean that a quarter of the new council will not have had the legitimacy of Joe Public's votes but will emerge from non-democratic behind the scenes bargaining between the other three quarters.

I live in Essa ward. Only one of the Cornwall Council candidates came knocking. She got my vote. Thankyou Hilary. *Bob Munro*

Local Artist's Picture Hung in National Portrait Gallery

A Saltash artist well renowned locally for her portraiture is proud to have had one of her works selected from over a thousand submissions to be hung in an exhibition in the National Portrait Gallery.

I am delighted that the portrait which I entitled "Road to me" has been selected for the Herbert Smith Freehill Kramer portrait award exhibition 2025 Jo Beer told us.

From an original entry at 1314 pictures digitally submitted from over sixty countries the judges firstly selected 278 to be physically examined. From those forty six, including Jo's will form the public display in London's National Portrait Gallery from July to October and will then go on tour.

Born in Devon Jo came to Saltash aged eight and was educated at what are now



Brunel and Saltash Community School. At the latter she considers herself fortunate to have been taught art by Vincent Wilson well remembered by generations of Saltash students and it was he who recognised and encouraged her talent for portrait painting.

From school Jo went into a career in healthcare, most recently at Port View surgery, but says "there was only one thing I ever wanted to do – be an artist," She always painted and over the last eight years made it her full time career.

Among her subjects has been her sister Rachel Bullock current mayor of Saltash and Rachel's two teenage boys.

Jo accepts commissions and has painted many local adults and children. For her National Portrait Gallery she selected a picture of a young acquaintance Max, whom she had previously painted three years ago and again last November, entitling it "Road to Me", Jo conclude I would like to thank the judges for seeing something in my portrait that deems it worthy of an exhibition and to my sitter Max for being willing to have his wonderful face featured in this exhibition.

Anyone who is in London between July 11th and October 12th can call in the National Portrait Gallery, admission free, to view the exhibition.

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