



SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

March 2012 - Issue 236

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CIC COMMUNITY TRANSPORT PROJECT

A Transport Needs Survey was carried out by Cornwall Council for Saltash Gateway CIC in 2009, to determine the requirements of persons resident within the Saltash environs - primarily the elderly, the disabled, the young, the vulnerable and especially those persons currently without access to bus services within the PL12 area. The survey indicated needs in line with those identified in Cornwall's Local Transport Plans (currently LTP3) and therefore the CIC Community Transport Project was set up.

As a first initiative, a 2002 registered 16 seater, or 6 wheelchair carrier, Mercedes Sprinter Minibus, fitted with a 300 kg wheelchair lift, was acquired from Cornwall Council in late 2011. Saltash Gateway CIC members are all unpaid volunteers and the CIC has obtained grants from the Saltash S106 funds & Cornwall Council. The project

was also one of the winners of the NatWest Community Force Competition.

The minibus is now MoT'd to Public Service Vehicle (PSV) required standards. It is taxed and insured at the required level for its intended purpose. The wheelchair lift was serviced and tested to the required PSV level by DAF Saltash.

The Cornwall Council detailing was removed and its new livery applied, "Saltash Hopper" with a grasshopper logo, CIC data & other contact information.

Volunteer Cornwall (VC), Truro & Liskeard, are carrying out the major part of volunteer driver recruitment, checking & training. All applicants will be CRB checked and required to undertake Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme (MIDAS) & Safeguarding training (at no cost to the applicant). There is no limit to the maximum number of volunteers who can apply.

Drivers interested in volunteering should contact VC on 01579 344818 or, by email: east@volunteercornwall.org.uk. Volunteers must be over 21 years of age and hold a full clean driving license including categories D1 & D1E.

Volunteers over 70 years of age not holding these should contact the Project Leader, Colin Brown, through VC. General volunteering information can also be found on www.do-it.org.uk. A Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) Section 19 Permit has been granted and the Permit issued. CIC are in the process of determining routes and timing, expected to start in late March. As such information becomes available, it will be posted on the Saltash & District Minibus website: www.saltash-hopper.co.uk.

Volunteer Cornwall will also assist in the passenger registry & bookings required under the conditions of Section 19 and in promulgating other relevant information. When the minibus is fully in operation, CIC may consider, if appropriate to current requirements, applying for a more restrictive Section 22 Permit. CIC are, however, sensitive to the needs of local commercial transport operators.

VOSA Section 19 & 22 permits are granted on the basis that the transport provided must be on a non-



profit-making basis. Small fares may be charged to offset some of the costs of running the service but CIC will be reliant on external assistance to maintain & expand the project.

The CIC Community Transport Project is guided by an Advisory Group made up of the Community Transport leaders within Cornwall Council, Volunteer Cornwall and Age Concern Cornwall. CIC are members of the national Community Transport Association (CTA) which is a valuable source of operational and potential legal assistance

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SALTASH GRIDLOCK – PLEA TO OPEN BUS ROUTE

Following a Monday when the whole of Saltash was gridlocked all morning with commuters and other travellers delayed for hours, Saltash Town Council is seeking that a Plymouth bus route be opened to all traffic under similar circumstances.

A major accident on the Eastbound Plymouth Parkway at around 7 am followed by a series of lesser accidents elsewhere caused the chaos.

The situation could be aided by the opening of Pemros Road, between the Tamar Bridge and St Budeaux Square, to general traffic. Councillor Joe Ellison told the Town Council. This was the main route from Saltash to Plymouth City Centre prior to the opening of the Parkway. Since then the section nearest the bridge has been narrowed and access limited to buses and taxis.

Saltash Police object to the proposal and to traffic cutting across the roundabout, Councillors were told, and

police and Plymouth Council have previously rejected the idea.

However, the Town Council unanimously agreed to urge the Devon and Cornwall Police and Plymouth City Council to reconsider allowing at least Plymouth City Centre bound traffic to use the route and perhaps widening the pinch point with a controllable barrier to be lifted in case of accident elsewhere.

One other alternative, Cllr Richard Bickford pointed out, was the only congestion free route to Plymouth – using the train from Saltash Station, though it was noted that some rail passengers proved unable to access the station in their cars due to the traffic snarl up.

Plymouth Police Lack Local knowledge, Council Complain

Plymouth police officers who are on a rota system to cover Saltash once or twice a week lack the knowledge of the Town and its citizens that local officers possess. The increasing use of officers crossing the bridge to attend to incidents in the Town, due to lack of Saltash based officers, is concerning Town Councillors.

An incident was quoted where a Saltash resident suffered a burglary, Plymouth police attended, apprehended a suspect and recovered stolen property without the victim being informed.

The Town Council agreed to make its concerns known to the police authority.

Crime continues to fall in the Saltash area with 52 crimes reported over the

previous month as against 68 during the equivalent period the previous year. Of these a quarter were assaults, totalling thirteen offences, with one affray, two burglaries from dwelling, three other burglaries and nine thefts. There was also one reported offence of blackmail, two of arson and four complaints regarding dogs.



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SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...



The Chancellor will make his budget statement on Wednesday 21 March 2012 and this month I thought it appropriate to give you five facts on the economy.

This year, the IMF forecasts the UK to grow twice as fast as Germany and three times as fast as France.

Since the general election, the private sector has created over half a million extra jobs.

Our borrowing costs have fallen to record lows, showing that UK government debt is seen as a safe haven in the global debt storm and saving money for taxpayers, businesses and families.

Over the past year businesses have invested £119 billion across the economy, up £3 billion on the year before.

The Government's necessary deficit reduction plan has maintained Britain's AAA credit rating, which Labour's plans would put in danger.

And also Five measures the Government is taking to boost growth.

To boost growth, the Government is:

Introducing a National Loan Guarantee Scheme to get cheaper loans to businesses by allowing participating banks to raise up to a total of £20 billion of cheaper funding over the next two years under a government guarantee, provided they pass through this lower cost of funding to smaller businesses. In many cases, this will lead to a reduction of up to one percentage point on the cost of the business loan.

Creating the most competitive business tax system in the developed world by cutting corporation tax to the lowest rate in the G7; introducing a Patent Box to encourage firms to innovate in Britain; and simplifying our tax system.

Cutting red tape by scrapping regulations costing businesses over £350 million per year; and radically reforming the planning system by introducing a new default presumption in favour of sustainable development and streamlining over 1,000 pages of planning policy to just 52 pages. We are also getting Britain building by releasing enough public sector land to build as many as 100,000 new homes. We will also increase the Right to Buy discounts, and use the receipts to build a further 100,000 homes. These measures will help support up to 400,000 jobs, will provide a boost to homebuilding, and will make it easier for people to find affordable homes.

Boosting investment and exports to rebalance the economy by setting up Enterprise Zones across the country, including in areas affected by potential job losses at BAE, to encourage inward investment; stimulating business growth across England through the Regional Growth Fund; and promoting British exports abroad.

Making a more educated workforce the most flexible in Europe by creating the biggest number of apprenticeships this country has ever seen; establishing at least 24 University Technical Colleges to provide cutting edge vocational training; reforming employment law to boost competitiveness, including extending the qualification period for unfair dismissal and consulting on the introduction of fees for tribunals; and radically reforming welfare to get people off benefits and into work.



Scouts Prepare Site for Their New Centre

At long last the first earth has been turned to start building a new centre for over two hundred keen Saltash Scouts and the many more who wish to join and discover the fun and excitement that scouting has to offer.

The organisation continues to thrive into the twenty-first century both locally and nationally and Saltash Scouts have long outgrown their Windsor Lane premises. For almost twenty years funds have been sought towards a

new purpose built headquarters. At last sufficient monies are available to commence work on what is intended to become a spacious two-story building alongside the Latchbrook Community Centre.

The Mayor of Saltash, Councillor Colin Oakes, himself a proud ex-scout and Mayoress Mrs Marilyn Oakes came to the turning of the first sod on the site together with Town and County Councillors, Scout Commissioners, Leaders and Scout Pack members.

There are currently 212 scouts in Saltash ranging from young Beavers through cubs, scouts and leaders and the long waiting list of those keen to join proves the need for a large new building. Since 2002 girls have been welcomed into the scouts and though at first there were fears that this would mean the demise of the Girl Guide movement that too continues to flourish with girls now offered an enhanced choice of activities within the two organisations.

Further fund raising drives are to be initiated to see the new building through to completion.

Essa Files

This last month I have spent some time writing up the Town Council's response to the draft 'Core Strategy' for Cornwall. There has, quite rightly, been a lot of interest in, and concern about, this document which lays out plans for the next 20 years in Cornwall, particularly in terms of housing. There has also been some misunderstanding of what it means, perhaps reflecting a need for Cornwall Council to explain it more clearly.

There are two main issues: how many houses, and where they go. On the first STC has very strongly argued for a maximum figure of 1,000 in Saltash. Even more importantly we have said that the purpose of these houses should be to create more jobs by funding employment space. Saltash has many more houses than jobs and it is important that this is rebalanced. Therefore the jobs should come first, with the houses helping to fund them if necessary. However Cornwall has put an alternative figure of 3,500 houses which they believe would help drive more jobs and facilities. We disagree with this.

As far as 'where' goes Cornwall has identified a number of possible sites some of which are very controversial. However it is important to understand that these are only identified as possible - i.e. they are not being considered for planning permission right now, and are not going to be built on next month (or possibly ever). Once the number of houses has been agreed, then the sites on which they should be built will be confirmed, from those mentioned in the document. It is a sad fact that Saltash has little green space to start with (one of the many reasons we oppose the higher number of houses) so some sites being considered are far from ideal. STC has also commented on some of the sites that it thinks are particularly inappropriate.

Further Tamar Toll Rise Threat to Businesses

An unexpected reduction in vehicles paying to cross the Tamar has led to suggestions that tolls may rise again. This is despite the fact that it is less than two years since the last increase hit commuters, and local business people who regularly have to cross the Bridge.

The Town's Chamber of Commerce and Industry has written to the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Committee reminding them of the knock-on effect on traders as "lots of businesses are struggling as the economic situation bites."

The suggested rise in tolls has been planned as three items of capital expenditure and extra staffing costs are coinciding with a fall in toll income. The capital expenditures are replacement of bridge joints, a new ferry works vehicle and improved lavatory facilities on the ferries.

Decease in projected toll collection, despite the widening of the Bridge and the tagging system designed to increase capacity, is blamed on the economic situation leading to less unnecessary journeys being undertaken, increased bus usage especially by concessionary pass holders and possibly more use of the A30 by long distance drivers.

The Chamber of Commerce has queried why when reserves of £2million are held the capital expenditure of under a third of a million pounds should require a toll increase, and why after the tagging system promised less labour costs, more staff are required with reduced number of crossings made.

An increase in the standard toll needs permission from the Secretary of State for Transport and can involve a public inquiry, an increase in the charge to tag holders can be implemented when the Bridge Committee chooses so to do.



CORNWALL COUNCIL

& our PL12 community

For Observer readers

From Councillor Bryan Preston

Burraton Ward Saltash



Council Budget.

The Council set its budget for the 2012/2013 financial year last month. Difficult decisions had to be made, not least whether to accept the Government's offer of the so called 'Freeze Grant' which has been on offer. This means that if Councils do not raise Council Tax this year, the Government will provide a 3% grant to maintain services. This seems like an offer too good to refuse, but there is a sting in the tail. The grant is a one off for this year only that means it does not go in the base budget. When the Council sets its tax next year it will start from exactly the same position as last year, which may mean a bigger rise in Council Tax or further cuts in services, only time will tell.

Anyway the decision was made to take the Freeze Grant so we will wait to see what effect this has on the Budget decision making at this time next year. It was not a unanimous decision and even among the Cabinet there was a split with one member voting against and one abstaining.

For me the devil was in the detail, the Conservative led administration's budget was short on a lot of detail, which is worrying in this time of cuts. You may remember the debacle they got themselves into last year when not being specific about the budget. An about turn on many of the ill conceived proposals on car parking charges, a proposal to close many public toilets that was withdrawn after cries of protest from Councillors and the public alike and threats to rural bus services.

Let's hope that they have got it a bit better organised this time. Alec Robertson the Conservative Leader of the Council was challenged because he said in his speech that they had not made any cuts in Libraries, Leisure Centres and the Youth Service. It was pointed out to him by Jeremy Rowe the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group that opening hours at Libraries had been cut, Youth service staff had been cut and Leisure facilities at Camelford and Bude had had funding withdrawn by the Council. I thought the reply from Mr Robertson was astounding and rather cynical. He said that he stood by his statement that they had not made cuts, they had only made reductions! A pretty silly play on words in my opinion.

Police Budget

The Police Authority took a different view on the Freeze Grant, after a long and difficult meeting at which a decision could not be reached the meeting was adjourned and a compromise was reached, the decision was made not to take the grant and to raise Council Tax by 2%. The Police are in a different position to the Council in that they do one thing, Policing. If the grant had been taken it would have meant a loss in the budget year after year. The present policing proposals through the Blueprint model that has been developed see a reduction to 2810 officers by 2015. Taking the freeze grant would have meant even more officers being lost. There was a clear picture painted by Steve Otter the Chief Constable and other senior officers. Any further cuts would fall on Neighbourhood Policing. The Police Authorities view was that when we listen to the public, they want Neighbourhood Policing protected, so they took the long term view rather than the short term fix of the grant. To put it into perspective the 2% rise is 6 pence per week on a Band D property. I hope that you think that that is a good investment to protect Neighbourhood Policing in our town.

Stadium for Cornwall.

I would not normally comment on the internal political machinations of the Council but a recent incident raised important issues for me. Councillor Scott Mann the Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group rather spectacularly resigned after only 10 months in office over disagreements with Alec Robertson the Conservative Group Leader and his abrasive style of leadership. You may remember that Councillor Robertson was challenged for the leadership last year after accusations of not listening to members of his group. In his letter of resignation he said "There appears to be a separation from what the group are saying and what you are doing. It is my view that your leadership style is one that is not conducive to democratic decision making."

But why should this be of interest to us here in Saltash. Because, according to Scott Mann, the 'straw that broke the camel's back' and made him resign is the funding of the Stadium for Cornwall in Truro. Despite saying last year that no Council Taxpayers money would go into the scheme, the feasibility study was partly paid for by the Council as well as we presume lots of officer time. Despite denials from the Council, rumour abounds that the project will require a cash injection from Council Tax payers, or if not that, then loans for the stadium will be guaranteed by the Council. Remember, this is a proposed development over 50 miles away from Saltash. The initial idea was that it was shared by Cornish Pirates Rugby and Truro City Football Club. The football club has of course been suffering from some 'local difficulties. According to the Council the Stadium has the support of a large number of people who signed a petition; I wonder how many of them were from Saltash. A poll in the West Briton also produced a majority of 4 to 1 in favour. Maybe the clue is in the title 'West' Briton. A poll in the Saltash Observer might produce a different result. What do you think, send me your views to bpreston@cornwall.gov.uk

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From The Mayor's Parlour...

February began for us with a day of Churches. The Gift and Craft Fair held at St Stephen's Church was our first engagement for the month and we enjoyed looking at and buying from the stalls. It was great to see so many people supporting the fair as the committee continues to raise much needed funds for the upkeep of the Church as well as the planned Community Hall project.

Secondly, we had the great pleasure of attending the retirement of Reverend Jeff Howden from the Saltash Baptist Church. Jeff has worked tirelessly for the Community of Saltash and we were delighted to be able to join others in wishing him and his wife, Jan, a long and happy retirement.

Finally for the day, it was off to the Saltash Wesley Church for the Gala Concert of the Saltash Music, Speech and Drama Festival. We had a very enjoyable evening being entertained by some very talented performers, who were well deserving of the trophies that they won.

The second retirement this month was at Saltash.net when we were invited to join the Air Cadets in a "This is your Life" presentation for Brian Powell, Air Cadet Leader who had been an instructor with the Cadets for 56 years. It was a wonderful evening and Brian was clearly popular judging by the amount of people and young Cadets who attended.

It seems that entertainment features quite strongly on the list of Mayoral duties and this month has been no

exception.

We have been to the Burraton Players Pantomime, Goody Two Shoes and the Anglican Methodist Players play, "They found love aboard SS Farndale Avenue". Both were really enjoyable evenings and very well attended. There is nothing better to cheer you up on a cold winter's evening than a good laugh and there was plenty of fun and laughter at both performances.

We have represented the town at the Liskeard Civic service and the Torpoint Mayor's Charity Ball and as usual, we were made to feel very welcome at both events.

Marilyn was asked to join the voting panel for the Saltash May Queen and Princesses and it was probably her most difficult task to date. She does hope, however, that the girls not selected this year will try again next year as, in her own words, they were all lovely! I am sure the new May Queen and Princesses will do a fantastic job for the new Mayor.

I opened the new computer training room at Janeva Court this month, which is a facility for residents, kindly installed and supported by Saltash.net Academy. I am sure that this will prove to be a very popular asset for the older generation of Saltash and I am delighted that this facility is now available as, projects which benefit the community, have been my prime importance during my Mayoral year.

Saltash Live at Home scheme held their AGM this month and I was delighted to attend. This organisation is working incredibly hard to support the elderly residents of our town along with the help of our younger generation at Saltash.net Academy.

On a sad note, I attended the funeral service of Mr John Bryant, a former Mayor of Saltash in 1974 and 1979 and also a Caradon District Councillor. He was well known and respected throughout the community. Marilyn & I have also been guests at the Saltash Rotary dinner which was a very enjoyable evening. The Rotarians raise an incredible amount for worthwhile causes both in the UK and abroad and their hard work and commitment has provided aid for many.

Finally, a real treat for us both, we had the great pleasure of wishing Marian Burden a very happy 104th birthday at her home at the Elms. Marian was a little disappointed that she would not be able to attend the Mayor's Ball this year. She reads the papers and keeps up with all the Saltash news and the Mayor's column! She is a marvellous lady and an inspiration to everyone who meets her.

Councillor Colin Oakes
Town Mayor



Pictured Lewis, Leon and James

Above rise the medieval pillars and tower of St Stephens Church within which countless generations of Saltash citizens have worshipped. Below children of all ages scurry and participate in a wide choice of arty activities while having fun, all based upon a Biblical theme and learning in their own way how to make the bible story relevant to their own lives.

Welcome to Messy Church at St Stephens at which between thirty and ninety children from toddlers to pre-teens share with their parents a monthly session of family fun.

Each session starts with a short introductory talk on the day's theme and the choice of ten or so activities is outlined. Then children hurry off, followed by parents, to get set into having fun with new found friends, creating something to take home, learning new skills and a new outlook on an old Biblical story. Volunteer helpers are there to assist and offer advice to the eager youngsters and drinks are available.

The afternoon ends with a short act of worship in which all can participate, with perhaps puppets to tell a story or a Treasure hunt to discover in the Church objects relevant to the day's theme.

Then all come together again to enjoy some singing and a welcome buffet tea before going home proudly bearing the afternoon's craft work.

"Joseph" (of coat of many colours fame) was the theme when we attended. Keen youngsters were making "dream" pictures with bubble painting, colourful coats from

a variety of media, as well as false beards and salt-dough and bread rolls. On fine days activities such as pancake races or themed treasure hunts may be held outside, under close volunteer supervision.

The March Messy Church session was to be on Mothering Sunday, March 18th, and the theme would be women in the Bible. All of the themes are made to be relevant to the children, while making coats of many colours the children were encouraged to think of Joseph and his family, his troubles and eventual reconciliation. Other themes are associated with church feasts such as Christmas and Easter.

All children, with parents are welcome each third Saturday of the month between 3 and 5pm. There is no charge though donations are welcome.

The hum of activity, the enthusiasm and excitement, as well as the evident fun the children are having is clear evidence that church-going for them is an enjoyable experience.

Those medieval worshippers who established St Stephens as a centre of faith for centuries to come would, we believe, have approved.

Internet Café for the Retired Folk of Saltash



saltash.net community school was recently invited to participate in a project which would help support the elderly residents of Saltash. David Butcher, Manager at Janeva Court, a complex of 23 supported Retirement apartments adjoining Burraton Methodist Chapel, contacted saltash.net to see if its ICT technical team and its students would be able to help set up and run an 'Internet Cafe' facility, not just for Janeva Court residents but for other retired people in the town as well. As the Head

Student team at saltash.net, comprising Adam Riglar, Hannah Burtwell, Lisa Todd and Emma Thomas, had already selected the Saltash Live at Home scheme as their community charity to support throughout their time in office, they were delighted to be able to respond to the appeal. They now have 45 student volunteers from across the year groups offering to assist them with regular visits to Janeva Court's new Internet Cafe to help the residents and other users with their ICT skills.

The technical and practical considerations of setting up the equipment for the Internet Cafe were taken care of by saltash.net's Technical Consultant, Adam Ledger and Deputy Network Manager, Graham Harrison. 8 computers have been installed on a long term loan basis from saltash.net. They are all connected to a mini server which can be remotely supported from the secondary school on an ongoing basis.

The launch event, attended by Janeva Court residents, the Mayor of Saltash, Colin Oakes, and other Town Councillors, as well as headteacher of saltash.net community school, Isobel Bryce, took place on

Wednesday 8th February.

Mrs Bryce said, "This kind of project shows what it means to be a true community school. Our Head Students have been so committed to seeing this project become a reality and we have been thrilled that so many young people want to get involved."

David Butcher, Manager at Janeva Court added, "It is good that the residents will now have the opportunity to use Skype to communicate with relatives living further afield, as well as gaining help with practical tasks such as ordering a delivery of on line shopping."

Coaches Welcome

A coach parking bay is to be made available in the public car park to the rear of the Co-op.

An experiment with a Plymouth City Coach proved that a long vehicle could manoeuvre from Fore Street around into Victoria Road and into the bay without too much difficulty.

A new off street parking order will mean that coaches with visitors to the Town will be welcome to pull up in the centre instead of unloading passengers and then removing to the edge of the Town.

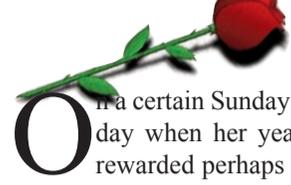
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Mother's Day



*A Day to Remember Mother
"On Mothering Sunday above all other
Every Child should dine with it's mother"
(Northamptonshire 19th Century Verse)*

On a certain Sunday in mid-lent each mother looks forwards to a special day when her year of loving and labouring for her family may be rewarded perhaps with flowers, chocolates or a meal out.

Mothers in the seventeenth century equally eagerly anticipated a visit from children who might be apprenticed or living with their employers but who would traditionally be given this day off to return to their mother's home. They would bring with them perhaps a posy of primroses gathered along the way or a special 'simnel' cake or other traditional delicacy. And so our tradition of bouquets and special Mothering Sunday dinners began.

Mid-Lent Sunday

The first written references to Mother Sunday date from the mid-seventeenth century.

"Every mid-lent Sunday is a great day at Worcester when all the children and god-children meet at the head and Cheife of the family and have a feast. They call it the Mothering-Day," recorded Richard Symonds in 1644. Four years later in his poem "A Ceremonie in Gloucester" the poet Robert Herrick wrote:-

"I'll to thee a simnel bring
Gainst thou go'st a mothering."

The custom therefore would appear to have been local to the South Midlands, subsequently spreading across all England and Wales. In Scotland a family feast similar to Mothering Sunday was held on Passion Sunday when a 'car cake,' a highly spiced pancake, was given to mothers.

Simnel Cake

In England the simnel cake was the traditional offering. It's origin is portrayed in a carving in Leighton Buzzard Church, Bedfordshire, dating from the fifteenth century. It shows two local characters quarrelling over whether to boil or bake their dough. On Mothering Sunday they did both and simnel cake, its name derived probably from the Latin 'simila' 'fine flour,' was born.

Shrewsbury simnel cake baked with spices and boiled for hours, was famous, while Devizes and Bury in Lancashire were also renowned for their own recipes.

In Warwickshire the traditional dish was a chine or pork followed by fig pudding, in Hampshire a more modest fare of thin batter wafers was served to mothers on 'Wafering Sunday.' Frumenty too was a mid-lent treat, a porridge made of spiced wheat and milk.

The custom may have originally been associated with a pre-reformation medieval tradition by which parishioners from far afield would go in procession to visit their mother church, perhaps taking the opportunity to visit their own mothers and making a small presentation to them.

Apprentices, live-in farmworkers and female servants especially enjoyed the

rare opportunity of a day off to renew family ties. The custom of honouring Mothering Sunday and 'going a mothering' was gradually lost as less of the younger generation lived with their employers and in 1912 the custom, in Herefordshire, was described as 'now by no means forgotten but declining.'

It has since been given a new lease of life. Many churches now see clergy hand children attending service a bunch of flowers or a slice of cake to pass to their mothers. Indeed the custom of honouring the mother church has been revived at Cookham, in the Thames Valley, where parishioners come together to link arms around the church, a revival of the custom of "clipping" the church and literally embracing it.

Important fixture

How, then, has Mothering Sunday become once again an important fixture in the family calendar.

This we owe to unrelated American tradition introduced into Britain by the troops who crossed the Atlantic in World War II.

In 1907 Miss Anna Jarvis of Philadelphia, following the death of her own mother, prevailed upon the minister of her local church to hold a service on the anniversary of her death, this to be dedicated to all mothers living and dead. Those attending were asked to wear a white carnation.

"All that I am or hope to be I owe to my angel mother," had

Mothering Sunday Gift a key to Family Fun

Mothering Sunday is a day for parents and children to celebrate, coming together to enjoy being a family.

For a Mothering Sunday gift with a difference our Saltash Observer book "A Quality of Life" can open up a world of family days out. With Spring bursting out into our Cornish countryside this is the ideal time to discover the wide selection of country walks and other leisure activities in and around Saltash and the superb countryside on our doorstep. Children might enjoy putting together a picnic to celebrate the coming of Spring with a fun family feast easily prepared at minimal cost.

"A Quality of Life" is available for long term residents, newcomers and visitors to discover what our corner of Cornwall has to offer for family leisure together on Mothering Sunday and on the lengthening sunny spring and Summer days that we hope will follow.

claimed President Abraham Lincoln and Americans took "Mother's Day" to their hearts. The celebration spread through Philadelphia and beyond until in 1914 Congress was prevailed upon to formally declare the second Sunday in May as "Mother's Day." Red carnations were worn in celebration of living mothers, white in memory of the dead.

Far from home and family American GI's brought to Britain the Mother's Day practices and Mothering Sunday again came to importance as the day on which one and all celebrate the Jewish saying that "God could not be everywhere and therefore he made mothers."

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Conundrum Corner

Taking the initial letter to the one-word answers to the following nine questions can you re-arrange them to make a nine-letter word?

- 1 In the film of the same name what was The African Queen?
 - 2 What highly-prized edible fungus is collected in woods often using trained pigs or dogs?
 - 3 Which valuable gem is obtained from molluscs?
 - 4 On which Mediterranean island are the Troodos Mountains found?
 - 5 The dams of which German river were targeted by the Royal Air Force in 1943?
 - 6 In which English county is there a headland called The Naze?
 - 7 Which animal performed the wedding of the Owl and the Pussycat in Edward Lear's poem?
 - 8 In Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf which instrument represents the Duck?
 - 9 What name is used to describe an animal which eats both plants and flesh?
- Answers on Page 7

Get your Mum a Copy of
**A Quality of Life
A Local Book of Walks**
From Jill at the
Bookshelf
Fore St Saltash

Volunteers Work on Woodland by Celtic Cross Site



An enthusiastic working party of volunteers has already made a good start in transforming the scrubland of Elwell Woods into what is to become an attractive community woodland in the heart of the Town. The woods are immediately to the North of the Tamar Bridge and will be adjacent to the Celtic Cross, anticipated to be in place later this year.

On a Saturday morning around thirty volunteers including a keen contingent of teenage air force cadets cleared rubbish dumped over the years, filling a large skip, before being rewarded with pasties courtesy of Ginsters and hot coffee. As well as general domestic rubbish they discovered items which may be related to the old Essa Brewery near this site and the cider house fragments of which remain.

On the Sunday mainly local residents were clearing the undergrowth and scrub from what was, and hopefully will be again, an orchard area.

Professional landscaping will now be carried out by Glendale with the object of opening up the woodland as a community feature and wildlife area to complement the Celtic Cross and adjacent viewing platform above the woodland.

Warm Advice for Free Heating

Free heating and insulation improvements can still be claimed up until the end of March a Cornish MP is reminding those living in the County.

Truro and Falmouth member Sarah Newton is urging home-owners to take advantage of the Government's energy help scheme Warm Front which offers low income households

the chance to apply for free heating and insulation improvements.

The Warm Front scheme is expected to see up to £30 million worth of funding for this year go unclaimed as

applications to the scheme are down by 70%. The unclaimed money could help up to sixteen thousand households struggling to afford their energy bills to cut their costs by a potential £650 per year.

"I urge all constituents who feel that they could be eligible for and benefit from Warm Front improvements to contact the scheme before the funding for this year ends on 31st March," says Mrs Newton "I have helped a number of constituents secure Warm Front improvements and know that work that Warm Front carry out can make a real difference to the warmth of a home and to people's heating costs."

Applications to the Warm Front scheme can be made by calling 0800 316 6004 or by visiting

www.direct.gov.uk/warmfront.

www.actionforcharity.co.uk

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Bus Subsidies to Stay

The threat of reduced bus services throughout Cornwall as from April has receded following a policy change from Cornwall Council. A previous decision to reduce the subsidy given to local bus companies in respect of concessionary fares for senior citizens and the disabled has been reversed. Cornwall will continue the current subsidies for 2012/13 and possibly 2013/14. They are hoping thereafter to introduce a standard fee of perhaps fifty pence per journey to be paid by concessionary pass holders but this will require government approval.

While the busy Saltash to Plymouth service was never in doubt, there was a threat that services into Cornwall, to Looe, to Callington and Bude and to Liskeard and Newquay, might be lost or considerably reduced. Hopefully with the

Road Sign Leads to Loss of Local Heritage, Resident Believes

A new road sign in Elwell Road marking Lockyer Terrace has angered a local resident who fears that the change will harm our heritage. The renaming of a section of the highway as Lockyer Terrace is mistimed, it is claimed,

assurance of continuing subsidies this threat has receded.

Of the thirteen million bus journeys undertaken annually in Cornwall almost 45%, that is 5.8 million are using concessionary passes, and subsidised by Cornwall Council. There are currently 126,000 pass holders resident in Cornwall, though many of the journeys taken are by visitors from elsewhere.

coming as it does with the Celtic Cross to Elwell Woods and the woodland itself receiving grant funding to be turned from an unofficial tip into community woodland.

The original name marks the 'Elwell,' a reliable source of water for generations of Saltash residents prior to a mains supply.

The new name board denoting Lockyer Terrace has been erected as residents have complained that those delivering to their homes have had difficulty in locating the row of houses long known as Lockyer Terrace. Those approaching from Tavy Road would previously have just seen an Elwell Road sign but no Lockyer Terrace. The alternative, of giving Lockyer

Terrace residents new Elwell Road addresses would have caused considerable problems for them in having to adjust to new home addresses.

Lockyer Terrace has already had one name change. Originally named St George's Terrace it became notorious when railway navvies replacing the timber Coombe Viaduct with the current stone one were lodged here. So bad was their reputation during 1893/94 that when they had gone residents sought a change of name and 'Lockyer' is believed to commemorate an astronomer, Sir Joseph Lockyer, renowned for his studies of comets and meteors.

Town's Tribute to Minister's Years of Service

Saltash Baptist Church was filled with church members, civic guests, representatives of other churches, friends, family and those who had known the Reverend Jeffrey Howden from before his Saltash Ministry all anxious to recognise his twenty-two years of service to the church and to the Town.

All were delighted that following his retirement from the ministry Jeff and his wife Janet will be remaining in the Town that they have come to love.

When Jeff was inducted into the Church in 1989, there was a church membership of twelve, and average congregation of 15 to 18 and the charred remains of a Baptist Church built in 1865 and burn down in 1987.

On his retirement 22 years later he left behind him a thriving church family of 90 members, an average congregation of between 100 and 120 and a spacious and attractive modern church of which it was said Jeff had put into being almost single-handedly.

Tributes were paid to him by the British Legion, of which he had been Padre, Plymouth Argyle Football Club, of which he was Chaplain, and the Baptist Union of Great Britain as

well as the South Western Baptist Association which Jeff had served for 18 months as President. Presentations were made by the Mayor Cllr Colin Oakes, on behalf of the Town Council. The congregation gave Jeff, Janet and their family framed photographs of the Town and also a quilt and a book each covered in personal messages from Church Members.

Three of their adult children were present, the fourth being in America, and tribute was also paid to Janet for her support, she having served as Deacon and having built up and led a thriving

Sunday School.

Humour was added to the event by a solo song from Tim Bliss paying tribute to various 'Jeffisms' well recognised by those present. The Baptist roof resounded to the congregation singing before a stirring concluding message was received from Reverent Jez Brown, the Baptist Regional Minister.

The church is now embarking upon the hard task of seeking a replacement for a Minister tributes to whom proved had been an outstanding Minister and friend not only to his own church but to the wider community beyond.

Mike and Joan Present £367 to Lions



A busy Christmas and New Year together with kind-hearted clientele ensured that the "Ploughboy" Christmas charity draw resulted in £367.00 to give to local charities. Mike and Joan are seen here presenting a cheque to Bob Payne Saltash Lions President, for this sum to share out among local worthy causes.

Since taking on the Ploughboy last year Mike and Joan have been eager to ensure that the pub is part of the community and are keenly involving themselves in fun and fund raising including the highly popular fun Euchre nights and other regular and occasional events to support the community.

Alice in Wonderland

Award winning Youngstagers are busily rehearsing for their annual production which is, this year, an adaptation of Disney's Alice in Wonderland. Performances dates are 16th March 7.30 pm, 17th March 2.30 pm & 7.30 pm, 23rd March 7.30 pm and 24th March 2.30 pm & 7.30 pm @Saltash.net. Tickets can be booked online via www.youngstagers.co.uk (there is a small administration fee of £1.50) alternatively phone on 07960 125947. Prices are £4 for children, £5 OAPs and £6 for adults. A great family outing and not to be missed!

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Chloe is helped to walk by Rugby Race and Observer Charity



Three year old Chloe Sheil who has serious disability issues caused by Dyskenetic Cerebral Palsy, will have her life made easier and her mobility improved thanks to Saltash Rugby Club and the Saltash Observer.

Chloe with her mother Becky and her sister Isabel, aged 7 attended the Rugby Club following the decision that the proceeds of this years, New Year's Day fancy dress pram race would be put towards the purchase of a Lecky Kidwalk. The new walker will enable her to mix with her peers at nursery more freely, especially when playing outside, and give her more independence in her home.

The walker which is unavailable through the NHS cost around £1,700 00 and the pram race raised over £1,200 00.



At the rugby club presentation club president Bill Ryan thanked all who had participated in raising such a fantastic sum.

We at the Observer decided that improvement to Chloe's mobility was an excellent cause on which to spend some of the monies raised by you, our readers during our Observers eighteenth anniversary fun charity fund raising drive for local causes and worthy individuals. We were delighted to join with Saltash rugby club as our editor Mary Crawford made our own presentation to cover the cost of a pair special Pedro orthopaedic slippers giving her feet and ankles extra support while stopping involuntary foot movement. With the help of these aids mother Becky and her co-helper big sister Isabel (shown here with Chloe) hope that Chloe may be able to walk by the age of about seven and enjoy an increased quality of life as she goes through school.

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Fun and Romance in Old Saltash for Young Burraton Players' Pantomime

A fabulous, fun filled (and we are assured, factual), fable of far-gone Forder formed the fabric of this year's farrago from the Burraton Player's. Breaking with tradition the doyens of this august company of Thespians made way for youth to have its fling and to bring a new generation of talented young players to pantomime.

The tale of "Goody Two Shoes (or Robinson So-So)" departed from standard fairy tale fare. Indeed the story borrowed from classical drama with three goddesses to progress the plot, the indefatigable Sue Court, Jill Price and Diane Sweet. By contrast the epitome of Victorian villainy Baron Jasper Jackson was played to perfection by Sam Hughes, complete with rasping 'r's', wandering eyebrows and who could sneer for England. Another young player proved equally successful in the daunting (for a teenager) role of Dame. Ben Doney well rose to the humour as Marilyn Meanwell, Goody's ugly sister. The star crossed lovers, Goody and Jack Robinson were played by Charlotte Yellop and Jess Ryan who well carried the romantic scenes and duets. This being a nautical tale of nineteenth century Saltash Anne Glanville played a part as a politically correct feminist

(with some liberties taken from history) by Abbey Willcocks alongside her first mate Perry Winkle, Jack Willcocks. Burraton stalwarts David Yates and Leigh Hughes made a late but welcome appearance as Albert and Victoria Fifepuffer.

The wholly original script was by Leigh Hughes, Jill Price and Christine Woolcock, the latter also serving as a much put-upon narrator. New lyrics by Leigh Hughes included a hilarious take by two Dames on Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" while the first act closed with a version of Rod Stewart's "We are sailing," - "We are Drowning!"

All the traditions of pantomime were present, song, dance and humour, framed in a well drawn original plot played by a youthful cast whom we hope to see again as they gain more confidence and experience. This proved a promising debut for the newcomers to lead roles.

The Songbird Sails Following Bagpipes and Blessing



The bagpipes, played by Club Commodore Dave Oliver, led a procession from the Saltash Sailing Club to the slipway to celebrate the launching of the "Songbird," built by club member Bruce Thorogood.

He hopes to build more at his Totnes base, and suggests that it would be an ideal "one design boat" for racing in the Tamar and the Sound.

The eighteen foot sloop was the first 'Heir Island Sloop' to be built in Britain though over twenty have been launched into Roaringwater Bay in Southern Ireland and are often to be seen racing in Baltimore Harbour nearby. Based on a local lobster boat design Bruce considers it to combine the best features of a fast modern dayboat onto a traditional craft creating, he believes "a wholesome, sea-kindly speedster of

The "Songbird" was traditionally launched by Mona Thorogood with a bottle of "bubbly" following a blessing by the vicar of Saltash the Rev. Margot Davies.

"The Songbird" will be kept on moorings at Saltash and used for racing in the Tamar when Bruce and Mona are not enjoying family sails around the river. Some of those who attended the launch enjoyed brief sailing experiences aboard her before being returned ashore to a celebration buffet.

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Team Badgaroo take London by storm!



When our small social enterprise team got the invite to the Houses of Parliament, we were a little surprised but very excited!

Monday arrived, and we were all looking forward to our trip to London, to show off our social enterprise idea; all that stood in our way was the long journey to London, via Paignton! We arrived at the Premier Inn, Heathrow, safely and were well and truly ready for our evening meal—bbq chicken and steak followed by waffles were the most popular choices.

After a nice sleep, and a full English breakfast, we were en route to the Houses of Parliament. Mr Romain very kindly gave us a guided tour of his old houses and favourite eateries from years gone by!

The security to get into the Houses of Parliament was crazy. We were all given visitors badges, and had to put our bags through a security belt; our big suitcase of badges raised a few eyebrows from the security staff! Walking through Parliament to the Marquee on the Thames was amazing. We couldn't help but think about the important decisions that have been made, and laws that have been passed over many hundreds of years in this building.

Team Badgaroo were fantastic all day—they sold a huge amount of badges to a variety of different people from the fields of education and business. Members of the team got talking to representatives from Richard Branson's Virgin Pioneers, as well as an employee of the National Lottery and many other social enterprises who all want to work alongside Badgaroo! The guest of honour, Nick Herd, MP for Civil Society, also took a

Council to Carry Out Tree Felling in East Cornwall

From 5 March, Cornwall Council will begin removing areas of larch along main roads in Hatt, Trehill and Wacker Wood.

The works, along the A388 and the A374, are due to last until 31 March and are being carried out by the Highways Landscape Team.

Traffic control will be in place for the majority of this work which will take place during off-peak traffic times.

Works will be carried out between 5 March and 20 March:

Opposite the junction at Trehill on the A374.

On the embankment adjacent to the A374 at Wacker Wood, near Sheviok and also on the slope down to the estuary at this site.

And between 19 March and 31 March:

On both sides of the A388 just north of Hatt.

"The sites were planted during the 1960's and 70's when road improvements were carried out and the larch are now coming to the end of their useful, safe lives," said Colin Hawke, the Council's Principal Forestry Officer.

"In addition, the spread of Phytophthora Ramorum in larch throughout Cornwall and Devon has prompted the Forestry Commission to recommend the removal of larch wherever possible to control the spread of the disease.

"The areas will be left to re-colonise naturally to native or semi-native tree cover. In practice this is likely to be ash, willow and sycamore. Any immediate visual impact is likely to be short term and we expect the sites to colonise naturally very quickly."

For more information contacts 0300 123 4222

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 marye.crawford@virgin.net

keen interest in the work that Badgaroo have done, and mentioned them in his speech! The team did a great job of raising the profile of the new Social Enterprise Qualification that has been introduced by RIO.

A big thank you to Year 11 students Emily Jones, Ella Fadida, Ellie Kearns, Ciaran Jones, Matt Robson and Will Russell—you were a true credit to the school and to your social enterprise Badgaroo!



School Council presents charity cheque

Representatives from the saltash.net School Council were pleased to be able to present a cheque for £856.03 to Christine Whyte, Chair of the Plymouth area Breakthrough Breast Cancer charity recently

Students and Staff at saltash.net undertook a month of fundraising last October which included a 'Wear it Pink' non Uniform Day, Cake Sale and the purchase of pink ribbon badges.

Pictured with Christine Whyte are School Council members Hannah Paull, Isaac Spencer, Charlie Duncan and Jess Jones, as well as 6th formers Holly Walsh and Becky Church, PE teacher Ali Hancock and Headteacher, Isobel Bryce.

Licence to Wheel Away Garden Waste Required

Major changes to garden waste collection and recycling arrangements will come into force in Saltash and throughout Cornwall from this April.

The current recycling bags will be phased out, though existing ones may continue to be used up. However, after 1st April new bags will be supplied coloured red for cans and plastic bottles, orange for cardboard and blue, as before for paper. Boxes for bottles and other glass recycling will be introduced.

Changes to garden waste collection will be more significant. The white bags will be replaced by wheelie bins which will be purchased in large and small sizes for around £18. After purchasing the bins those who require garden waste to be collected will have to pay a further sum for an annual or half-yearly permit. The annual permit for a large wheelie bin collection will be £23.50. It is estimated that those who have been filling one or two white bags each fortnight will save slightly under the new system though those with less to collect but having to pay a set standard permit charge, as well as the 'one off' cost of a bin will pay more.

Again those with white bags to use can continue to have them collected with one proviso, collections will only be made from any street if there is at least one 'licensed' wheelie bin out for collection.

Saltash Stops Swinging

Children and their parents are being disappointed to discover that several swings in the Town's play areas are out of use. These include those at Buller Park and Hawkes Park.

The reason is a design fault discovered in the box where the overhead bar joins the 'A' frame. This provides a danger and all such swings could collapse and have to be put out of action.

It is hoped that, with the aid of a grant from 'Play England' they may be replaced within two months.

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U16 Cup Winners

U16 final v Helston School (West Cornwall champions) played at Camborne College.

saltash.net community school's u16s football team have won the county u16 championship for the 5th consecutive year after beating Helston School 5-2 in a well contested final held at Camborne FE College sports arena. This is a fantastic achievement and highlights how consistently they have performed during their time at the school.

The game started with a very physical approach from Helston who were determined to deny Saltash any time on the ball or any space to play their flowing passing game. However, these tactics resulted in some poorly timed challenges with Saltash getting 2 penalties within the space of 5 minutes. Both were calmly converted by Scott Coombe. A third goal followed with Jake Vickers scoring with a well placed header from another free kick. Helston pulled a goal back with a fine shot, but Scott Coombe completed his hat trick with an excellent goal, outpacing his full back and firing a shot into the top corner of the net which gave the goalkeeper no chance.

In the second half, Saltash dominated the game with their defence playing very well but they wasted some really good chances to increase their lead which allowed Helston to pull a goal back with a fine finish. Helston pressed forward for another goal but were caught out on the break by Kyle Butters who coolly finished to settle the game and give Saltash a great victory.

Squad : Connor Clarke, Connor Brimicombe, Tom Lowden, Frazer Ferris-Brettell, Taylor Woodhall, Kyle Butters, Ryan Taylor, Jake Vickers, Scott Coombe, Ben Hobbs, Oscar Bennetts, Callum Dickinson, Scott Mills, Ben Davis, Connor Pritchard-Lee, Oliver Price

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Play of Peril on the Sea for Anglican Methodist Actors

Those doughty Thespians the Saltash Anglican Methodist Players once again assumed their alter personae of the Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen s' Guild Drama Group, this time to brighten our Winter with a tale of nautical romance.

Noel Coward met Titanic met Robinson Crusoe in "They Found Love Aboard SS Farndale Avenue," that is once the Farndale Players had sorted out certain confusion with a DJ (Richard Margetts, later appearing as a much put-upon porter) who had booked the hall for a disco.

Shipboard romance soon blossomed around ageing ingenuie and femme fatale Constance, played by Margaret Evans, whose attempted seduction by suave but forgetful Noel Nightingale (Bob Cartwright) became a love triangle when her fiancé Beaugard (Sylvia

Mackenzie) came on board. Crisp Coward-like dialogue and song was, as ever with the Farndale Avenue theatricals, interspersed with missed cues, forgotten and repeated lines, entries from the sea as well as prima donna moments and threatened walk-outs. Not to mention flying albatrosses, descending spiders and passing dolphins who guide the shipwrecked cast and carry their luggage to a desert island fully equipped, of course, with cryptic clues to a hidden treasure of perishable porcelain. The main cast was completed by Jackie Austin as a disaster-prone Daisy the maid and Brian Anderson in a variety of nautical roles from steward to captain serving colourful cocktails and nauseous dishes at the captain's table. Liz Fedrick made a dramatic appearance during the romantic wedding conducted by (who else?) Daisy the maid, while

Marilyn Tate and Richard Margetts appeared as two of the four all-singing all-dancing jolly jack tars.

Once again our stalwart Anglican Methodist Players, ably produced by Isabelle Chenery proved equal to the myriad disasters that inevitably befall the Farndale Avenue Townswoman's team to emerge triumphant and provide a riot of fun to warm a freezing February evening.

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David Wins College's Concerto Competition

It is always exciting to hear that a former student has made a success of themselves, and on Monday 6 February A Level music students and staff from Saltash.net were able to both hear and see a real Saltash success story performing at the famous St David's Hall in Cardiff. David Doidge, who is currently in his fourth year at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama studying piano, was the winner of the college's concerto competition back in February 2011. The prize was a further

performance of the piece, this time accompanied by the RWCMD Symphony Orchestra, at a lunchtime concert in St David's Hall. David is carving quite a career for himself as both a soloist and accompanist in high demand across the UK and will be starting a Masters at the college in September. The choice of concerto – Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No 2 – requires a high level of technical ability and really showed off what a tremendous performer David has become. The A Level

students, who are themselves currently preparing for exam performances, were inspired by his playing and that of the orchestra. The concert also featured Britten's 'Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra' allowing the audience to hear the different families of instruments. Following the concert David took time out of his busy schedule to give the students and staff a tour of the RWCMD so that they could see what life in a music college is really like.

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