

# SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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March 2014 - Issue 260

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## Saltash Church Tower Could Tumble Through Storm Damage

The town's mother church, which has served the Saltash community for around eight hundred years, could be lost to the community if recent storm damage is not remedied as a matter of urgency.

The fifteenth century tower of the thirteenth century St. Stephen's church, the second highest tower in Cornwall, has suffered rain ingress for

some years. The exceptional recent rains have ensued that rain water penetration since Christmas has been constant and is washing away the

mortar that holds the South West elevation together. There is now a real danger of the tower falling through the roof, causing the whole church, in which countless generations of Saltash citizens have been christened, married, and mourned as well as worshipped, to be closed and possibly beyond repair.

A survey of the southwest side, which faces the prevailing storms, is to be carried out using qualified rope access technicians. Once this has, hopefully, identified the cause of the rain ingress costs can be assessed. An appeal will then be launched for the sum required, likely to run to many thousands of pounds – meanwhile church volunteers can just put buckets down.

For further information on this threat to one of Saltash's moist historic edifices and the vibrant social and religious centre of the community, please contact the Saltash Team Ministry Office on 01752 844456



## Chamber Cannot Continue Without Business Support

The organisation that has represented the interest of Saltash businesses for well over half a century may fold if existing businesses in the town do not give it some support.

This was the stark warning of Peter Dickerson of Saltash and District Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He currently combines the two offices of secretary and treasurer since nobody has been willing to take one of them over, but has announced his intention to resign from both positions at the Chamber's annual general meeting in October.

A plea by Chamber chairman William Cotton for local businesses to involve themselves in the Chamber and to put their views and concerns through the chamber was published on the front page of January's Saltash Observer and delivered to every business in the town centre. It also appeared in other Cornish newspapers. It was evidently read but Mr. Cotton was disappointed that the response proved to be nil. Nobody has contacted him directly nor through attending the monthly chamber meeting, or via its website or blog with any positive suggestions as to how the chamber could best support the town's traders, both in Fore Street and on the Industrial estates, or what they wish put forward for discussion/action through the chamber.

'The Chamber has historically been a positive force promoting the interests of local businesses', said Chairman William Cotton. 'It could be again, helping support Saltash traders and business people through the unprecedented competition

## Who Wants to be a Millionaire?



Seven Year 7 students at saltash.net community school have achieved the incredible feat of each reading at least one million words since September. The students, who are all part of the school's Accelerated Reader programme, not only have to read books for these words to be banked, but have to pass an on-line quiz on each book read. The programme was introduced by school Library Manager, Liz Madigan, who said, 'This is an amazing accomplishment, not only for these individual students but for the profile of reading at the school. Since we introduced Accelerated Reader last year, the number of books taken out of the library has increased dramatically – more than twelve thousand books were lent last year'. Topping the Millionaire's Club is Carys Scales who has read an eye-popping 3.7 million words in just four months. Other students who received an award for this achievement are: Isaac Frost, Rebecca Horne, Nia Powell, Hannah Baker, Tara Shearman and Emily Ayers. The programme has now been extended to include all Year 8 students.

that they face from outside sources. However without local interest and support the few who struggle to maintain the chamber are uncertain as to its future.'

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## Letter to the Editor



### Children's Play Ground 'Tax' at Broadmoor Farm and Elsewhere

Dear Editor

I attended the public exhibition for the proposed development at Broadmoor Farm. I asked several of the staff from the Commercial Estates Group how the types and range of open spaces suggested in the plan, which apparently 82% of visitors to the exhibition liked, would be financed and maintained, (February Observer).

They confirmed that these facilities would be provided and maintained in the 'normal way'. It would appear this normal way is via the Children's Playground 'Tax' (also known as the Affordable Homes 'Tax', or the stuff you Jack, you pay twice 'tax'), which has been stealthily introduced by Cornwall County Council as a policy in recent years without any discussion at Local Council or Parliamentary level.

The residents of new housing erected in Cornwall pay this 'tax'. It is raised by engineering a way for these new home occupiers, both private and social, to pay to manage, maintain and insure public facilities, like the open space suggested in the Broadmoor Farm plan, as if they were privately owned by the collective Estate residents. This is done by getting those buying or seeking to rent the new homes to sign up to a Management Plan and join a Management Company, over which they have no control, through a planning arrangement known as a Section 106 Agreement. This scheme is delivered to purchasers and tenants alike as a fait accompli, and written in such a way that it only benefits the Developer and the Council.

The MP for South East Cornwall and County Councillors think this arrangement is acceptable and part of 'Planning Gain', introduced to get developers to help pay for the additional costs new housing brings to Local Authorities, like education and roads. It was not meant to penalise the residents of affordable homes and social

housing etc who are the least able to afford these 'double taxes'

How can it be right that some of the most disadvantaged of Cornish residents have to pay for the specific upkeep of parochial facilities, available to all, through this 'tax', and then pay again through their Council taxes to maintain everyone else's? This policy is unfair, unreasonable, undemocratic, (some would say illegal) and unsympathetic to the general requirements of Cornwall's Local Plan, particularly the rules within it that should ensure affordable housing need is met from all perspectives. Perhaps, CCC and CEG should come clean just what paying in the 'normal way' actually means.

Glyn Thomas

Dellohay Park Saltash

### Full Shops Suggest Town's Economy is Booming

Saltash tops Cornwall in the amount of shops occupied and busily trading. County Councillor Bob Austin advised that in a survey of empty shops in town centres Saltash came bottom in Cornwall.

"Bottom is where we would want to be in such a survey" commented town Mayor David Yates. He confirmed that this is a clear indicator that the town's array of independent and individual shops catering for local needs is apparently booming.

CORNWALL COUNCIL



and our PL12 community

For Observer readers

From Councillor Joe Ellison



It has been extensively trailed previously, but last week Cornwall Council confirmed that council tax will increase by 1.97% for 2014/15 after three year's freeze. The effect for householders is an increase of 47p per week (or £24.51 per annum for a Band D property).

It gives us Cornwall Councillors no pleasure at all to be responsible for this increase, and worse still, for the extensive cuts to services that will be necessary to balance the budget. It's certainly not what I envisaged when I stood for election, but Cornwall is not alone – regular viewers to the regional news will be aware that Devon County and Torbay Council are facing exactly the same problems and are forced to the same solutions of service cuts.

And this is not the end – Cornwall has to find £195 million of savings before 2019 with reducing government support, so that next year's £41 million is just a start!

We are all victims of the ongoing injustice of the disparity of government regional subsidy differentials between rural counties and urban authorities - in the case of Cornwall, £407 per head compared to £1,400 for Merseyside. To add insult to injury, services such as libraries and waste collection cost far more to deliver in rural areas. Cornwall's senior executives and MPs continue to lobby for rural fair shares.

#### Amongst the coming cuts and increased charges:

● Cornwall now has a new Chief Executive, Andrew Kerr, on board. He has a strong record in previous appointments in the North East, and more recently Cardiff. His initial action will be to reduce the number of highly paid Directorates from six to three, making considerable savings.

● All libraries throughout Cornwall will close for an additional day each week, and it is almost certain that the mobile library service elsewhere in Cornwall will be discontinued. Presently, negotiations with staff are taking place to determine which day.

● Tamar Bridge tag accounts will now attract a standing charge of 80p per month. Saltash members feel particularly bitter about this and all voted against this method of raising revenue. We wanted to raise a similar amount by a small increase in cash tolls on the Bridge, and a higher cash toll on the Ferry, and begin to reflect the massively higher costs of the Ferry operation (plus a charge for new tags). Our objective was

to mitigate the effect on regular commuters.

Which brings me to a regular gripe – how often do we see unpopular decisions taken out to public consultation – and then totally ignored? Both the library cuts and the Tamar Bridge charge are cases in point. 58% of responses were against the tag charge method, together with the unanimous view of Saltash Town Council representing 16,000 electors. Why go through the charade of consultation you may well ask.

I must also comment on the consequences of the appalling storms that battered Cornwall, with the highest rainfall for over 200 years. On a personal level, dog walking is no longer a pleasure, as I slide through the mud at Churchtown Farm, but my woes pale into insignificance. It is estimated that local damage amounted to over £21 million, not counting the impact on the tourist industry, and the fact that Cornwall is virtually cut off by the severe damage to the main rail link at Dawlish.

It's an interesting fact that it took severe flooding in the commuter belt of Thames Valley and Oxfordshire to kick the Government in to action. The army was sent in with thousands of sand bags available – the Somerset levels had been one vast lake since before Christmas! The Marines did a fantastic job of rescuing stranded cars from Calstock – but charged Cornwall £17,000 for doing so!

We are now promised that "money will be no object" and that emergency repair funds are available through the Bellwin formula. Call me cynical, but the small print may yet prevent adequate recompense getting to Cornwall.

However, our senior councillors and our MPs seem to be singing from the same hymn sheet, and are determined to see that Cornwall is not forgotten. And the Dawlish disaster seems to have awakened long-dormant plans for an alternative main line route, so some good may emerge.

I DO like to conclude on a cheerful note – my congratulations to Burraton Community Primary School and its Head Teacher Lisa Tamblyn. Burraton has come out of a difficult period to join the 84% of Cornish primary schools ranked as "good or improving". For me, spring is marked by the emergence of primroses in every lane. I've not seen many so far, but spring can't come soon enough!

Cllr. Joe Ellison

## Essa Files

Following my comments last column about new year's resolutions I have been considering the idea of an alternative – Fresh February. After all January is not the world's most fun month. Aside from the suffering the after-effects of Christmas, on both liver and waistline, the media are always quick to remind us that we have, in quick succession, 'Divorce Monday' on January 6th - the biggest day of the year for couples decide to split - and 'Blue Monday' on January 20th – supposedly the most depressing day of the year. Even 'fresh start Monday' – the day on which the most people are supposed to decide to change careers starts from the rather depressing idea that lots of people are unhappy in their work. Worse for me the peak age for deciding to swap careers in supposedly 33 which means in 12 months I'm due for a change. Perhaps not: I am happy where I am.

Equally you could see January as like going through

the 'minutes of the last meeting' at the start of any agenda – it's the boring but necessary bit that has to be got out of the way bit before you can move onto the interesting stuff. February is after all full of much more exciting possibilities as the days and the spirit both get lighter. In my case it is due to be the month when I visit my 33rd country - those of you paying attention will notice that the significance of this is that I will then have had more countries than birthday.

So building on this idea of the second month as the time to put the blues aside I have decided to embrace February (perhaps a bad choice of words given that it is also Valentine's Day) by setting myself the challenge, before the month is out, of trying a new sport, eating a new food, drinking a new drink, thinking a new thought and reading a new book. Not necessarily all at the same time, although that may be March's challenge.

Adam Killeway

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## Police Seek to Gain Trust on Town Estate

A Police initiative to improve relations with residents of the Tamara Estate has been launched since local officers became aware of a lack of trust from some of those in the area. The attempt to engage with the residents and build up trust will involve targeted high visibility patrols and updates by officers, whether on general patrol or a specific visits. Residents are being made aware of how to report issues anonymously if preferred.

Meanwhile crime in the Saltash continues to fall, having almost halved between January 2013 and this year. Over the four week period recorded there were 47 crimes against 84 in 2013. These included ten assaults, three shopliftings, two burglaries and three thefts other than from dwellings.

A Robin Reliant car and a motorcycle were stolen. Meanwhile a moped stolen last June was recovered near the Waterfront and returned to a grateful owner.

Damage was reported to

solar panels on the roof of Saltash College and Police are working with local schools and the college to prevent further damage and identify the perpetrators

Police in Saltash continue to work with young people. A Police diversity officer attended an assembly at a Saltash Primary School to discuss awareness of differences within society and litter-picks were organised for February in Alamein area and involving the tidying of the mural on Glanville Terrace by the Tamara Estate.

## From The Mayor's Parlour...

Apparently a research laboratory developing robots has taken a hard look at the way ants behave.

The idea was to create a new generation of small robots by studying how groups of living beings with limited individual capabilities could cooperate to achieve the same success as very large animals.

It would appear, that provided a common purpose is shared, each individual can add to the overall result without any one of them having to do it all themselves or indeed being aware of all that was happening around them.

So, what does that have to do with us as human beings?

The news recently has shown pictures of huge floods and we hear of poverty increasing to such an extent that the take up of food bank support is growing rapidly. There are fears for the future of town centres.

Some of the public response to these issues has had to be directed by large local or national organisations, the "large animal" response. However some of the most effective immediate help has been given by small local groups and individuals, the "swarm of ants" response.

It may be stretching the analogy but as financial restrictions begin to bite across the country the big centrally funded organisations we have relied on in the past to support society are beginning to withdraw from all but the most essential tasks (and even some that many of us regard as essential).

**What should our response be?** While there are some things only large organisations can deal with, there are lots of ways in which individual people and small groups can each make a small difference which when added together will have a significant effect.

The best possible outcome is when the "big animals" and the "swarm of ants" cooperate with each other.

To give examples, as individuals, we cannot repair the potholes in our roads, but we can report them. We can clean the mud from the gutters and clean out drains to stop huge puddles in the road which hide those potholes. We can clear weeds and litter from our pavements to keep them safe to walk on and cut back our overhanging bushes and shrubs where they obstruct the pavements and force pedestrians to walk in the road.

When it gets icy (if the cold weather comes) each of us can clear the pavements and put down salt and grit to make life easier for pedestrians. The "big animal" support for this is done by Cornwall Council gritting main roads and Saltash Town Council providing grit bins at key locations

The Foodbank in Saltash is organised by local people within a national structure but with donations of food and money from local organisations and individuals to keep it going.

There are groups within Saltash working on initiatives to aid businesses in the town and keep the Town Centre as a vibrant, welcoming place to visit. Each of us could contribute to this effort by supporting local businesses and shops and buying what we need locally.

Joining together to achieve a common end is not something new in Cornwall. The motto "One and all" (or in Cornish, "Onen hag oll"), is said to commemorate the voluntary efforts of the Cornish people to raise money to pay the ransom for the release of the Earl of Cornwall in the 9th century from the Saracens.

*So let us all follow tradition by each of us doing what we can.*  
Cllr David Yates  
Town Mayor

### Damaged Milestone to Be Removed

An ancient milestone on the edge of Saltash is to be moved following damage caused by several vehicles.

The milestone has marked off the miles to Saltash from its position between Hatt and Carkeel to generations of horse drawn vehicles in more leisurely days. More recently two or three cars have struck it while rounding the bend putting at risk a piece of roadside history.

Cormac have agreed to put the milestone together in its original form, as far as possible, it has been agreed it should then be replaced close to: but not identical to, its previous position in order to minimise the risk of similar damage.

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## Flood Risk Must Be Priority In New Development

Any new development in Broadmoor or elsewhere in Saltash must bear in mind flood risk following the recent exceptional rainfall. Councillor Sue Hooper MBE that this be a major consideration in the town's neighbourhood plan, currently under consideration, expressed concern to Saltash Town Council.

Developers are already aware of this concern and are ensuring that their plans incorporate disposal of all runoff water that could be produced by the housing that they propose, assured Town Mayor David Yates.

Recent high water had created problems in the Waterside area of Saltash, where southerly winds had driven the Tamar into the "Boatman Inn" and across the roadway. They had also caused flooding around Antony Passage.

Forder residents had been asked to report any flooding or any evidence of sewage flowing into the Latchbrook, he added. Forder had been noted as being the 45th out of 50 flood risk areas in Cornwall.

Work on the dam across the Latchbrook in the valley below the Latchbrook estate has recently been carried out with the object of limiting local flood risk.

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## Sign for Saltash Shops Wins Approval

"It is important that people see a sign showing that Saltash is a town to which people can come to shop", said Councillor Martin Gee. He was speaking in support of an application for planning permission for a sign at the foot of Fore Street advertising the nearby shopping Centre.

A sign advising travellers on the A38 slip road that Saltash Shops were fifty metres away had been standing for a long while before a local resident complained of the metrification and seeking it be amended to "yards". Saltash Town Council refused to change it but Cornwall Council subsequently advised that even though it had been up for some time it needed planning permission.

Town Councillor John Brady who said he had never seen the

sign opposed this but "there is too much signage as it is". However following a vote Town Councillors recommended, 6 to 2, that the "Saltash Shops Fifty Metres (or yards)" sign should be permitted to welcome visitors coming off the Tamar Bridge

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## Fisherman's Concern at Loss of Local Livelihood

Centuries old tradition of salmon fishing on which generations of local families have relied for all or part of their income is in danger of being lost forever. Local fishermen are angered at moves by the Environment Agency to end the granting of license's to them and strongly deny allegations that this is necessary due to a shortage of fish. They confirm that salmon stocks are well up but believe that the Environment Agency wishes to preserve them for wealthy sportsmen rather than working fishermen dependent upon them for their livelihood.

Local fishermen traditionally work the Tamar, Tavy and Lynher for salmon six months of the year though since the 1990's this has been compulsorily reduced to the three months from June to August.

"Not satisfied with this another two weeks has been taken from the period in which we can earn an income on the river", said Alec Scoble who has held a license for sixty years. He follows a family tradition, his father and grandfather as well as his wife's family from Calstock all having followed the family seine netting fishing trade. His son and particularly grandsons'

aged 22, 19 and 17 are equally keen to carry this on. In 2009 Alec was persuaded along with 24 others local netsmen to give up salmon netting for just ten years to protect their future interests and was paid a capital sum to do so. At the time the Environment Agency gave a specific assurance that if he were to die a member of his immediate family would be given priority for his license, thus maintaining the history of netting in his family.

However now than the ten years are expiring the Environmental Agency are claiming that salmon stocks have

not recovered and are seeking to terminate all local net fishing. Fishermen who voluntarily relinquished their fishing rights for ten years are being told that they will be restored only for a shorter season and with an extremely limited catch quota.

Moreover they are advised that fishing rights will die with them and cannot be passed on to future generations.

"We hotly dispute the state of the fish stocks," says fellow fisherman Colin Matthews. "I live on the river, travel it eel fishing, and have seen salmon jumping and shearing. Twenty-four net licenses for the three local rivers had been reduced to four and the Environmental Agency are still not happy", he adds, "I believe that they wish to get rid of us in order to protect wealthy visitors who rod fish and certainly seem to acquire good catches. Seine netting for fishing is a tradition and a livelihood, one that we wish to introduce to local children when health and safety issues are covered".

Local fishermen including Alec and Colin intend to put about petitions locally. They urge the public to support a long established local tradition and source of income for working people by looking out for and signing this petition. If enough sign it could be put to parliament to debate.

Please sign the petition by 31st March 14. Petition can be found at: Saltash Chemist Regal Court, The Guildhall, Saltash Heritage, The Two Bridges Inn, The Boatman & Ashtorre Rock.

You can also sign it online by visiting: [www.petition24.com](http://www.petition24.com)

## Underused Community Room May be Lost to Estate Community

The Community Room at Babis Farm is underused and could be converted to a home to help solve local housing needs if the neighbourhood does not wish to utilise it. Similar facilities in Leanway and Berry Park have already been lost to their communities due to lack of interest.

On a survey of the area County Councillors Bob Austin and Hilary Frank found that many Babis Farm residents were unaware of the Cornwall Council owned facility. Currently a handful of residents use it once a week to play bingo and the once active committee that ran it has been dissolved. Cornwall Housing, who manage and fund the building consider it wrong to let this situation continue when the housing waiting list is long, but if the building, reported as in good internal condition, becomes housing it will be lost forever as a community resource.

Councillor Frank, who was part of the team distributing a letter seeking local views on the building, advised that with more young families moving into the area some of them might like to use the room for children's activities - Anyone interested in becoming involved in its funning, is asked to contact their County Councillor.

## Well Done to the Local Children

Three PCSO'S from Saltash Police Station Mary Wells, Mark Horton and Lee Smith spent the day with Children of Saltash Picking up Litter. They worked very hard in the morning cleaning up in the Alamein Road area, and again in the afternoon tidied up the area at the Top of Glanville Terrace and Tamara Estate.

The children's ages varied between 5 years and 13 years, they all worked really hard and they managed to

fill 12 Black Bags, as well as finding a Television and a Mattress. In the afternoon the children were hampered by rain but kept going much to their credit.

A trip to the Cinema and a visit to the Aquarium then rewarded the children for their efforts.



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## Pinocchio Follows Peter Pan As Youth Groups New Adventure

Following last year's popular premier by newly formed youth drama group Page 2 Stage those who saw 'Peter Pan' will certainly be eager to enjoy this year's production. 'Disney, My Son Pinocchio Jr' Those who missed Peter Pan will be able to enjoy the high standard that our local youth talent sets at saltash.net community school this March on Saturday 22nd, Friday 28th and Saturday 29th at 7.30 pm with additional matinees on both Saturdays at 2.30pm. Tickets are available from Van Essa Menswear in Fore Street, via [www.ticketsource/page2stage](http://www.ticketsource/page2stage) or on the door.



The new production saw father and son are at last united having learned many lessons along the way. The group was set up eighteen months ago by three enthusiastic adults keen to give Saltash children the chance to perform, The equally enthusiastic youngsters have already been prominent in our Saltash Christmas celebrations, in a talent contest, and in last year's much acclaimed show. The group is supported entirely by voluntary teams

responsible for the beautiful handmade costumes, the scratch built scenery and for design and fund raising, funds currently being put towards much needed sound equipment.

'It's a great community for all ages', says Page2 Stage member and keen dancer Becky Hill. 'We get the chance to develop our skills on the stage and use our own skills - I am really thrilled to be choreographing some of the dance numbers.'



The popular Saltash youth theatre group, Page2Stage, are well into rehearsals for their second production. Following a hugely successful first show, Peter Pan, the cast are working hard to repeat their success with their next musical production.

### 'Disney, My Son Pinocchio Jr'

It is due to open at saltash.net community school in March:

Sat 22nd March 2.30pm & 7.30pm

Friday 28th March 7.30pm

Saturday 29th March 2.30pm & 7.30pm

Tickets are available from VanEssa Menswear, Fore Street, Saltash, via the Internet [www.ticketsource/Page2Stage](http://www.ticketsource/Page2Stage) & on the door.

Book your tickets now to avoid disappointment

## Live at Home MHA SALTASH LIVE AT HOME SCHEME (Befriending with a difference) Volunteers Wanted

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## A Thriving Social Centre in the Heart of Saltash



A thriving social centre in the heart of Saltash is already proving popular as new members come to appreciate the host of facilities and the friendly environment at the Saltash Social Club.

As part of its total refurbishment into a social venue that welcomes all, the former Saltash Working Mens' Club is now emphasising its recent developments, which includes admitting ladies joining as full members and encouraging families. Anyone wishing to share the facilities and expanding range of entertainment is invited to call in at reception for full membership information.

The club opens at ten each morning when a number of members enjoy socialising over a coffee, reading the newspapers on offer, or playing an early game of snooker. The bar opens at eleven and remains open until eleven at night save for Mondays to Wednesday when it closes for three hours from 2.30 to 5.30 p.m.

The large and luxurious bar area enjoys superb views up the Tamar and Tavy to the moorland beyond. Members enjoy a wide range of beers wines and spirits all at club prices. Proving especially popular are the newly stocked real ales, which currently include two local favourites, Cornish 'Doom Bar' and Dartmoor 'Jail Ale' as well as regularly changing guest ale. Other beers and ciders, chilled or at room temperature, range alongside spirits and a choice of wines by the bottle or the glass.

The new management team is anxious to cater for customer demand and the professional cook is now

preparing basket meals as well as the much-favoured Sunday Roast. The food menu will be varied and extended according to request. The bar is also a favourite venue in which to enjoy sport on the big screen with the sports channels including BT and Sky.

For those who enjoy playing as well as watching games there is a separate games room with three full size snooker tables. These and the pool table are available for members to enjoy whenever there is no league game utilising them. The club is growing active in promoting league games three times a week, alongside darts teams and two euchre teams, with plans for a pool team in the near future. New members for these teams are always encouraged especially, currently for the ladies darts team.

Whether it is to share in a lively sociable atmosphere, enjoy watching or playing sport, have a great night out with superb entertainment in the function room, or simply relax over a quiet drink with friends, the Saltash Social Club aims to be the ideal venue for Saltash to come together and share the social enjoyment of its superb purpose built premises just off Fore Street.

*Pictured Right: Anna Atwill Manageress also becoming very popular for her Sunday Roast. Also Dave Roberts Club Secretary*

## A Perfect Setting for Your Private Functions

The large function room with its stage, dance floor and full bar facilities is becoming a popular private function venue for weddings, anniversaries and other big family celebrations. It is equally suited to businesses organising staff functions and indeed any organisation or club looking for an easily accessible and welcoming town centre venue.

For the smaller, more intimate gatherings there is an equally inviting function suite downstairs available for private use.

Fundraising events for charities or other local organisations are especially invited to avail themselves of the club's superb facilities and there is no charge for the use of either function room between Monday and Thursday. The stage makes the larger room especially suitable for events ranging from live

entertainment to charity auctions.

The Saltash Social Club is especially keen to become increasingly an active part of the local community. With this in mind it offers its rooms to any club or society as a venue for meetings or perhaps just as a setting off point for excursions, either daytime or evenings. Anyone involved in any such local organisation is invited to contact the Saltash Social Club to discuss what they can offer you.



## Superb Views of the Tamar Estuary



### ENTERTAINMENT

March: Sat 15th **Street Talk**

March: Sat 22nd **Jarka**

March: Sat 29th **Old Dogs Blues Band**

April: Sat 5th **Short Notice**

April: Sat 12th **Opium**

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The purpose built function room at the Saltash Social Club shares with the bar its superb views of the Tamar estuary and the rolling country beyond. It is also fully equipped with a stage, as well as a bar stocking similar drinks to the main bar area, and is becoming increasingly popular as a venue for live entertainment each weekend. This is varied only when it is let for a private function and the live music action shifts to the bar. The function room also sees 'Eyes Down' each Friday and Sunday with a professional caller for the well-attended bingo sessions.

In order to cater for all tastes a wide variety of local musical talent has been brought to the Saltash Social Club over recent weeks. The enthusiasm shows by members each Saturday evening has encouraged the management to extend their bookings to an even wider range of well-known local bands and groups. Pop, blues, country and middle of the road music all features in the varied programme on

offer - look for details of forthcoming attractions, as advertised in your 'Saltash Observer'.

For the future we can look forward to 'Joker' and the local cult favourite, Irish Folk, rock band 'Mad Dog McCrae' watch out for forthcoming information on these and many others.

Coming soon a website and Facebook promoting the club and any up and coming events.

### Letter to Editor...

Dear Editor

I read the article in the January edition of the Observer concerning various proposals as put forward by Town and County Councillor Mr Joe Ellison. Some of these proposals such as removal of derelict boats seem sensible. However the implementation of the majority of these ideas do not seem feasible. A card operated barrier would undoubtedly lead to vandalism and abuse and would probably cost more to operate than the revenue it would generate.

The rules of the pontoon have rarely been observed by anyone using it. Who is going to check how long a boat has been moored there?

Management of the boat park is difficult to monitor and although described as "poor" again improvements to the service will cost money.

A lot of boat users have moored on Saltash beach for many years. These are responsible people who Mr Ellison should have consulted prior to suggesting unworkable schemes. Most would welcome an input.

There are a number of issues that Mr Ellison could give urgent attention to such as boats and trailers using the long parking bays by the Boatman pub as a free boat park and the incredible mess caused by the imported sand at the water's edge. This sand has now spread on to the car park and gets walked into both pubs, Ashtorpe center and the Livewire building. Which genius came up with that idea?

There are a number of boats now being moored on the beach by Plymouth owners because they would have to pay to moor on the Plymouth side. Moorings on Saltash beach should be for the people of Saltash and S E Cornwall only.

It has always been a point of discussion who actually owns the beach, as legend has it, the beach was given to the people of Saltash by the Black Prince. Perhaps Mr Ellison could research this and inform us.

*Geoff Flukes a concerned watersider*

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### SALTASH BEFRIENDING SERVICES

**M**HA Saltash Live at Home Scheme volunteers provide a vital befriending service for older residents living in Saltash, Hatt and Landrake area. The Scheme supports older people with families or not and with the support of a visiting befriender or telephone befriender life can be less isolated and lonely. Our volunteer benders undertake many different tasks to support and assist in maintaining independence based upon the individual needs of our members when assessed.

### Conundrum Corner

Taking the initial letter to the one-word answers to the following nine questions can you re-arrange them to make the name of a Town or Village in our locality?

- 1 Of which Country was Catherine the Great Empress? (6)
  - 2 In the game of Trivial Pursuit in which coloured section are the History questions found? (6)
  - 3 Which major River rises in Tibet, flows through Kashmir and Pakistan and enters the Arabian Sea near Karachi? (5)
  - 4 What type of fruit does a Viticulturist grow? (6)
  - 5 During which Battle of the Crimean War did The Charge of the Light Brigade take place? (9)
  - 6 Which animal is sometimes said to be "in velvet"? (4)
  - 7 In which British City would you find Arthur's Seat? (9)
  - 8 Which instrument is played by the Leader of an Orchestra? (6)
  - 9 In which Country is Rudyard Kipling's Jungle Book mainly set? (5)
- Conundrum Answers on Page 7*

All volunteers recruited provide references and are police checked before being assigned to a member of the scheme. Older people are referred by various agencies, self-referral, family or friends to become members of the scheme and are carefully matched to a volunteer.

There is a monthly social coffee morning held every 2nd Tuesday of the month at Wesley Church, providing fun, guest speakers and friendship. We also offer support to men at our weekly men's luncheon group, which is held at The Brunel in Fore Street, Saltash.

If you feel we can be of help to you or if you have any questions please contact the Manager, details below. To ensure continuity, new volunteers are always needed. If you feel you would like to enhance an older person's life by assisting the scheme or provide volunteer time supporting the scheme in other roles please contact the manager to find out more.

Manager, Mrs Gail Lee, Saltash Live at Home Scheme, Burraton Church, Liskeard Road, Saltash, PL12 4HH, telephone 01752 848728 or e-mail Saltash.liveathome@mha.org.uk

Or visit the MHA website www.mha.org.uk

The Annual General Meeting is to be held on the 26th March 2014, 2.00 p.m. at Saltash Baptist Church. Lt Col. Edward Bolitho, Lord Lt of Cornwall will be attending and a guest speaker (talking about scams affecting older people) followed by a Cornish cream tea.

Also, Saltash Ladies Choir are staging a fundraising concert at Saltash Wesley Church raising vital funds for the Scheme, on Saturday 5th April 2014, 7.30 p.m. Tickets £5 at the door. Please come and enjoy the evening with us. We need your support.

It is better to know us and not need us, than need us and not know us!  
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### Shrews and Slow Worms at Risk In Car Storage Area

The natural environment is being destroyed with old broad leaf trees and a Cornish hedge already lost, claimed objectors to a proposed car storage area at Carkeel.

Land at Burraton Road on the Parkway industrial site was being sought for use to keep cars by Roger Young Landrovers, when Saltash Town Council were considering their planning application.

This is a natural habitat for shrews and slow worms, both protected species which cannot even be handled without a licence, complained objectors who spoke to the Council. They added that tree officers plans showing which broad leaf natural trees should be left standing and which should be crowned on the site had already been ignored with all the trees referred to already destroyed. They added that the access point to the car storage area was dangerously close to the roundabout and a bus stop.

"The entrance is around twenty metres from the bus stop" said Councillor John Brady, who added that as the area was for storage only minimal traffic movement was anticipated. He stated that security was paramount given that cars worth several million pounds would be stored there.

Seconding Councillor Brady's proposal for approval, Councillor Joe Ellison added a rider that it be conditional on the trees that had been already destroyed being replaced with a screening around the perimeter and that more information was given on proposed lighting. Councillors recommended approval of the car storage area subject to these conditions.

**Observer Telephone Numbers**  
 07971484872 or  
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### SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...



I took the opportunity to knock on many doors in Saltash over recent Parliamentary Recess. I believe that it is important for me to speak to as many Constituents as I can in order to listen to their views and concerns.

One of the issues that have been raised continually on the doorstep is the matter of Potholes. Many people have asked why they see Council workers filling the potholes, only to see them reappear a couple of weeks later.

When I met with Cornwall Council Manager for Transport in Westminster on my return from recess, I took the opportunity to raise the increasing number of potholes that we are seeing in our roads. He explained that the emergency repairs that have been carried out over the recent weeks of bad weather do re appear because they involve cold filling of the pothole with the ground still wet. A permanent repair involves cutting around the hole and filling with hot material when the road is dry.

Whilst I can understand that emergency temporary filling of potholes has to take place for safety reasons, it is essential that local councils carry out permanent repairs to our roads as soon as possible when the weather conditions allow.

I believe that the permanent repairs for potholes caused by floods should be included in the emergency assistance the Government provides to local Councils under the Bellwin Scheme. My reasoning is that Council's often have to wait until dryer weather to carry out the repair.

I have repeatedly raised the matter of emergency funding for local councils which is payable for

emergency repairs immediately after floods and bad weather. I have argued that this is unfairly distributed because of the formula used known as the Bellwin Formula. The distribution of Government help is dependent on the total budget of a local Council. When we moved to a Unitary Council in Cornwall the budget of that Authority was cumulative of the old Districts and County Council and therefore a much higher amount of money had to be spent before Cornwall received help under the Bellwin formula. I am pleased that after three years the Prime Minister announced a change to take account of Cornwall's situation at PMQs. It was really good to hear him specifically mention Cornwall.

I am currently carrying out an in depth study into the whole issue and will make representations to the Secretary of State for Local Government once this is complete to ensure that our roads in Saltash and throughout South East Cornwall are fit for purpose.

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## Music and Pasties at Museum Stewards Party

Around sixty volunteers from Saltash museum joined together to celebrate their annual Stewards Party. The Saltash Guildhall buzzed with the arrival of the many volunteer stewards' and research workers who got together to celebrate a year of hard work and fun. Martin Gee introduced himself to those present as the new Chairman of Saltash Heritage and proceeded to tell the audience about next year's exhibition 'It will be over by Christmas', a commemoration of World War I. He outlined the work done in the Museum over the past year highlighting the work being done by members of the Management Committee who are involved in completing their reaccreditation application. He thanked all

### Mayor Collects His Sustainable Bag



Saltash Mayor David Yates selects a meal's worth of local food at the start of the 'I Shop For Saltash' campaign, launched in the Community Market last month. Market traders are giving away free sustainable shopping bags with purchases of £10 or more. The cotton bags are being produced in four limited designs and will be available from selected town Centre shops throughout the year.

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## Saltash's Cornish Cross – From Suggestion To Elevation

One subject always guaranteed to cause controversy when discussed in Saltash is the town's iconic Cornish Cross. From its first mooted over four years ago to the Spring evening when it soared above Saltash many have come to admire it as a striking piece blending modern art and Cornish tradition. Others are less enthusiastic.

Saltash Old Cornwall Society were therefore interested to hear the story of the cross from local resident and Councillor Joe Ellison. He worked over the years to see the realisation of which began as a 'wow' factor, which the lottery commission suggested was needed to enhance a local plan to restore a piece of scrubland.

The Elwell Woods project, involving replanting the woods and orchard and cleaning up derelict land by the Tamar Bridge, was an initiative of the town's Waterside residents' group. It was only after a press conference that Tim Smit, progenitor of Eden and the Lost Gardens of Heligan, chanced upon a model of a massive cross originally intended as a millennium project for Carkeel, and urged that this structure be placed on high by the Tamar Bridge as a fitting gateway to Cornwall.

The trials and tribulations that followed from the extensive bat, reptile and tree surveys that had to be conducted to the delays in the erection of the cross caused by temperature or wind levels, were all outlined by Mr. Ellison. It was hardly surprising that the night that the floodlit cross arose in position was, as he described, one of the most emotional of his experience. He paid tribute to all involved, including particularly the

teenage air cadets who worked to clear the woods, the top composite designer who translated the model into a reality of carbon and glass fibre, and the Cornwall Wildlife Trust who are helping manage the woodland site.

Society Secretary Martin Lister in turn paid tribute to Joe and Clare Ellison, whose hospitality he had enjoyed on the memorable night of the cross' erection, and to all who had seen the relatively minor project of a small residents' group grow to a truly iconic structure which it is hoped will be given extended national publicity to encourage more visitors to discover Saltash.

### Library May Lose Services If Not Supported

The future of our library service depends on increased footfall. It is vital to ensure more people use the current services or else to introduce new services if our libraries are to survive. This was the stark message from Cornwall Council who are still seeking ways of saving revenues which are likely to include stopping the mobile library service on which many residents of outlying villages without their own transport depend. An alternative, which has been trialled successfully elsewhere in Cornwall, would be opening so called micro libraries in local village venues including village halls and pubs. Volunteer staff enables locals to access a changing choice of books and a computer link to council information. A twelve-week public consultation on the future of mobile libraries and their alternatives began on 3rd February so there is still time to make views known.

Staff at Saltash Library have been in close dialogue with the town's four County Councillors and have been engaged in the tough choices to be made in the library's future. Previous cuts recently have seen opening hours reduced from five and a half to four and a half days a week and further cuts cannot be ruled out.

The recent National Libraries Day saw a number of residents call in to discover the wide variety of services and activities on offer from weekly sing-alongs for children under school age to the free home library service, delivering to the door of those unable for health or other reasons to visit our excellent town library by the leisure centre.

Conundrum answers...

Answers: 1 Russia 2 Yellow  
3 Indus 4 Grapes 5  
Edinburgh 6 Deer 7  
Balklava 8 Violin 9 India  
Re-arranged the letters spell  
out the Town of Ivybridge

## My last pint

I know that giving blood is not something everyone can do. For some it's for health reasons, others, because the blood service won't accept their blood and for a quite a few of you, it is simply the fact that you can't stand needles.

But I consider myself to be luckily, because on 77 occasions I have been able to donate.

My motivation has been three fold; firstly my Dad who managed to give 25 times inspired me. He was immensely proud of his little badge, and when he couldn't give anymore I decided that I would aim to match my fathers achievement.

My second reason was my Blood group. You see it turned out that my group is quite uncommon, particularly here in Cornwall and so they have always been keen to receive a donation from me particularly at peak times at Christmas and summer holidays.

The final reason, and for me the most important, is because my wife had complications when our son was born and she lost 7 pints, so although we don't share the same blood group, I know if it wasn't for strangers donating, I would have lost her that night.

So 2 or 3 times a year I take a trip to a dusty hall and with others we share a sense of community spirit today I met a woman who was giving her 97 pint, whilst another sat with free biscuit



and coffee in hand, having given her very first donation

Actually for me it is the very definition of the term community, people giving up, as Tony Hancock once said; "an armful" and, of course a little bit of time to help someone they will never meet.

I am not telling all of this to make me sound virtuous. I know many can't give, and many more people contribute to our society in a much more substantial way then just giving a pint of blood every now and then.

No the reason why I am telling you this is because today at my 78th attempt my veins have said that's enough and although practically all of the team had a go at finding the right spot to draw blood, non succeeded. So reluctantly we have had to agree that that had to be the last time I was to donate.

I am of course sad about it, but it has led me to now ask you a question. Now that I can't, will you?

It will put you out a little bit and you might be a bit squeamish about it, but it is worth doing and you never know you might make it to 78 donations!

By Phil Hutty Lib Dem PC

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# Historic Victories at saltash.net!



It was a tense day at saltash.net community school on Thursday 30th January. Both the Under 16 Girls' football team and the Under 16 Boys' team were playing in the Cornwall County Cup finals, having progressed successfully in the annual competition over the last few months.

The finals were held at Pool and the opponents for both saltash.net Girls and saltash.net Boys were Richard Lander school from Truro.

The girls' match kicked off

first and saw the strong Saltash side secure a very comfortable 10-1 victory. Goal scorers were Emily Hollister (5), Kirsten Procter (1),

Shannon Reed (1), Siobhan Ellyatt (1), Ellie Mansfield (1), Briony Hine (1).

The boys' match was a tougher challenge. Luke Trevaskus of saltash.net scored an excellent goal in the opening ten minutes and the team managed to hold on to their 1-0 lead for the remainder of the match, to

secure the county champions title.

Speaking after the matches, teacher of PE and girls' coach, Emma Gue, said, "The girls had to really dig in and work as a team when the score was 1-1 but once they got the second goal the attacking play was amazing. All the girls deserved the result as they played in such a positive way. It was an excellent team performance and a pleasure to watch. Some of the football they have played this season has been fantastic and I am

extremely proud of what they have achieved. All the girls within the team are a credit to the school and very rewarding to coach."

Roger Reynolds, Lead Practitioner for PE at saltash.net, and coach for the boys, added, "This has been a fantastic achievement by this group of players and a fitting way for them to have finished their school football. The team has had many ups and downs over the last 5 years but the players' determination and perseverance really

showed in the final. Saltash missed 2 good chances before they took the lead through a fine header by Luke Trevaskus. After that the game was very even with Richard Lander being very dangerous on the break. However, Saltash defended brilliantly, especially in the last 10 minutes when Richard Lander put them under constant pressure. The team had not had a competitive match for 2 months due to the bad weather and this lack of match practice meant that

they were very tired in the closing stages, but they refused to give up and were relieved to hear the final whistle."

Headteacher, Isobel Bryce, praised both the players and their coaches for helping saltash.net celebrate a historic day. "This is the first time in the Cornwall County Cup that both the girls' and boys' team from one school have won the tournaments in the same year."

The school would like to express its thanks and

appreciation to Dave Roberts, of West Country Embroiderers, Saltash, for generously sponsoring the teams' Football Kit this season.



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## Further Facilities Planned for Better Use of Hospital

Bringing extended medical facilities while improving access to our local community hospital are among exciting plans for improvement to St. Barnabas hospital this year.

Following a full year of celebrations and activities to mark 125 years of the hospital's service to Saltash as well as fifty years of support from its League of Friends, Locality Manager Jo Beer announced new proposals to ensure full use of the lower ground floor. A rebuilding programme would improve access to a busy community hospital allowing easier entry to those attending physiotherapy as well as possible blood transfusions and treatment. In addition bids have

been submitted to hopefully have dental and podiatry services locally available at St. Barnabas. Carefully prepared plans should ensure maximum use of the lower floor area which is currently underused.

Other anticipated improvements would include a replacement of the old style lift and boiler.

Subject to confirmation and funding work should commence later this year and will be supported by the League of Friends.

## Flats Out of Place in Residential Area

Residents of the North Road and Old Ferry Road area packed the Guildhall and bombarded the Town Council with letters protesting at a proposed development of three flats in North Road but with access from Old Ferry Road.

A previous application for six flats on the site had been rejected and local resident Andrea Gilbert, who spoke for the objectors, said concerns

over this plan had not been addressed. The new plans were again for a three-storey block with a nearly flat roof totally out of character with neighbouring Victorian and Edwardian homes. She believed that excavations for the lower floor would endanger neighbouring properties and damage an old Cornish wall and a driveway. Bird life and bats roosting would be

threatened and the plan included a blind exit onto Old Ferry Road. There were no speakers in favour of the plan.

The Town Council recommended refusal of the plans for a number of reasons given by the neighbouring objectors. These included overdevelopment on a small site, out of keeping with the area, overlooking and loss of light to the neighbours, and narrow access on to Old Ferry Road. The plans were passed to Cornwall Planning Officer with this recommendation before him.

## Mother Goose Steps Out at Burraton

The familiar tale of the goose that laid the golden egg brightened the winter for those who struggled through wind and rain to the Burraton Community Centre. For their twenty-third pantomime the stalwarts of the Burraton Community Players produced "Mother Goose" set in the Cornish village of Tincombe and featuring as villain evil property developers Gordon Grabbit, any topical reference intended?

Strangely for panto there was no principal boy and girl but love interest was afforded by local publican played by Steve Blake, paired with the Dame without whom Burraton panto would be unimaginable, Leigh Hughes. The good fairy and wicked witch too transpired through the characters of Christine Woolcock, as usual narrating in the part of Gossiping Gertie and Di De'ath, played by Diane Sweet, a useful foil to villainous Gordon Neighbour as Grabbit.

The Dame had her own dame school of seven highly enthusiastic young girls in search of adventure who threw themselves equally into the roles of schoolgirls and goose girls under the reign of Queen Amanda of Ganderland. The regal role was taken by another Burraton stalwart Jill Price who co-wrote the script with Leigh Hughes and Christine Woolcock. Also playing with gusto were the villains dupes Oldham and Scratcham, Jack Willcocks and Abbie Collicott, while Ben Doney and Sam Hughes acted as chorus entering from the audience to help the tale along. And a firm favourite proved young Harry Collicott as a goose with attitude. Audience involvement proved that our Burraton thespians had another firm hit on their hands.