

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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March 2018 - Issue 312

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Tamar Bridge all Options are Open for Changes to Tolls

Alternative ways of raising increased revenue from the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry tolls are to be considered by consultants appointed by Cornwall Council. These will include the possibility of a sliding scale of tolls with a higher rate at commuter times and a reduced off peak rate. However nothing is as yet decided and any proposals would probably be subject to public enquiry and certainly to approval by parliament before change could be effected. Media reports of an almost definite hike from £1.50 to £1.80 in summer 2019 are wide of the mark, Cornwall Councillor Derek Holley, who sits on the bridge and ferry committee, has confirmed to the Observer.

When the consultants come back with their recommendations, probably at the end of this year, Cornwall Councillors will need to consider how to vary the toll structure in order to maintain a satisfactory reserve. Auditors have advised that at least £2 million should be held back for emergencies, and reserves will be due to fall below this sum in late 2019 if no changes to tolls are made.

If any serious objections are made to proposed toll changes then a public enquiry will be held, probably in spring 2019. The act enabling the bridge to be built required that any toll changes must then be approved by parliament.

The last increase, from £1 to

£1.50 for cars, was back in 2010 before which tolls had been held at £1 for the previous thirteen years.

Currently around £10 million of spending is required on the bridge. This includes £6 million to replace the bolts on the hangers, the original ones having been mounted in asbestos and requiring controlled disposal.

The new control centre is costing around £4 million, though the visitor centre in the same building, which will command dramatic views of the two bridges, is being covered by a grant from Heritage Lottery Funding. The new control centre is to replace the current facilities dated from 1957, built to poor specification and with no

insulation. The cold and damp makes the building unfit for purpose, Highways England have confirmed, for the modern equipment being installed and which will allow improved monitoring of traffic flow from the building by electronic as well as visual means. The building will also house more staff than before as they are being concentrated there from the Torpoint ferry control.

All options are open as to raising revenue and none will be implemented without the public being enabled to have their voice heard, Councillor Holley confirmed, adding: - 'The bridge and ferry committee monitor spending very carefully, we are also most fortunate in having a first class team of engineers.'

Iceland, Home Bargains, McDonalds and Costa Coffee to Open in Saltash

Plans by national property developer Quora to build a retail park on the brownfield site by Carkeel roundabout were given the go-ahead by members of Cornwall Council's East Sub-Area Planning Committee at their meeting on 5th March. In addition to Iceland, Home Bargains, a drive-thru McDonalds unit and a drive-thru Costa Coffee unit, the new retail park promises to deliver around 165 jobs for local people. Quora has also agreed to make a donation of over £300,000 for use within the town, and will install town centre signage within the retail park, offering to work with the Saltash Chamber of Commerce on the design of the signage.

Councillors paid tribute to the way Quora had engaged with the community to reshape the plans in response to local concerns, for example agreeing to triple the length of the waiting lanes at the Drive-thru units after worries that the proposed lanes were too

short and would lead to queues building up on Gilston Road.

Planning permission came with a condition attached, however, after concerns were raised about the potential build-up of traffic if cars were waiting to try and turn right out of Gilston Road.

Following a suggestion from Councillor Derek Holley, representing Saltash East on Cornwall Council, further traffic assessments will be carried out on the Pillmere roundabout to determine the viability of imposing a 'left-turn only' on vehicles exiting Gilston Road. Councillors

gave delegated authority to Cornwall Council officers to make a decision on the left-turn only proposal based on the results of these traffic assessments, but all other matters were approved so it is expected that work on Saltash's new retail park will start imminently.

Beavering Away to Avert Local Flood Risk

An ecologically and natural way to control water flow and avoid flooding is being practiced in Cornwall and could be appropriate for the Saltash area. The Cornwall Beaver Project, is proving highly successful around Ladock, according to local farmer Chris Jones who spearheaded the project on his land and gave an illustrated talk about it to Saltash Flood Forum.

He had discussed with a geomorphologist various means to avert the periodical flooding of the stream crossing his land but found that there was no budget to carry them out. 'It was then suggested that beavers would do it for nothing' he explained. Two European beavers were introduced from Devon and from Wales and within days had raised a two foot high dam. Thirty two weeks later four dams and a lodge had been built, and the water flow slowed down. He now anticipates a rapidly

increasing abundance and diversity of wildlife as well as reduction in flood risk and a potential reduction of the pathogen load, thus reducing pollution in our rivers and the beaches where they reach the sea. In the long term he hopes to see beavers legally adopted as a native species and becoming accepted as a vital part of the Cornish countryside, helping to reverse environmental damage. In time they would become well enough



established to slash the flood risk and restore ecological health.

Introduction of beaver colonies as an environmentally friendly reduction of water flow and of flood risk would be possible in many Cornish locations including Saltash, believes Dr. Rebecca Pearce, an environmental scientist at Exeter University and founder member of Saltash Flood Forum. She cited woodland on Broadmoor Farm, though there are other places in Saltash where the beaver might appear as a native species.

'Why spend money building ponds and dams as part of the anticipated

Broadmoor Farm development, when beavers could be put on the site to see how effective they could be?' she suggested. 'And would people not just love to have beavers around', Councillor John Brady added that he was querying the plans for the proposed development which he claimed had too great a housing density and a reduced green area from that originally outlined.

A full meeting of the Flood Forum clearly supported the suggested proposal for a living solution to the increased flood risk posed by further development and Chris Jones was warmly thanked for a thought provoking presentation.

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Town Messenger

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Warm and Well Saltash

With the winter throwing a final bitter spell of chill factor as February turns to March it is an appropriate time to remember that Cornwall is in the top ten of fuel poor areas in Cornwall, with around 36,000 homes in Cornwall in fuel poverty.

Winter Wellbeing Partnership, a group led by Cornwall Council has secured over £3.5 million from National

Grit's Warm Homes Fund to work with thousands of people in Cornwall, helping them to stay warmer for less and be lifted out of fuel poverty. Cornwall Council, working with Citizens Advice has launched two toolkits to help local authorities and health trusts tackle fuel poverty. Cornwall Councillor Hilary Frank has reminded the town council to make people aware of what can be done for anyone who is living

in a cold or damp home, struggling to stay warm at home, or has friend's family or neighbours who are so suffering. Anyone with such a problem, or aware of those who are, should call Bev on 01872 326552 to find out about help that might be available. Alternatively the Warm and Well Application form can be found on: <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/.../publi.../warm-and-wellcornwall>

Residents Form New Association

Mulberry Road residents are the latest local group in town to form a residents association. They hope to achieve positive action to enhance their neighbourhood and such local groups are sometimes able to access grants unavailable to town councils and other authorities.

The first meeting was due to be held at The Core on 13th March but anybody who missed it and wishes to be involved is invited to contact Councillor Casey Warrington, whose contact details are on this page.

Any other community minded group of local residents is always open to forming a similar organisation and can contact their local ward councillors for advice and assistance.

Questioning Your Council

A fifteen minute period when members of the public can ask questions of members of the council has for many years formed part of the agenda at each town council meeting. However there has been uncertainty among some as to the format for putting such questions.

For the future anyone who intends to ask a question must fill in a form and ensure that it is with the town clerk at least fifteen minutes before the start of the meeting. They will then be invited to speak at the appropriate time and the council will endeavour to give a satisfactory response.

Questions can still be submitted after the fifteen minute deadline but are likely to have a reply given in writing at a later date.

Grit is Not for Private Use

With the recent cold spell in mind it is perhaps an appropriate time to remind residents that the contents of the grit bins all around Saltash are for public roads and pavements. Residents are asked not to help themselves from the bins for their own private drives and footpaths as this depletes stock when it is most needed for general use. Local residents are encouraged to stock up on their own grit and salt ready for chill times. They are welcome to spread grit from the bins over public footpaths and pavements if they so wish.

Anyone who notices a grit bin that is empty, or nearly so, is asked to advise 'man of grit' and Deputy Mayor David Yates whose contact details are on this page.

Remembering The 'Great' War

This year marks the centenary of the guns finally falling silent at the conclusion of what was then believed to be 'the war to end all wars'. Various local residents as well as councillors have suggested that Saltash should mark the centenary during the year, centred in particular around Armistice Day on 11th November.

The town's museum is already putting together an exhibition, opening in early April, based on the end of the war and the peace that followed.

Anyone with ideas on how the centenary should be marked is invited to a meeting to be held at 2 p.m. on 28th March in the Guildhall, to be chaired by the Deputy Mayor.

Lost Children Remembered

A rose bush and plaque are intended to be placed at St. Stephens in memory of babies lost by mothers prior to the last twenty-four weeks of pregnancy.

The suggestion was put to the town's burial board by its chair, Councillor Avril Pinckney, who has acquired for this purpose a white rose bush named 'Sweet Child of Mine'. The planting, subject to permission of the church authorities, is thanks to The Eva's Little Stars Charity.

It is intended to be placed by the children's' burial plot at St. Stephens cemetery where there is already a bench in memory of those children stillborn after twenty-four weeks and on which a star can be placed to record the loss of such a child. The brass plaque will, be engraved 'To The Ones We Lost'.

Your Town Council

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Councillors telephone numbers can be obtained at the guildhall.

**Saltash Town Council, The Guildhall, 12 Lower Fore Street, Saltash PL12 6JX
Tel.: 01752 844846 Email: enquiries@saltash.gov.uk Website: www.saltash.gov.uk**

Mayoral Matters

I hope by the time this article comes to you it will be a little warmer and more Spring-like, as I am writing this I am hoping that Cllr Yates's grit bins will not need to be used!

In recent days the Policy and Resources Committee under the chairmanship of Cllr Bill Phillips has agreed to Charity Chest and Festival Fund applications.

These have included support for The Saltash Regatta, uniforms for The Town Band, help for the Tamar Preservation Society to help with electrical work in Mary Newman's Cottage, The Flood Forum to have a pull-out in Love Saltash, gardening for the Shado Centre. This shows the wide spectrum of kinds of applications that we will consider.

Does your organisation have a pressing need for cash to make a change or put on an event? Please consider asking the Council for support, ask the reception staff for the necessary forms. We are here to help our community.

All Mayoral events are great fun and the recent invitation to a

St Lukes Coffee Morning at The Brunel was not only fun, but did nothing for our waistlines! It reflected the enthusiasm of the group that set it up, and also the donations of numerous raffle prizes and cakes. Many came from small local firms; I always knew Saltash was a supportive community.

Talking of charities, my Mayor's Charities for this year are Dementia PL12 Veterans Group and The Saltash Town Band. There will be an fundraising event taking place on Saturday 7th April at The Saltash Social Club...an evening of music, food and fun. Tickets will be available from the wondrous Piglets or on the door. Please come along and support these local charities.

*Cllr. Jean Dent
Town Mayor*

Letter to the Editor...

Dear Editor

I can remember when Saltash was a thriving place to shop. A cattle market (back of the co-op now a car park), four choices of grocers in fact just about anything you wanted. Then along came the super markets.

I feel very sorry for the few remaining shops hanging on by their teeth. Now Cornwall Council have decided to cut the parking time in half. Nice one! Sometimes I have to go back another day for the sake of 5 minutes.

Lesley Chenery, Saltash

Evening of Music Food and Fun for Local Causes

A packed 'Evening of Music Food and Fun' is promised in support of two local causes chosen as this year's Mayor's Charity.

The Mayor, Councillor Jean Dent, is inviting one and all to share in the evening, which will culminate her term of office. It is to be at the Saltash Social Club on Saturday 7th April with doors opening at 6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m. Tickets are £6.00 to include buffet and are available in advance from the club and from 'Piglets' or on the door. More information is available on 07494 478239.

The funds raised are to be divided between the Saltash Town Band and Dementia Voice PL12.

The town band, currently comprised of around 35 members including a highly popular junior section,

Lifesaving Wardens

The dramatic rescue of a teenage girl from the River Tamar which we described last month was, as we reported, carried out with the aid of our newly appointed Saltash Town and Waterfront Wardens.

However we were misinformed as to the wardens responsible. The person whom we named has asked us to state that it was in fact Jason Ward and Mike Diamond who threw the life belt that hauled the girl ashore.

regularly participates in competitions and festivals, so promoting the town. It is also to be seen at all manner of local events and functions. The band aims to encourage players of all ages and abilities with the training band encouraged confidence in basic playing skills and the junior band for those more experienced and building on these skills.

The Veterans Group of Dementia Voice PL12 was launched just over a year ago specifically for those who have served in the armed forces, together with families and carers. The group has already grown significantly and meets fortnightly to socialise and reminisce as well as enjoy games and quizzes.

Carol Emmett who with husband Ken organised and facilitate the group has joined with Sue Higman, town band secretary, cornet player and instructor of young players, to organise the Mayor's final Charity Fundraising Event. They hope to see as many as possible, sharing the fun evening and supporting two worthwhile local organisations.

Town Messenger news is supplied by the Town Council

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor.

I am writing to say how appalled I was that only 4 councillors from Saltash Town Council attended the Civic Service. They should have been there to support the both the citizens of our town as well as the town's elected Mayor and Deputy Mayor. The Service is an annual occasion hosted by the Town Council to celebrate the civic life of our town, but 10 of our councillors were not there! They missed a beautiful occasion, attended by various dignitaries as well as by representatives of the town's churches, community groups and the Mayor's charities. Some guests had travelled from further afield – the Mayor of Callington even brought his 6-week old baby. Why were 10 of our councillors not able or unwilling to attend? Not only does it show disrespect to the guests at the Service, but it also shows disrespect and disdain to the citizens of Saltash who elected them to Town Council.

Yours, T. Lindeyer Saltash

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Coffee and Cakes at Brunel Raised £880 for Local Hospice

Exquisite home make cakes as well as scones jam and cream (served of course 'proper Cornish' with cream on top) were on the menu as a popular town centre hostelry held its coffee-morning in support of St. Lukes Hospice.

The 'Brunel Inn' chose this charity to support as David Roberts, who took over the newly renovated historic inn last November, was persuaded by Kelly Weekes, who works for him, and also serves as a volunteer at St. Lukes Hospice, Mount Batten, each Sunday. Kelly's father spent his last days at St. Lukes and so impressed was she at the standard of care that she has devoted herself since then to offering personal and raising financial support for the hospice. She spends much of her time there helping with catering, enabling the staff to concentrate on nursing care. 'People think it is depressing but in fact there is a beautiful happy and loving atmosphere with plenty of shared fun between patients and staff', she told Mary and Martin of the 'Observer' at the coffee morning 'it is amazingly upbeat.'

Landlord David, together with Kelly and her daughter Kirsty wish to thank the dozens who attended to ensure the event's success. They wish especially to support the professional and amateur chefs, too many to name, who prepared the mouth-watering array of cakes and pastries that were so appreciated. They also thank the many businesses who helped add to the funds raised by their generosity in donating raffle prizes. The Brunel is once again a part of the Saltash scene offering a family friendly environment within the community', said David. 'Increasing numbers of townfolk are coming to appreciate the atmosphere and relax over our affordable menu of home produced freshly cooked fare. We are also building up our entertainment programme with Wednesday quiz nights, Thursday jazz nights and excellent live music at weekends with Ray Lewis of 'The Drifters' a major forthcoming attraction.

David, Kelly, Kirsty and their many helpers were thrilled to see the coffee morning raise over £880 towards the local St. Lukes Hospice.

David, Kelly, Kirsty and their many helpers were thrilled to see the coffee morning raise over £880 towards the local St. Lukes Hospice.



National Coastwatch

National Coastwatch Institution Rame Head are celebrating their 20th anniversary this year. A buffet lunch is being held on Saturday 12th May 2018 for present and past watchkeepers.

Any past watchkeepers who would like to attend could they please contact the station manager in writing at:

Station Manager (20), Old Coastguard Station, Rame Head, Cawsand, Cornwall PL10 1LH for further details including venue and time.

Help Saltash RBL say "Thank You"?

As part of The Royal British Legion's national "Thank You" Campaign, the Saltash & District branch are having a "WW1 Centenary Grand Prize Draw". Tickets will be sold throughout Saltash during the next few months with the draw taking place on Sunday 22nd July 2018 during the WW1 Centenary Commemorative RWindband Concert at Saltash Social Club.

Tickets will be available from the middle of March on the RBL table at the monthly Table Top Sales in Wesley Church.

Many prizes have been already donated, if local businesses and residents would like to help and supply a prize, then they can contact Carolann Pabst, Saltash RBL on 07494 478239.

So Please Saltash...help us to say 'Thank You' to the First World War generation who helped to shape our world as we know it today

Play Park Closed

A long neglected play park at Pillmere has been closed to the public, the reasons cited being health and safety. The town council's services committee had decided to clear the play equipment from the site and reinstate it as a community green space at a cost of £1,840.

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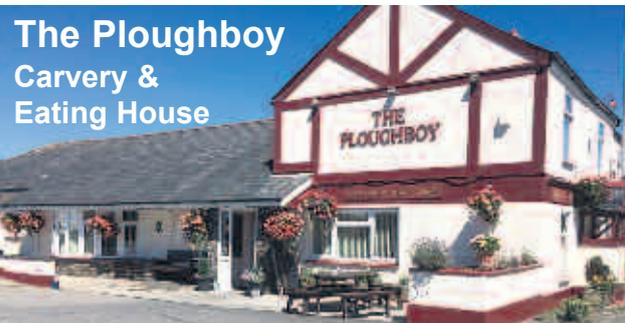


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Tears of Thanks for the Generous Folk of Saltash



As the worst winter weather in a generation hit Cornwall, Saltash lay under a blanket of snow. Stories have poured in to the Observer of acts of neighbourly kindness - of people taking round a pint of milk or clearing their neighbour's path. And 7-year old Anika presented her mother with a pink money box full of coins she had carefully saved, saying: "Use this all to buy pasties for the street people, mummy."

Big-hearted Anika, in Year 3 at a Saltash primary school, was responding to the Pay It Forward Pasty Smile initiative launched by Saltash-based bakery Let Them Eat. For every pasty bought for the homeless, Let Them Eat donated another pasty, and delivered them to people sleeping rough. Lisa Hackett, Founder and Managing Director of Let Them Eat originally thought of the Pay It Forward initiative as a way of celebrating the first ever National Cornish Pasty Week, but the severe weather seems to have added a sense of

urgency, and the people of Saltash, like Anika, donated over 350 pasties within the first few days. Some pasties have been delivered directly to people on the streets and others to charities supporting homeless people. Lisa said: "the homeless people we have met have been so grateful to have something warm in these sub-zero temperatures. We've even had people in tears of thanks."

Founded in 2014, Let Them Eat specialises in gluten-free products, including pasties. As Lisa explained: "When we launched our 100% allergen-free pasty it was under the tag line that 'no one should be deprived a Cornish pasty', meaning that whatever your allergy you could still eat one of our pasties. So this initiative seemed a fitting way to try and make sure that no homeless person is deprived of a Cornish pasty either."

At least 120 million Cornish pasties are made each year, and the £300 million worth of trade generated is around 20 per cent

of the total turnover of Cornwall's food and drink sector. Wanting to celebrate the importance of Cornwall's culinary gift to the world, the Cornish Pasty Association headed up the inaugural Cornish Pasty Week, which saw a variety of events including the giant Mr. Mrs. Pasty traveling to London to have tea in Westminster, and culminated in the 'Oggy Oscars' - the seventh-annual World Pasty Championships, held on 3rd March at the Eden Project.

"The people of Saltash have been very supportive, generous and kind, we would like to send our heartfelt thanks to all those who have bought a pasty", said Lisa. Moved by the warm generosity of Saltash folk in these cold days, Lisa and the team at Let Them Eat have decided to keep the 'pay it forward' button live on their website, even though the Pasty Week is now over. Let Them Eat's gluten-free pasties are also available in Rowe's on Fore Street.

Derriford Bus Service Saved

The direct link between Saltash and Derriford Hospital run by the Saltash Hopper Bus is to continue. The directors of Community Enterprises PL12 made this decision despite the service continuing to run at a loss.

It is hoped that the service can be improved and made more financially viable by running it under a different form of licence, a Section 22 Licence. This will not only enable the operator to claim fuel tax refunds and achieve

more grant aid but also stop to pick up at bus stops along the route to the hospital. This, the directors anticipate, should attract additional passenger journeys and reduce the current losses.

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I've been sitting here trying to work how best to bring up council tax. The problem is that no matter how I approach it the subject isn't palatable, and that I suppose this is the same when setting the budget and council tax itself. No matter what level it is set at someone is always going to say that it is too high or the money should be spent in a different way but the fact remains that Cornwall Council still has to find £75 million in cuts/"savings" over the next four years because by then 90% of the councils funding will come from council tax and business rates. In 2011 45% of Cornwall Council's funding came from central government.

Last minute changes

After last minute changes to what the council will receive and can raise, it was decided that Cornwall Council's section of council tax will increase by 4.99%. This is 2.99% for general council tax plus 2% solely for adult social care. This along with the agreed four year budget will allow the council to protect vulnerable children and adults by increasing the money given to these areas. The council will also be able to invest up to £170 million directly in new housing including building 1,000 new homes on sites across Cornwall which will then be rented with 35% used for affordable rent or shared ownership.

The council will also be able to provide the



CORNWALL COUNCIL



and our PL12 community

For Observer readers

Sam Tamlin

Cornwall Councillor for Saltash West

E: sam.tamlin@cornwallcouncillors.org.uk.

Foundation Living Wage for Council staff and all its contractors. This real living wage is based on the cost of living and provides a wage that people are genuinely able to live on.

The Citizens Advice Bureau will receive roughly £300,000 a year for the next four years.

It had been agreed previously that the CAB would be given time to find alternative sources of income and the council would stop its funding in 2018 but this funding never materialised. This is less than what the CAB previously received but is more than had been planned and it was obvious that this vital service needed to continue.

Cornwall receives less

Increasing council tax at this level was not an easy choice but what made it even harder is, knowing that if Cornwall received a fair amount of local government funding the increase would not be needed at all. Cornwall receives less money than it should, if funding for local councils was based on factors that drive demand and the higher cost of delivering services in rural areas the latest rise in council tax would not be

needed at all. The current funding formula means that Cornwall receives over £300 less per resident from central government than parts of London. Cornwall Council has called on central government to change their funding model to one that recognises the higher costs in rural areas. If this was put into place it would even out the money councils receive and Cornwall could be in receipt of an additional £39 million a year. To put this into context, the 4.99% increase in Cornwall's Council Tax this year works out at just over £21 million.

I'll try to end this piece with some positive news, Cornwall Council has committed to becoming single-use plastic free. This means that single use plastic cups, lids, plastic bottles and other single use plastics will be phased out in whole estate by 2020.

The councillor for St. Germans Jesse Foot proposed this. I think he deserves a lot of credit for making the council a leader in this area and creating a clear example that hopefully can be followed by many organisations throughout Cornwall.



Hopper Bus Trips - March/April 2018

Thurs 15th Mar 9.30am to 6pm (£10)

Start Bay Inn (famous for its fish)
Torcross then onto
Dartmouth for afternoon tea

Sat 17th Mar 1pm - 4pm (£4.50)

Daffodil time at Cothel

Sun 18th Mar 11am - 5pm (£7)

Lunch at Homeleigh Garden Centre
Dutson Launceston

Tues 20th Mar 9am to 4pm (£10)

Free entry at Rosemore Gardens
Torrington

Thurs 22nd Mar 9am - 4pm (£12)

Caerhays Castle and gardens at
Gorran St Austell

Sun 25th Mar 9am - 5pm (£15)

Clarks Village & Street

Mon 26th Mar 10am - 4pm (£6)

Trago Mills & Newton Abbot

Tue 27th Mar 10am to 5pm (£10)

NT Greenway Mansion
(Walk with the Gardeners)

Good Friday 30th Mar 11am-5pm (£10)

Lunch Port & Starboard @ Indian Queens
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Easter Sat 31st Mar 12.30-6pm (£7)

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Easter Sun 1st Apr 11am-5pm (£10)

Lunch at the Pickwick Inn @ St Izzey
Cream Tea with locals at Trevone Village hall
&

Carpenters Story 5.30pm - 11pm (£9)

Princess Theatre Torquay

Sat 7th Apr 9am to 5pm (£6)

Cornwall Spring Flower show
Boconnoc, Liskeard

Sun 8th April 12 noon (£10)

Family Day at Exeter Racecourse

Tue 10th Apr 1pm to 4.30pm (£6)

Tartendown nurseries & Kernow Mill

Wed 11th Apr 9am - 4pm (£16)

Dorchester market & Museum

Meet "Dippy" the dinosaur

Sun 15th Apr 11am - 4pm (£8)

Sunday Lunch at Britannia Inn &
Pinetum Nurseries

Tue 17th Apr 10am - 4pm (£10)

Otter Nurseries Ottery St Mary

Sat 21st Apr 11am - 5pm (£12)

Tregothan House & Gardens

Mon 23rd Apr 12 noon - 6pm (£7)

Newton Abbot races

Tues 24th Apr 1pm to 5pm (£7)

Cowslip Café &

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Sat 28th Apr 9am - 4.30 pm (£12)

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Romance Blossoms on Hopper 'Love Bus'



Thank you so much for a lovely surprise' and 'the best Valentine's Day that I ever had' were among the comments received from passengers who shared the Saltash Hopper Bus Valentine's Day outing. Advertised as a mystery trip for 'singles only' the day produced quite a few surprises for those who filled the bus.

Gathered for departure from '4 Fore Street' they were first presented with complimentary roses and chocolates before setting off

into North Devon.

An excellent lunch was enjoyed at the Lifton Farm Shop before the main destination was reached. This proved to be Dingles' working fun fair museum and all entered into the fun fair spirit, sharing rides on the carousels of a carefree bygone era.

Passengers joined to give the Hopper Bus organisers a special Valentine thank you card with their comments on a 'great fun' and 'good day all round'. And it has been reported that at least one relationship has been formed as a result of the trip.

A Model World is Open to All

Formed less than a year ago, Saltash Modelling Club is pleased to have welcomed six new members already this year. Founder members Jim Virgo and Mike Parker would be pleased to meet more modellers and would-be modellers at the friendly and welcoming club which meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 7.30 p.m. in the Essa Club, off Alexandra Square.

Existing membership already covers a wide spectrum of modelling interest, and whether ones passion is for 'railway, aircraft, ships, militaria or miniature figures, or indeed creating anything in miniature, all of all ages are welcome. The club aims to enable the exchange of ideas and tips and to help other members in building their models on a friendly and informed basis. Anyone interested is invited just to call in when the club is meeting and membership is currently free of charge.

Awards for Good Citizens at Civic Service

As part of the Mayor's Civic Service, held to celebrate the community of Saltash and the work done for the community, several members of the community were chosen to receive awards for their particular efforts.

'We have all seen the Tamar Trotters around the town, able to run up hills and still talk to each other', announced Mayor Councillor Jean Dent. She introduced Colin Bunting, Tamar Trotters organiser and youth coach, to be awarded the trophy for Citizen of the Year 'for helping to keep our youth strong and healthy'.

Many of us had also seen the eager team of litter pickers who make regular forays around the town in all weathers helping to keep Saltash clean and a good place to live. Among the keenest is eight year old Aya Frank who stepped forward to accept the award for Young Citizen of the Year. This she can add to her already acquired 'green' Blue Peter badge, and she also designed the new logo for Saltash Environmental Action.

The Environmental Citizens



of the Year were Bob and Jackie Austin, honoured for their work for the Friends of Churchtown Farm. 'These people took over fields intensively farmed for so many years that there was little natural wildlife to be found', said the Mayor. 'These fields, through their efforts are now bursting with a variety of wild plants attracting likewise widespread species of wildlife. It was Bob and Jackie who made this happen'.

The Peter Stephens trophy given for the entertainment that has most pleased the Mayor during her year of office was awarded to saltash.net academy for their recent production of 'Little Shop of Horrors'.

'I shall never be able to look a petunia in the face again', pronounced the Mayor.



Our Young Citizen of the Year 2018 Aya Frank is delighted to share her moment with good friend Hollie.

Car Parking Changes

Residents will be offered more flexibility in the way that they pay for parking charges, say Cornwall Council who are putting forward proposals for changes at Cornwall Council owned car parks from 1st April. This includes all main car parks in Saltash town centre.

Recent investment in the latest technology will mean that new permit systems can be acquired through 'Just Park' on the telephone, app or website.

Regular car park users will be able to purchase a number of car park sessions at a significantly reduced rate based on a pay-per-trip basis. This will particularly benefit part time workers who use the car park as little as once or twice a week. The Just Park technology will also enable local businesses to easily refund car parking charges to their customers. Such a scheme is already operating in Saltash, with a number of local businesses offering a refund on car park tickets when a purchase is made.

There are also to be changes to parking charges which have remained the same over the past three years. Intended to aid the evening economy of Cornish towns all pay and display car parks will be free in the evening.

Car parking tariffs will be standardised in the more congested towns though it does not appear that this will affect Saltash.

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Sat 21st **Switch** (Bar)

Sat 28th **Three's Company** (Bar)

May 2018

Sat 5th **Karina & The Slaves** (Bar)

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Sat 19th **Rebel** (Bar)

Sat 26th **Hi Jack** (Bar)

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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 Cornish place name?

- 1 In which Ocean are the Faroe Islands? (8)
- 2 The Pearly Kings and Queens are the most famous inhabitants of which area of London? (7)
- 3 Ginseng comes from which part of a plant? (4)
- 4 Specifically, in architecture, what is a Bascule? (10)
- 5 Who are taught at a Conservatoire? (9)
- 6 The TV drama Inspector Morse was set in which English city? (6)
- 7 In Watership Down what number can the rabbits only count up to? (4)
- 8 Which Mediterranean Island was captured in 1191 by Richard the Lionheart as part of the 3rd Crusade? (6)
- 9 The adjective Aquiline refers to which bird? (5)

Answers on Page 7

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Saltash Joins the Anti-Plastic Revolution

Everyone attending the Saltash Environmental Action meeting in February was educated, inspired and even entranced by speaker Tim Bennett, who hails from the valley of the Tamar – the ‘border between Cornwall and the Rest of the World’, as he called it. While most of us struggle to be good at everything, Tim excels in three skills at the same time: restaurant chef, smallholding vegetable and fruit producer, and filmmaker with a deep environmentalist inspiration behind all three.

Tim described how he ‘woke up’ about two years ago, and realised how his (and our!) mode of living was ruining the planet, particularly with plastic packaging, dependence on shoving everything into landfill, an unsustainable food industry that depends on large quantities of insecticide and weed killer, and all underpinned by our carbon-hungry transport system. Having no garden of his own, he begged and borrowed pieces of land to grow his own food in a sustainable way including saving seed from one year to the next. He emptied his kitchen cupboard of packaging in favour of glass storage jars for his

supplied which he buys in bulk in Tavistock; and he explored how to green up his bathroom, moving over to bamboo toothbrush and baking soda toothpaste for his teeth – and alum crystal deodorant for his armpits.

Even better, he recorded his progress and life-changing decisions with a series of 5-minute home movies, which delight with their humour and originality. Working on his own, (or with a little help from others in the pub) he wrote clever scripts with three characters, all played by himself – yet who even discuss topics with each other on a split screen. His gardening self is Ray Kinnit with his Cornish brogue, telling us how it’s done; his chef self is Jurgen Agetsik (say it fast with the stress on ‘sik’) who reveals his cooking technique for a variety of goodies such as dressings and leek balls; and the country bumpkin is Kenny who asks all the awkward questions. Eight videos, incredibly all made in the course of 2017, explore the different aspects of the new, green Tim. From potatoes and onions (‘golden nuggets of joy’) to scones and strawberry jam, this guy is so talented.

Even the title of his presentation is a gem: ‘From Trowel to Bowl’. That is the name to use in search of his videos on You Tube. As he develops his crops of healthy vegetables – it’s almost insulting to call them plain ‘organic’, that is too mundane, these crops are imbued with Nature – in St. Dominic, let’s hope they become widely available to discerning Saltash residents. It makes you feel good just to see them on the screen. Tim is an inspiration to us all on how to tackle all the environmental disasters that seem to be built into modern life.

SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...



I would like to congratulate my Constituency Staff for the fantastic display they put together in celebration of the 100-year anniversary of women over 30 years of age getting the vote. It is with pride that I serve under a female Prime Minister and I am also proud that she is the second female Prime Minister.

I was also pleased to pledge to reduce the use of plastic in all my offices. I remember back in the late 1990’s when I was secretary of the Looe Fishermen’s Protection Association. Looe fishermen led the way by bringing all plastic they caught in their nets ashore for disposal by the Harbour Commissioners. I would like to praise all involved for voluntarily taking this initiative.

I was really pleased to meet St Stephens Primary school from Saltash in Parliament. It is a long way to for such small children to travel and they told me they left at 4am. I was able to meet with the children in one of the official committee rooms in the House and they were interested about the work done by committees and how they are broadcast so people can watch the proceedings.

I was also pleased to meet Highways England in parliament again. I am having regular meetings with them to keep up to speed on their work and in particular continue to push for more work on the A38.

I was pleased to unveil a new pair of binoculars at the National Coastwatch Institute look out station at Polruan and then join them afterwards for a cup of coffee and a lovely scene. The powerful binoculars can see 20 miles on a clear day, which unfortunately it wasn’t on the day in question. The £4,000 cost

of the binoculars is a large investment for the voluntary organisation which relies on donations. Each National Coastwatch Institution station assists in the protection and preservation of life at sea and around the UK coastline.

I was pleased to meet with my Cornish colleague Sarah Newton MP. We discussed the Disability Confident campaign which gives guidance and resources about employing disabled people and how the Disability Confident employer scheme can help business. Sarah was doing this in her role as the Minister of State for Disabled People in the Department of Work and Pensions. If anyone would like details on how to become a Disability Confident employer please contact my office on 01579 344428 or email me at Sheryll@sheryllmurray.co.uk

Many people, like me, will have enjoyed the fantastic Grade I listed landscape in the form of Mount Edgumbe Country Park. Today it is made up of open parkland, Grade I listed gardens and 55 Grade II and II* listed structures. I am calling on all Cornwall Councillors in South East Cornwall to stand up for local South East Cornwall residents and visitors alike who enjoy this fantastic “jewel in Cornwall’s Crown” and insist that Cornwall Council honours the budget funding of £112,000 per annum until 2021. This will give the time necessary for the hardworking staff to build on the outside funding streams which will put Mount Edgumbe on a firm financial footing and retain free access for all of those people who have come to enjoy all this unique facility offers.

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Essa Files

This week a lot of my thoughts have been taken up with the latest tragic mass shooting in America, at a high school in Florida. My first thought was naturally for the victims – not just the dead or wounded and their families, but all the witnesses and others in school who will have been affected in such life changing ways.

My second thought was remembering when I was in High School hearing about the Dunblane massacre from my Maths teacher, and remembering the debate that followed about banning handguns. At the time I wasn't convinced about the ban; as a liberal I tended to subscribe to the idea that people, rather than guns, killed people and that it wasn't fair to limit the rights of responsible gun owners. My views have since shifted considerably, but whatever your opinion on the issues it's undeniable that the UK has not suffered a school shooting since the post-Dunblane ban; in the first seven weeks of 2018 US schools experienced eight that resulted in death or injury.

My third thought was about what I would do faced with the same situation, coupled with relief that such an event in Saltash is extremely unlikely, not least for the reasons outlined above.

My fourth thought was horror at the idea that anyone could possibly feel, as the American President apparently does, that the appropriate response to this tragedy is to arm teachers. I signed up to educate young people, not to learn how to potentially kill, and in honesty

the skill-sets for those two potential roles are pretty different. The idea of anyone, anyone, carrying a lethal weapon in what is supposed to be a safe haven for young people fills me with horror. Furthermore JFK was assassinated, and Reagan nearly so, whilst surrounded by a team of highly armed and trained secret service agents – I'm not totally convinced that adding in a few Maths teachers would have helped. The fact that I don't generally trust myself to remember where I've put my keys, never mind a gun, is incidental, although it does perhaps reflect how many different things teachers have to actually keep track of during the day, and the inadvisability of adding another one with potentially deadly consequences.

My final thought was that the one positive to come out of this horror so far is the sight of young people in Florida, many of them from minority groups who often struggle to be heard, being the most vocal in standing up for their right to be safe from guns, all guns, in school. Perhaps they offer us the greatest hope for the future that things can and will improve.

Adam Killea

Digital Champion

Internet use is transforming almost every aspect of our public, private and work lives. In 2006, 51% of adults in Great Britain were using the Internet at least every week, but by 2017 that figure had shot up to 88%. There are plenty of benefits to being online, like using a search engine to find information, or keeping in touch with friends and family who live far away. The Internet gives charities access to a much wider audience, too, helping them to raise awareness and funding. Banks and government agencies all offer excellent online services these days; applications for Universal Credit, for example, are made online, delivering improvements in efficiency as well as savings to the taxpayer.

Technology is making life ever more convenient for digital wizards, but what about the 'digital muggles' - people who do not or cannot use the Internet? Worryingly, Internet Access figures published by the Office for National Statistics in May 2017 show that just over 15% of adult residents in Cornwall have never actually used the Internet at all. That's about 1 adult in every 7. So, what happens if someone with no experience of the Internet needs to apply for Universal Credit?

Some of the digital muggles in Cornwall may never have had the access to reliable broadband. That scenario is changing as more public venues offer the opportunity to get online; there are 5 computers available for public use in Saltash library, as well as free Wifi access. The broadband offer is improving, too, as the Superfast Cornwall project connects an increasing number of residents to superfast broadband speeds. Superfast Cornwall is a pioneering public and private sector partnership, which is managing to achieve fibre broadband coverage of 95% of households in Cornwall.



The third phase of Superfast Cornwall sees a further £17.6 million being invested between 2018 and 2020 on connecting premises in Cornwall's most remote places. Funding for this latest phase comes from the EU, BT, Broadband Delivery UK and Cornwall Council.

Others in Cornwall who have never used the Internet may lack skills or confidence, or be worried about whether their data is safe online. Recognising that the Internet can be bewildering for first-time users, organisations like Age UK have launched various support initiatives. Cornwall Rural Community Charity, for example, is offering 6-week courses in digital inclusion for anyone born before 1st January 1950 who has completed at least one day of service with any of the Armed Forces. Cornwall Council's Online Support team also offers 4-week courses, free of charge, to help offline residents.

In Saltash, our Digital Champion is Peter Richards, who volunteers at Saltash Library every Tuesday morning to help guide people through the digital maze. After retiring from full-time work, Peter wanted to volunteer to help his community. "Libraries are an amazing resource," says Peter, "and by coming here on Tuesday mornings I like to think that I am adding to the vitality of our library as well as equipping Saltash residents with the skills, motivation and trust to go online and be digitally capable." Peter was trained under a scheme set up by Cornwall Council, which has to date trained 120 people across Cornwall to become Digital Champions. Peter is very

approachable and very knowledgeable, so if you or someone you know would like to learn about the magic of the Internet, why not go along and see him at Saltash Library? He is wizard at introducing people to the spellbinding digital world.

'Politics and a Pint'

The NHS was on the agenda in February as the Saltash Liberal Democrats met for the first in their 'Politics and a Pint' sessions in Saltash. All were invited to the monthly sessions, which are an informal opportunity to discuss local and national issues with the Liberal Democrats in the town.

Both of Saltash Liberal Democrat Cornwall Councillors were present, along with Cornwall Councillor Colin Martin, Lib Dem lead on health who led a lively discussion on the NHS. Members of the community from the town's Patient Participation Groups and the CIC from the Fore Street were on hand to debate the issues facing the town including the 'temporary' closure of the beds at St Barnabas and the withdrawal of services at the Minor Injury Unit. They also provided a great insight into the provision of health services from within the community in the form of a voluntary 'pilot project'.

The Accountable Care System, which is being proposed for the county, was also discussed at length including a lively debate between Councillor Martin and the local health interest group. As well as issues regarding the funding of the NHS, the three Councillors spoke about the council's 2018/19 budget; funding of the county in general including highways, the A38 between Landrake and Trerulefoot, and the irregularities in the provision of mental health care.

It doesn't matter if you're a Lib Dem member, a member of another party or if you've never really been interested in politics before, we look forward to seeing you at our next 'Politics and a Pint'.

Royal British Legion - A Century of Supporting Servicemen

When returning soldiers from World War 1, many of them lacking limbs or suffering 'shell shock' were reduced to begging or selling matches in the street, the British Legion was founded to help care for the needy ex-servicemen. Ninety-eight years later, and over seventy years since the last major war, the need is still there and the Legion is as relevant as ever.

Bill Dent, President of the local branch and County Vice Chair outlined to Saltash Old Cornwall Society the history of what, since the queen became a patron in 1971, is now the Royal British Legion with its own royal standard.

In the early days, when the Saltash branch was founded in July 1921, its articles confirmed that any ex-serviceman or close family member was entitled to seek practical or financial help from the Legion and that remains true today.

It was in 1920 that the first two minutes silence was held

in London by an uncompleted cenotaph, and through the silence was largely abandoned during the 1950's it is once more observed, here in Saltash and throughout the country. As the world marks the centenary this November of the end of the 'Great War' there are still servicemen suffering physical and mental wounds from more recent conflicts and, Mr Dent emphasised, the money raised in the Poppy Appeal will help them in the tradition that began in the shadow of what was supposedly 'the war to end all wars'.

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Many Members were surprised at the February meeting when the Guest speaker, James Lynes, stepped up to the dais to deliver his talk on Dame Vera Lynn. James is a young man of 30, not the customary 'fan' of Dame Vera Lynn. However, James and his guide dog Kim are a familiar sight in Saltash and many people have heard his entertaining talks.

When James was 18 he fell in love with Vera Lynn's music, hiding himself away to listen to it. He decided to write to her but only knew he lived in Sussex, coincidentally where James came from. It was many months, but the reply finally arrived and James proudly framed it. His friendship with Dame Vera Lynn continued, taking tea with her on various occasions. When his former guide dog Amos died Vera sent James some flowers and champagne with a note saying 'we'll be celebrating Amos' life and one day you'll be able to too'.

James gave his audience an account of Vera Welsh' rise to fame from singing in Working Men's Clubs, to joining Joe Loss on the radio and releasing her first record at the age of 18. Most people know her as 'The Forces Sweetheart' a title given to her by the 'Forgotten Army' in Burma.

Dame Vera Lynn was delighted when, in her 90's, she released an Album then went to the top of the charts. Although now confined to a wheelchair she received the Companion of Honour Award and in 2018 'Oldie of the Year'. James was thanked for such an enlightening and entertaining talk.

Olivia Awarded £350

Talented ballet dancer Olivia Parham has been awarded £350 from the Sue Hooper Charitable Foundation in recognition of her outstanding dance achievements.

Olivia who studied ballet in Saltash is a dance student at Elmhurst Ballet School (in association with the Birmingham Royal Ballet), has won a competitive place to attend the Youth America Grand Prix Ballet competition in New York.

Olivia's award will help her with her costs to attend this most prestigious event, where she will be solely representing the UK; and one of only 12 representing Europe.

Sue Hooper the Trust Chairman remarked: "The Trustees had no hesitation in awarding Olivia money towards this amazing opportunity to represent her Cornish locality, country and Europe.

"She is a very talented young lady and works incredibly hard, and she deserves this unique opportunity to compete in the Youth America Grand Prix event, which will be life changing for her, we wish her enormous success."

Observer Telephone Numbers

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New Post Office

Saltash has gained a new Post Office. The facility at Church Road Stores opened on 14th February and will offer post office services every day from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. As well as normal mail and parcel services, it will allow personal and business banking, cash withdrawal, deposits and balance enquiries, with cards. It will also enable automated bill payments and key recharging.

Post Office views confirmed that the service is one of their local style branches with low-screened open-plan post office service points carefully integrated into the retail counter. The long post office opening hours will be in line with the shop opening.

Changes Would Impact on Conservation Area

A conservation area adjacent to the River Lynher would be adversely affected by planned alteration to a property at Antony Passage, the Town Council agreed.

The proposed changes to Lynher House at Antony Passage included new doors, windows and balconies as well as a new porch and a proposed new bridge to the garden.

The Town Council recommended refusal to Cornwall Council on the basis that the changes would be out of character of the surrounding buildings and have an impact on the conservation area.

Last Set at Saltash Tennis Centre

Adding young tennis players and more seasoned veterans have been enjoying the use of Saltash Tennis Centre, adjacent to Warfelton field for over seventy years. However Cornwall Council, who own the site, have been allowing the facilities to deteriorate and are now threatening its future as tennis courts.

The Town Council has been asked to support the continuation of tennis at Warfelton following Cornwall Council service of notice on the annual rollover lease for the facility in 2017. This was followed by the release of a tender document to the tennis centre in January which was to be completed and returned within three weeks. It was totally impractical to expect a business plan with full details of funding for a thirty year lease to be prepared in such a short time scale, the Town Council was told.

Tennis players also complained that since Cornwall Council assumed ownership from the former Carradon Council there has been no investment in the infrastructure with the tennis club having to keep the crumbling hard courts functional as well as maintaining the clubhouse. The club requires significant investment not only to replace the hard courts but also, regrettably replace the two grass

courts, only usable in summer when the weather is appropriate, with all weather courts.

Over two hundred young mini-tennis players from Saltash and a large area around are registered at Saltash Tennis Club. They are able to play throughout the year at very reasonable cost and with superb coaching from a Level 1 coach, enabling many to enter competitions and advance their skills in the game.

Councillor John Brady agreed that it would be sad to lose the club and for players to have to travel to Plymouth or join such clubs as St. Mellion and the China Fleet at considerably greater costs. 'Saltash Tennis Club is very cheap to join and we should help', he concurred. It was reported that the Mayor had already expressed her support and that Cornwall Councillor Derek Holley was working with the club to extend the time line for the business plan to be prepared.

Songfest in Saltash



Over the last couple of months, hundreds of children from over 70 schools in Cornwall have been rehearsing the same repertoire. It's all part of the Cornwall Music Education Hub's series of Songfest concerts, which aims to raise awareness of the range of young vocal talent and to inspire more children to get involved with singing. The Cornwall Music Education Hub is led by Cornwall Council, and is made up of over 40 partners all working together to support music education for young people in Cornwall.

This year's Songfest theme is 'A Song for All Seasons', and the children will be performing folk songs from across the South West, each song representing a different

month. Tanya Moore, Cornwall Music Education Hub Manager, said: "Songfest is now in its third year, and I'm thrilled that it is bigger than ever in 2018, with 9 concerts in 7 different towns. I'm particularly pleased that we are bringing it to Saltash for the first time!" On 26th March, the Songfest tour will arrive at the Saltash Wesley Methodist Church for an evening of glorious singing, with participation from children at Saltash.net Community School as well as St. Stephens, St. Dominic and St. Mellion primary schools.

Tickets for the Saltash concert are available in advance from the Hall for Cornwall Box Office: www.hallforcornwall.co.uk or 01872 262466.

Dive into Japanese Culture in Local Library

An opportunity to experience some of the more exotic and colourful features of Japanese culture, as well as to sample such skills as calligraphy and manga cartoon drawing, was offered to Saltash library users on the Saturday of half term.

Those of all ages enjoyed a 'dive into Japanese culture'. Teenagers in particular were thrilled to learn the art of manga drawing from Keith Sparrow, himself an acclaimed author. Manga art has a distinguished and fascinating history, they learned, and in Japan is used to portray a wide variety of stories enjoyed by those of all ages.

Shojiro Frank who had helped plan the Japanese culture day together with his wife, Cornwall Councillor Hilary Frank, and local librarian Lynne Clarke shared the beauty of Japanese calligraphy with willing students.

Children and teenagers also enjoyed practicing origami, especially creating paper cranes. In doing so they were following in a tradition created by Sadako Sasaki, who when aged 6 was diagnosed with terminal leukaemia resulting from the atomic destruction of her home city Hiroshima eight years previously. Sadako set out to create a thousand paper cranes, there being a Japanese legend that anyone who succeeds in this will be granted a wish. Sadako's wish was for world peace, she died aged 12 before her thousand were completed, but her school friends carried on and now children around the world send folded paper cranes to the

1000 Crane Club who place them on the peace memorial in Hiroshima. Shojiro and Hilary's daughters Emmie and Aya were among the Saltash children and teenagers busily creating cranes and other origami artworks.

Meanwhile adults dressed in colourful Yukata costume which we would have described as Kimonos. Kimonos are in fact of silk and worn on special occasions, while Yukata is equally colourful and finely designed for everyday wear. Among those adorning themselves were Mayor Councillor Jean Dent and Observer reporter Martin Lister, who posed for the camera together with a character playing Kotoroi, a popular manga heroine. She was representing a new Japanese tradition of 'Cosplay' dressing as a cartoon character.

The day chosen for the event was nationally marked as 'one day without as'. intended to celebrate what migrant communities bring in to a foreign culture. Commenting on the success of the event Mrs. Frank believed 'such a celebration helps us to understand our own as well as different cultures, emphasising similarities as well as the differences'.



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