

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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March 2021 - Issue 348

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China Fleet Affiliated with HMS Tamar

The strong links that have been forged between Cornwall and HMS Tamar, one of the Royal Navy's newest warships, have just been reinforced as the Fleet Commander, Vice Admiral Gerry Kidd, approved the ship's affiliation with the China Fleet Trust - the Royal Navy charity that owns the China Fleet Country Club.

HMS Tamar is the most environmentally-friendly warship in the Fleet. With a crew of 60, she is versatile and can carry out a variety of roles including intercepting drug traffickers and smugglers, protecting UK territorial waters, and providing humanitarian assistance following a disaster. The ship can also carry a small contingent of Royal Marines for board and search operations, and can operate a Merlin/Wildcat helicopter.

Before the launch of the current HMS Tamar there had been five ships of the same name, and one shore establishment which was situated in Hong Kong. This is

where the China Fleet story began back in 1901, so the strong historic links go back some 120 years. The links with Saltash go back even further as the first HMS Tamar, a 16-gun sloop, was launched in 1758 at Saltash, where she had been built.

Rear Admiral Michael Wood, Chairman of the China Fleet Trust, made the following statement: "On behalf of everyone who works at and is associated with the China Fleet Country Club, I am delighted and immensely proud that the Fleet Commander has approved and announced our formal affiliation with HMS Tamar. It signals the Navy's



continuing appreciation of the support we provide to all Naval personnel and their families, and the value it places on the special relationship between the ship and the Club. This formal affiliation is also significant for Saltash, other

communities on the banks of the River Tamar and Cornwall as a whole."

Keen to celebrate the link

with Cornwall, the Ship's Company made sure to mark St. Piran's Day with a Cornish cream tea - jam first, of course.

Vaccination Rollout in Cornwall

By 9th March, nearly 217,000 adults in Cornwall had received their first vaccination against Covid-19, and Cornwall's case rate had dropped to 12.6 per 100,000, a dramatic reduction compared to the rate two months ago, which was over 350 per 100,000. Tragically, though, 543 Cornish residents have died with Covid. Please remember to take all precautions, even after receiving the vaccination.



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Unanimous Support from Town Council

At its meeting in the beginning of March, councillors on Saltash Town Council gave their unanimous support to a funding application to start the process for identifying the best location to create a multi-use community open space within the town's retail centre.

The funding application is being shaped by the Town Team, a group of Town Councillors, Cornwall Councillors and representatives from the Saltash Chamber of Commerce and Saltash Community Enterprises PL12. The Team is working together in close partnership to improve the economic, social and environmental revitalisation of Saltash, and has identified the need to develop a community space as its top priority as Saltash emerges out of months of lockdown.

Councillors highlighted the benefits of a community space, saying it would enable regular markets and events to be held, helping people spend their money locally and giving the town's musicians and actors an outdoor venue. The vision is that it would be a green space adding character to the heart of the town, offering better facilities for outdoor relaxation. This would boost the use of the town's cafes and encourage footfall to the town centre.

The application is still in

draft form, but will be submitted to Cornwall Council to bid for money from the Council's Town Vitality Fund. If successful, experts will be engaged to develop proposals that will help councillors, retailers and residents determine the best location for the proposed community space.

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Town Messenger

Working for the People of Saltash

News from Saltash Town Council
Konsel an dre Essa



Education Department
Telephone: 0300 1234 101
Email: schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk

Education Welfare:
Telephone: 0300 1234 101
educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk

Housing Department
Telephone: 0300 1234 161
Email: info@cornwallhousing.org.uk
Social Services Department
Telephone: 0300 1234 101
Email: children@cornwall.gov.uk

Social Services Department
Telephone: 0300 1234 131
adultcare@cornwall.gov.uk

Highways Department
Telephone: 0300 1234 222
Email: customerrelations@cornwallclimited.co.uk

Transport Department
(Schools Transport)
Telephone: 0300 1234 101
(Bus Pass) Telephone: 0300 1234 222
Email: schooltransport@cornwall.gov.uk

Roads, Transport and Parking
Telephone: 0300 1234 222
Email: roadstransportandparking@cornwall.gov.uk

Waste Department
Telephone: 0300 1234 141
Email: via contact form on website only.

Cormac Solutions
Telephone: 01872 323 313
Email: customerrelations@cormacitd.co.uk
Fly Tipping:
Telephone: 0300 1234 141
Email: refuseandrecycling@cornwall.gov.uk

*Town Messenger
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by the Town
Council*

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**Cornwall Councillors –
Cover such services as:**
Housing - Education –
Social Services
Highways –
Waste and Recycling –
Tamar Bridge

From the Mayor of Saltash

When I wrote this column last month, I assumed it would be my last opportunity to do so before the forthcoming elections, but an earlier than anticipated publication date for the Saltash Observer, March edition, enables me to write one more column, in which I can very much focus on the future.

Before I do that, I would like to congratulate the newest Member of the Town Council, Cllr Rachel Bullock, who has joined us as a result of a vacancy that occurred at the end of December. It was decided at Full Town Council in January, to fill the vacancy, as there was at the time some uncertainty as to whether the planned May elections would go ahead.

So, looking to the future, currently plans are in hand to upgrade the (now Grade 2 listed) Library building, to provide not only a Library Hub, a Community Hub and a Learning Hub, but also much needed office space for members of Town Council staff. It is my hope that the newly elected Town Council that takes office in May, will continue with these plans. To me it would be a great shame to see the Library closed with a loss of services to the Town and to future generations.

Work continues on the



Station building, with the extension now being painted to match the main building and with the platform-side hoardings soon to be replaced by somewhat more attractive railings. With the gradual easing of lockdown, the station building will hopefully soon be put to the intended use, providing shelter and refreshments to travellers departing Saltash.

There are plans to refurbish the old red telephone box outside the station, now redundant from its' original use, but now intended to house a strategically placed defibrillator, this in conjunction with Saltash Rotary Club.

The recent delivery of two additional vehicles will enable the Town Council to take in-house, some maintenance and grounds work which is currently performed by an outside contractor. Not only will this provide efficiencies on cost,

it will also reduce the number of miles travelled to carry out the work, as the current contractor is based some miles from Saltash.

As I write, I receive the not unexpected news that the traditional May Fair has been cancelled for this year. But there is good news in that the Saltash Chamber of Commerce and Saltash May Fair are intending to run a similar event on 24th July this year, when hopefully we will all be out of lockdown. Fingers crossed!

The forthcoming elections in May will see some major changes to the wards in Saltash, which will see a reduction from four to three, the current North, South, East and West being replaced by Tamar (very roughly most of what was North, plus half of East) Essa (very roughly the old South Ward, plus half of East) and Trematon & Landrake (roughly the old West Ward plus Carkeel and including the new Treleden development). There is a map on the Cornwall website which will give more precise

detail.

There will likely be some existing Town Councillors who will retire and not stand at the election and there will surely be some new faces. A time to check out the policies of all candidates to see what they will bring to the Town Council over the next four years and what changes they would want to make.

On a personal note, my thanks for the many positive comments regarding the picture last month of my wife and myself on our wedding day. Okay, there was also one negative comment, but the Editor of this publication has told me it would be nice to receive favourite pictures from other readers, together with a bit of information about the picture.

For me it has been an honour and a privilege to serve as your Mayor over the last few months.

*Take care and stay safe, one and all.
With Kindest Regards,
Cllr Pete Samuels, Mayor of
Saltash 2020-21*



Additional Vehicles

Saltash Town Council continues working for the people of Saltash, and recently took delivery of two additional vehicles which will enable the Town Council to take direct in house control of maintenance and grounds work which is currently performed by an outside contractor. Not only will this provide efficiencies on cost and a faster response time, it will also reduce the number of miles travelled to carry out the work and our environmental footprint, as the current contractor is based some miles from Saltash.

Tell your friends & family to visit us at...
www.saltash-observer.co.uk

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Mayor:
Pete Samuels

Deputy Mayor:
Julie Rance

Town Clerk:
Ray Lane
T: 844846
E: enquiries@saltash.gov.uk

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



Community Fridge & Larder

New opening hours

Tuesday 3 - 5pm

Friday 3 - 5pm*

Saturday 3 - 5pm

Food for sharing, not wasting.

Pay As you Feel/ Can.

*Not open Good Friday

Mobile Community Fridge & Larder

We are revising our routes to try & reach people who struggle to get to Fore St. If you would like the Mobile Larder to visit your area, please contact us.

Mobile Larder operates on Tuesdays & Fridays, call us on 01752 848348 for details.

New routes will be in place in May.

Community Shop Re-opening Tuesday 13th April

Locally-made crafts & gifts
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Jigsaw swaps (free to CEPL12 Members)
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hub@cepl12.co.uk [facebook/cepl12](https://www.facebook.com/cepl12) 01752 848348
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Community Enterprises PL12 | 4 Fore Street Saltash

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Cadets Get Cheque from Ex-Mayor



Saltash Fire Cadets were pleased and proud to accept a cheque for £1300 from former Mayor Councillor Gloria Challen.

Cadet leaders expressing their gratitude confirmed that they had worked closely on many projects during Councillor Challen's mayoral year. Present times are tough for such organisations as theirs and the money will go towards the cadets' various projects, training and travel for educational purposes.

Chamber Chairman Sarah Martin Keeping us Updated...

I have noticed that these columns are beginning to reflect the cycle of lockdowns and restrictions toughening and easing as we move through the stages of the pandemic. One year on from the very first and most severe lockdown, and the world is a very different place after a tragic 12 months. The roll-out of the vaccinations is helping to get things back up and running again, and I look forward to the different milestones set in the government's roadmap with cautious optimism, and that with a fair wind we will soon be enjoying each other's company again.

Town Events

In my column last month I promised an update on the events situation, and hey presto, the restriction roadmap is giving us the distant promise of a return to events in the town. Now before we all get too excited I think it's a given that it will be too soon for May Fair to return, purely in regard to the numbers that flock to this popular event. Anything over 4000 is not allowed in the guidance, and there is no possibility of being able to control the numbers so sadly, the Chamber has had to take the decision to cancel May Fair until May 2022. However, that doesn't mean that we can't put on another event further in the year... and this is precisely the plan

of our events team on the Chamber, who are looking to stage a Summer Fair at the end of July. Look out for announcements in this column and on our Facebook page @SaltashChamber.

Showing Saltash in its best light...

During the last year, all of us have been trying to find ways to eek the most out of what we do - for many businesses that has included moving their dealings online. I have written previously about the new Shopping Directory in Saltash www.shop-saltash.co.uk, which offers Saltash businesses a place to register their company free of charge. On the back of that work we are now looking at updating our own Chamber



website to be more reflective of our aspirations moving forward. One thing we lack for our new website is some great images of Saltash that really showcase our vibrant town.

So we are putting this call out to local photographers: can you help us with some great pictures in return for promotion of your work in captions and acknowledgement? Interested? Then please contact us on info@saltashchamber.co.uk

Digital Help for Small Businesses

As digital skills become increasingly important, the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Digital Skills Partnership (DSP), alongside its six fellow DSPs across the country, has teamed up with

Google Digital Garage to deliver a series of weekly 5-hour sessions providing practical advice for small businesses, charities and individuals on operating effectively in this digital world.

Improve Your Digital Marketing Strategy - March 17

Setting Up Your Online Shop - March 24

Using Google Analytics - March 31

Click below to find out more and to sign up.

<https://businesscornwall.co.uk/.../hone-your-digital-skills/>

Helping Retail in Saltash

As a not-for-profit organisation in the town, finding ways to help our local retailers - both on and off the Fore Street - is a challenge for the Chamber. Membership is free for this year to help our businesses through Covid. This is entirely right, but it means we have very little revenue coming our way. Despite this, and despite having just a handful of volunteers, we are a team with big ambitions for helping our shops and local businesses as we move out of lockdown in April! Plans are under way for a shop local

campaign, and any input we can have from business owners in Saltash and the wider PL12 area is key.

Please send your comments or suggestions to info@saltashchamber.co.uk

In the meantime, let's hope the return of all children into schools goes to plan - goodness knows what a relief it is to me and so many other parents to be able to give up the 'teacher' mantle and give all of our focus to our businesses once again. Keep safe everyone.

New Developments for CEPL12

Community Enterprises PL12 has been so busy with community projects over the last year or so, that we've now seriously outgrown our Hub at 4 Fore Street! We're hoping our new Community Hub will be operational in the Barclays building by June; look out for regular updates here in the Observer. The new hub will include our shop, produce and craft markets, Community Kitchen, Dementia Voice, social events, creative learning, Clothes Swap Shops, Digital Inclusion, and Saltash Hopper bookings to name but a few. Until then the Hub at 4 Fore Street will be reopening at its usual times of Tuesday to Saturday 9.30 - 2.30pm.

The Hopper has been especially busy during lockdown operating a vaccination service for those without transport out to the vaccination centre at Pensilva, and China Fleet. Both routes are free of charge but we do ask for donations to go towards fuel and our overheads. Call AI on 01752 848348 if you need to book a space. We run the service on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

The mobile Community Fridge and Larder on the Hopper has been distributing food to the community that would otherwise go to waste. Our team of volunteers are currently giving out 45 bags of food to families on a Tuesday and Friday mornings on the two current routes.

The take-up has been staggering and it's great to see such enthusiasm for all our current projects within the community, so much so that we have been blown away by the amount of applications we have received for volunteering! As the CEPL12 project grows, we will need more and more volunteers of all ages, so if you think the time is right for you to give back and lend a helping hand, then get in touch.

Contact Mary Crawford on
Tel: 07971 484872
Email: maryecrawford@hotmail.com

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Saltash Town Council

KONSEL AN DRE ESSA



Help Note about the Saltash Neighbourhood Development Plan 2021-2030
Regulation 16 Public Consultation by Cornwall Council ending Midnight 1st April 2021.

What is the Saltash Neighbourhood Development Plan? The SNDP, written by the Town Council, addresses future economic, community, non-strategic housing, environmental, connectivity, climate change policies and much more.

Important note: The SNDP does not allocate any land for housing at Broadmoor or Pill. That was done in Cornwall Council's Local Plan Site Allocations Development Plan Document, in a separate process that concluded in 2019.

What is happening now? Cornwall Council is consulting residents and other interested stakeholders to learn what you think about SNDP strategies and policies. It is hoped that many people will write in support of the Plan.

How can I see the Saltash Neighbourhood Development Plan? You can view the SNDP documents by typing the Neighbourhood Planning application number PA21/00004/NDP into the Cornwall Council online planning register at www.planning.cornwall.gov.uk/onlineapplications

If you are unable to view the document online and want to request a hard copy of the SNDP or have any queries please contact the Neighbourhood Planning Team at neighbourhoodplanning@cornwall.gov.uk or by calling 03001234151. Hard copies are also available via the click and collect service from Saltash Library.

How can I comment on the Saltash Neighbourhood Development Plan? Please make any representations to Cornwall Council by midnight on 1st April 2021 by entering your comments on the planning register (as described above); by email: neighbourhoodplanning@cornwall.gov.uk; or in writing to The Head of Planning, Neighbourhood Planning, Cornwall Council, Dolcoath Avenue, Camborne, TR14 8SX.

This is your Plan: Your Views are Important!

Liberal Democrats



MAJOR BOUNDARY CHANGES

The local elections on 6 May will see major changes in electoral boundaries for Cornwall Council in the PL12 area.

At the moment, there are four councillors representing Saltash with another councillor covering rural parishes, but from May central Saltash will be split in to two divisions, named 'Saltash Tamar' and 'Saltash Essa', while a division named 'Saltash, Trematon and Landrake' will be created to cover Latchbrook, Burraton Coombe, Forder and Hatt as well as the parishes of Landrake, Botus Fleming and Landulph.

There will also be a reduction in the number of councillors on Cornwall Council from 123 to 87, so it has never been more important to vote for proven, hard-working candidates who are articulate advocates for residents.

Sarah Martin, Hilary Frank and Sam Tamlin are the Liberal Democrat candidates in these divisions. They each bring valuable experience and insight, but the sum of their combined teamwork is even greater, enabling them to deliver on their pledges of Protecting the Vulnerable, Tackling the Climate Emergency and Delivering Prosperity for All.

Saltash Tamar: North of Fore Street and the north side of Callington Road as far as Oaklands Drive. Includes Mote Park and Pillmere.

Sarah: "Saltash Tamar was my family home for 6 years when my children were first in primary school, and I spent the first few years of my time in Saltash living very happily with my young family in Grassmere Way on Pillmere. The Tamar Division also includes Saltmill and the Waterside, home of the Saltash Regatta where I am a volunteer. As a member of SEA, protecting the biodiversity of that area is very important to me, but we need to balance that with improvements to the facilities there for local families on the Tamara estate and the wider community. My home now is just off Fore Street and in my role as Chair of the Chamber of Commerce, I know there is plenty that still needs doing to reinvigorate it to its full potential."



SARAH MARTIN FOR SALTASH TAMAR

Sarah is a Mum of two, and was elected to Saltash Town Council in 2018 to represent the residents of South Ward. She is passionate about the town and its people, and works tirelessly on a wide variety of projects for the benefit of the town.

Sarah has been an active member of the Saltash Chamber of Commerce for many years, helping to organise Chamber events such as the Christmas Festival, and stepping up to the role of Chair in 2019. Committed to providing opportunities to bring the community together, Sarah has also been an active

SAM TAMLIN FOR SALTASH TREMATON AND LANDRAKE

Sam has lived and worked in Saltash for fifteen years, leaving his childhood home of Looe to set up home in Latchbrook, where he lives with his wife and two young children. A devoted Dad, Sam's children both attend Burraton Primary School, where Sam has taken on voluntary responsibilities as a governor.

Since his election as Cornwall Councillor representing Saltash West in 2017, Sam has developed a track record for helping solve local issues. As well as helping residents with individual issues relating to planning, bin collections and highways, Sam has successfully fought for the introduction of a new 20mph speed limit in Burraton Coombe and Barkers Hill, creating a safe environment for all road users.

After listening to local residents he was also successful in campaigning for two new bus shelters on Yellow Tor Road which provide live bus information. Sam has also helped improve local parks by securing improvements such as new play equipment at Gallacher Way and trees and a bench in Chapel Field.

Sam is an advocate for good environmental practices, and believes that it is more important now than ever before to make short journeys by foot, bike or public transport rather than by car, and has helped create the Active Travel Map for Saltash promoting cycling and walking within the town.

Homes in Saltash

Sam, Hilary and Sarah are pleased to have been able to support Saltash residents with their housing needs over the years, but listening to residents' views, they are painfully aware of the challenges that lie ahead, when the impact of the pandemic leads to increasing unemployment and shrinking income levels.

Saltash and the local area need at least 1,200 extra homes to reach housing targets before 2030. The new housing development at Treledan (Broadmoor) will provide 1,000 homes, going

a long way to meeting this target, but there is still a need to increase Cornwall Council's stock of social housing, and the Saltash Liberal Democrats have thrown their weight behind the Council's programme of social housing construction, which has delivered 1,000 new-build homes for local people over the last four years.

Another part of the solution will be ensuring that long-term empty properties are brought in to use. Data in 2016 showed there were over 3200 long-term empty



properties in Cornwall, a level almost one and a half times the national average. Since then, 400 homes have been returned to use with Council intervention, and the

number of empty homes in Cornwall is now at its lowest level for the last 10 years.

Homes that are poorly insulated are hard to heat. Data from 2018 shows that 12.6% of households in Cornwall

Council's drive to retrofit social housing in Saltash with heating systems and better insulation, a move that will have a positive impact on the environment as well as on lower-income families.

OUR PLEDGES FOR SALTASH

1. Protect the vulnerable
2. Tackle the climate emergency
3. Deliver prosperity for all

“ Lockdown is preventing us from getting out and about to talk with you directly, but we have been in constant contact with each other online over the last 12 months, supporting each other in supporting the residents of Saltash. ”

“ Our party isn't bankrolled by millionaires, so we don't have the resources to send out glossy leaflets, but the three of us have spoken at length and with colleagues across Cornwall to develop our priorities for you. We are pleased to have this opportunity to present them to you in the Observer. ”



Jesse Foot, the Liberal Democrat councillor currently representing St Germans and Landulph is moving, and has announced he will be standing for Cornwall Council in Liskeard South in the May elections.

Jesse wants to thank the residents of the division he has represented over the last four years, and says: "Sam works extremely hard to support residents of his current division in Saltash, so I know he will make a fantastic Cornwall Councillor for Landrake, Botus Fleming and Landulph. I am supporting Sam, and I strongly urge you to do the same."

“ We are committed to making sure that the homes at Treledan meet local needs, and that the infrastructure to go along with the homes is also provided. ”

HILARY FRANK FOR SALTASH ESSA

Hilary grew up in Cornwall, moving to London to study Japanese at university. Her fluency in Japanese and her people skills have boosted her professional career, and she has spent over 11 years living in Japan, working on global sporting events.

Initially, Hilary moved to Saltash to care for her elderly parents, but she stayed here because she came to realise the town is a great place to raise a family.

Always keen to give back to the community, Hilary stood for election to Saltash Town Council in 2010, and spent seven years as a councillor on Saltash Town Council, serving as Mayor of Saltash from 2016 to 2017. It was during this time that she introduced the Lantern Parade, and has loved seeing it grow to take a place at the heart of Saltash Christmas festivities.

As a Mum of two children at primary school, she was keen to help shape decisions around education and support for young people in Saltash so stood for election to Cornwall Council, first in 2013 then four years later in 2017. She has thrown herself in to her work at Cornwall Council, earning the respect of her fellow councillors who, in a unanimous vote in 2019, elected Hilary to be the Chairman of the Council. The Chairman is the ceremonial head of Cornwall Council, and in this role Hilary has forged strong relationships with Mayors of towns across Cornwall. As Chairman, Hilary makes sure meetings of Full Council are carried out fairly and efficiently. With the pandemic these meetings have moved online, but Hilary has risen to the challenge, and has received cross-party praise for the smooth, inclusive manner she has handled debates.



Liberal Democrats

Rooted in the Community
All three Lib Dem candidates have strategic vision but are rooted in the community. Hilary and Sam both volunteer as school governors, while Hilary and Sarah have for many years volunteered to organise events that bring the community together, like the May Fair, Saltash Regatta, Kalan Gwav and the Window Wanderland. In fact, Hilary started up the Lantern Parade in Saltash 10 years ago, and has been the driving force behind this much-loved community event every year since. All three have worked tirelessly to support residents over Covid, juggling volunteering activities with home-schooling their own children. All three are committed to helping build a brighter future.

Saltash Trematon & Landrake: Latchbrook, Burraton Coombe and Forder. Includes Trematon, Hatt and the parishes of Landrake, Botus Fleming and Landulph.

Sam: "In the last four years I have worked hard representing my home and I'm really pleased to have the opportunity to do so again by standing as the Lib Dem candidate in Saltash Trematon & Landrake. As a parent, I want the best possible future for everyone growing up here, which is why I am a governor of the local primary school, and being a Cornwall Councillor has allowed me to be a part of making this future. Looking to the future is why I have always been interested in the plans to build 1,000 homes at Broadmoor/Treledan. Outline permission was granted in 2017 but it will be up to the councillors you elect in May to make sure the development delivers the promised parks, healthcare facilities and many other benefits that the area desperately needs. This includes ensuring thriving rural communities that are safe from overdevelopment but have the facilities they need close at hand. It will be a challenge, but a challenge that I would relish."

Prosperous Saltash

One of the initiatives that inspires the greatest pride in Sam and Hilary as Cornwall Councillors is the Council's introduction of the Living Wage for its employees. Currently at £9.50, the Living Wage is about £1 more than the minimum wage, and has put an extra £10 million in to the pockets of Cornwall's lowest paid workers since 2017, having a transformative effect on communities.

Another area where Cornwall Council has excelled is its speed and efficiency in paying out Covid funding to Cornwall's businesses, receiving praise from Saltash businesses as well as government. The Saltash Lib Dems have worked to help Fore Street reopen safely, and have been working alongside local organisations to develop plans to help reinvigorate Fore Street as the current lockdown eases.

Cornwall's economy has been hit hard by the pandemic and there is no denying the challenges we face: the number of people eligible to Universal Credit in Cornwall nearly doubled between March and August 2020, going from 24,876 to 48,634. It's another reason why it is so important to elect councillors with a proven track record, councillors who understand how the economy works, who have built up a network of contacts across Cornwall.

As a fourth-generation retailer, Sam helped manage two shops in Looe, and worked for Spar supporting independent retailers with their businesses. Hilary has spent much of her professional career living in Japan, working on global sporting events such as the winter Olympics and the FIFA World Cup. Fluent in Japanese, she now works promoting Cornish companies in Japan. Adding even more weight to this powerful team is Sarah, a Marketing Consultant working in the town, who is Chair of the Saltash Chamber of Commerce, where she has plans to help encourage our community to support local business, big and small, as the nation shifts out of the pandemic.

Connecting Saltash

Our location and geography increase the importance for Saltash and Cornwall to have effective connections, including all forms of transport and the Internet.

Hilary and Sam have been pleased to give active support to the partnership work with Network Rail and GWR that has seen the installation of 22 additional state-of-the-art signals on the Cornish mainline. Upgrades have been made to seven level crossings, installing the latest technology to improve safety, and all this has meant an increase in the frequency of trains stopping in Saltash.

Contactless payments have been introduced on buses, and Saltash now has a direct bus route to Derriford Hospital that is subsidised by

Cornwall Council, thanks to persistent lobbying from the Saltash Lib Dem team. Sarah and Hilary have been responding to traffic concerns raised by residents in the vicinity of Saltash schools, and are now working on improved infrastructure for cycling and walking routes to schools. Sam is one of the co-producers of the new Active Travel Map for Saltash, which is designed to show the shortest, safest journeys by foot and bike, and also shows all available public transport.

When they were campaigning in the 2017 elections, Sam and Hilary were struck by the number of people complaining to them about potholes. The last few years have seen increased investment repairing

Cornwall's roads, and the number of potholes repaired within the agreed timescales increased to 99% in 2020, with an average of 62 being repaired every day. "I've noticed a marked decrease in the number of complaints I get about potholes," says Sam.

At various stages over the years Sam, Hilary and Sarah have all played active roles in the Saltash Area Road Safety Committee, and Sarah actively campaigns with a local organisation for a safer A38. Sam worked hard to secure funding for new HGV signs and a reduction of the speed limit to 20mph to prevent cars and HGVs from crashing in to houses at Burraton Coombe.

Cornwall as a whole has certainly become better connected over the last few years, which makes a huge



Hilary Litter Picking

"I'd like to pay tribute to Hilary's amazing support for St. Petrocs, the charity that is committed to ending street homelessness in Cornwall. In 2016, rough sleeping in the county was at an all-time high, but after working together with Cornwall Council and stakeholders across Cornwall, St. Petrocs managed to get the number of rough sleepers down to 29 at the beginning of 2020, a reduction of 70%. Hilary is a true champion for social justice. She listens. Then takes action."

Jacque Gammon, Cornwall Councillor in Bodmin and volunteer at St. Petrocs



Sarah, Hilary and Sam say:

“ Helping residents get through the last 12 months has been an intense time, but it has also been a privilege. We are keen to continue supporting our communities as we emerge out of lockdown, making sure we build on the fabulous community spirit here. We need to make sure we bounce forward, not back. ”

"Liberal Democrats have a long tradition of working hard for the residents of Saltash. I am thrilled that these three candidates, all with young families, are committed to continuing that tradition. I was one of Hilary's mentors when she first got elected to Saltash Town Council over ten years ago. She grew to be one of the best Mayors Saltash has ever had, and I am incredibly proud that her people skills were recognised at a county-wide level, where she has been the Chairman of Cornwall Council for the last two years. Together with Sam and Sarah, this is a real Dream Team for Saltash. I know that all three of them are passionate about delivering a green recovery coming out of the pandemic, and I am convinced that their combined experience and vision will serve the people of Saltash, Landrake, Hatt, Botus Fleming and Landulph very well indeed."

Bob Austin, former Mayor of Saltash, former Cornwall Councillor and Chair of Friends of Churchtown Farm

Sarah said:

“ Having worked in the NHS, and recognising how hard NHS staff have worked over the pandemic, I believe they certainly deserve more than a 1% pay rise. 1% would give a radiographer at the top of Band 5 an extra £5.89 a week. Dominic Cummings was given a £45,000 pay rise after his trip north in lockdown - about 150% what the same Band 5 radiographer earns in a year. This is a shocking values gap! ”



Hilary and Geoff

difference to residents, businesses and visitors, as well as having a beneficial impact on air quality. Hilary has been one of the driving forces behind a project to bring a regular water transport service, and the Saltash Lib Dems believe it is vitally important to continue to drive



To Contact us

Email: mail@seclibdems.org

"Sarah has proven to be a trusted and valuable town councillor since her election in 2018. She has provided the vital link for me to our local Cornwall councillors and is passionate about delivering for the town, and not more so than when she and Hilary Frank were fighting to get our leisure centre reopened. She is diligent and works hard in the background on behalf of her residents and with her amassed experience and knowledge of local government over the last three years would make an excellent Cornwall Councillor for our division."

Chris Elliott, Resident of Saltash Tamar and President of Caradon Swimming Club



Sam said:

“ I'm deeply saddened and frustrated that in the Chancellor's recent budget, the government bumped Cornwall down to a Priority 2 area in their 'levelling up' funding agenda, despite the fact that Cornwall is one of the poorest areas of Northern Europe. Cornwall's Conservative MPs have let Cornwall down. They have not been able to stand up to Whitehall to help the people of Cornwall. ”

"Over the last four years at Cornwall Council, we have improved sea, road, rail, air and bus networks. Hilary and Sam have both played key roles in this work, not least as champions for the new direct bus route to Derriford Hospital, but also in securing funding for the fantastic refurbishment of the Saltash station building, and working closely with stakeholders to deliver a train service with increased frequency of stops in Saltash.

Falling traffic levels due to the pandemic have caused financial problems for the Tamar Bridge which is a vital, strategic link, not just for Saltash but the whole of Cornwall. Current legislation requires the Bridge to be self-funding through the collection of tolls, but Sam as Joint Chair of the Bridge and Ferry Committee has successfully fought for funding from central government, which agreed to cover 75% of the losses."

Sam and Hilary are dedicated, thoughtful advocates for Saltash. It has been an absolute pleasure working with them.

Geoff Brown, Portfolio Holder for Transport at Cornwall Council

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 Derek Holley
 Cornwall Councillor, Saltash East.
 derek.holley@cornwallcouncillors.org.uk

There are few things we can guarantee in life, but if I were a betting man I'd put money on my remembering when I had my first injection against Covid-19. I just hope that you can do the same, and I suppose what follows is part two of my plea to as many people as possible in Cornwall to get inoculated. Except it now has a new twist, which is the complication of the seemingly regular occurrence of new variants of the Covid virus.

Why do I say this now? Well it is because if we want to beat this dreadful virus, or at least get it under control, then we must recognise that it is likely new variants will arise in those people who have not been inoculated. Again it is quite likely that those people do not know they have the virus in the first place - but the virus can spread freely within their bodies and have a chance of mutating into a form which can then cause a new round of illness. It is of course not deliberate on the part of these people, but I think it is important for them to recognise that if they do not have the job they can be a source of re-infection for others. Please, if you know of people who for whatever reason are taking this stance, then calmly and politely reason with them, and make the

ably look upon this as a benefit paid for by double taxation, and it is in a way. Most of the council tax we pay goes to Cornwall Council for the huge range of tasks they undertake, including environmental work. However as you know the swingeing government cuts over the years have stopped Cornwall Council doing loads of important stuff. So Saltash Town Council has had to step in and do it, even though it costs money, and their small part of the council tax has to rise to cover it.

A last chance again for a sort of environmental plea: in your garden keep an eagle eye out under pots, wood and stones for a short, flat "worm". It is usually bright orange, but sometimes glossy black. It's not a worm at all but the dreaded New Zealand Flatworm. This creature attaches, like a leech, to our soil worms and sucks their insides out.

It's undoubtedly one of God's creatures but in this case please deal with it in an appropriate manner: permanently. Happy gardening

Derek Holley

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Conundrum Corner
 Taking the initial letter to the one-word answers to the following ten questions can you re-arrange them to make the name of a well-known celebrity? 5,5
 1 The largest stone circle in the World can be found in which Wiltshire village? (7)
 2 The World War 11 operation by the Cockleshell Heroes took place in which French port? (8)
 3 Which Walt Disney film features animation fitted to pieces of classical music? (8)
 4 What was the first Christian name of President Grant of the United States of America? (7)
 5 What word refers to food grown without the use of artificial fertilisers? (7)
 6 Which Scottish city is traditionally known as the Capital of the Highlands? (9)
 7 Which European city is known as the Eternal City? (4)
 8 Which animal has Indian and African varieties distinguished by the size of their ears? (9)
 9 Macavity is a character in which musical? (4)
 10 What nationality was the playwright Henrik Ibsen? (9)
 Answers on Page 7

Shopper Hopper for Everyone
 Picture this... a sunny March morning on the Waterside; as I strolled into Tamar Street the Shopper Hopper on its twice weekly run around Saltash was filling queueing locals' bags with FREE food from shops and businesses that would otherwise go to landfill.
 The Community Fridge and Larder is now on the road, as well as at No.4 Fore Street, serving EVERYONE. What a great idea... wish I'd thought of it. Eggs, milk, fresh bread, vegetables, tins of fish and soup, boxes of breakfast cereal and much more (even jigsaw puzzles!)
 Community Enterprises in Fore Street are behind it, along with a new magazine through the Observer and lots of exciting plans as we put Covid behind us... not least, revamping the Hopper fleet, both with vehicles, and uses and destinations.
 Your suggestions are welcome. I'm fairly new here, off Dartmoor, but realise Saltash's warm community reputation is for real... and much needed with all the recent sadness that's recently befallen the world.
 You may not see it, but all the welcoming volunteer staff are smiling behind their masks too!

Ian Robinson.

Affordable Homes for Local Families

In a report that will be welcomed by families in Saltash in need of accommodation, Cornwall Councillors described how Cornwall Council has committed to an ambitious programme of providing over 1,700 new affordable homes by March 2028, mainly for social rent and shared ownership. This is in addition to the 1000 homes delivered by Cornwall Council since their Housing Development Programme was launched in 2017.

The report was submitted to the March meeting of Saltash Town Council and spoke of how some of the 1000 homes that have been delivered over the last four years have been for social rent and shared ownership in the Housing Revenue Account, which is what used to be known as 'council housing'. Cornwall Council has built 112 new homes in the Housing Revenue Account since 2017, and the Council is in contract to deliver a further 144 Housing Revenue Account homes, with 21 in the planning system.

The report came as news broke that Cornwall Council has succeeded in its bid to take part in an

initiative that will help smaller local building companies develop new affordable homes for local people. The initiative sees the Council join forces with government agency Local Partnerships to pilot a model that hopes to unlock small sites for delivery by small and medium-sized construction firms. Construction of the projects will be financed by Cornwall Council with the homes transferred to Council ownership and let to local families as affordable housing. Cornwall Council would like to hear from any small or medium-sized construction firms that might be interested in bringing forward small sites they own that have the potential to provide new, high quality homes. Ring Cornwall Council's Housing Delivery Team on 01872 324943.

Over the last few years, Cornwall Council has consistently been among the top-performing authorities nationally for the provision of affordable homes, holding the top spot this year and last, but with 12,000 families on the Cornwall Homechoice register, the need is still acute and real.

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Tamar Reflections

Cornish Cross

I have been walking the picturesque lanes of Forder, Trematon and Trehan for many years and never fail to be enthralled with the stunning countryside and breath-taking views across the Hamoaze, with its ships and flotilla of boats mooring in the River Tamar and Lynher. The castles of both Trematon and Ince sit proudly on the rolling green fields, guarding hushed secrets of times long gone.

There are many landmarks that I have noted with great interest. The Edwardian stone Great Western Railway viaduct at Forder is a spectacle to behold, and all the hamlets and villages abutting Forder echoes of history reverting back to the Roman occupation. There are skeletons of hulks lying in Forder and Antony creeks; their stories to be told later!

On many occasions, whilst walking through Trehan village, I noticed the small ancient Wayside Cross on the wastrel. I often wonder when it was placed there, and why? And promised myself that one day, I would do some research.

There are numerous types of Cornish granite Wayside crosses in Cornwall, and all have various purposes, as well as stories to

tell. Mainly, they are Christian crosses and assembled during the medieval times, mostly from the 9th to 15th centuries. The crosses also acted as 'way markers', for travellers to locations in unmarked terrains.

These crosses were also important monuments before ancient churches were built and indeed, prior to the period of learning, reading, and writing, was generally known to the people; however, they understood the meaning and significance of Wayside crosses.

According to Phillip Porter's book, 'Around and About Saltash', the ancient granite Wayside cross at Trehan (known as the Trehan cross) is a Latin cross, because of its small size and shape. I feel sure that thousands of walkers over the years have noticed this ancient structure; I couldn't find any inscription on it, which isn't unusual. This quite remarkable medieval monument, on the site of a 14th century chapel, has survived hundreds of years and is an interesting example of a Latin cross, and still remains a junction marker for travellers on wheels or on foot today. Moreover, its valuable location beside a junction acts as a link for several important medieval sites nearby, both religious and secular; in addition, river and estuary crossings and justifies the important role of Wayside



crosses which still exists today, and will continue in perpetuity.

Porter felt that Ancient crosses survived mainly because Cornwall was royalist during the Civil War, and the Puritans were not able to have a free run of the country; Cornish granite crosses were also too hard to demolish with hand saws. In other countries, crosses were made of wood and easily demolished.

Saltash boasts another ancient Wayside cross, the St Stephens Glebe Cross; now moved to the churchyard of St Stephens-by-Saltash. This fixture is a Gothic lantern cross and was first recorded by Joseph Polsue in 1872. It is believed that it stood for many years in the Church vicarage gardens, and was re-sited to the Churchyard in the 1970's. This historic, Gothic relic lies on the grass near to the entrance of the Church yard at the North West gate.

Under the Archaeological Areas Act 1979, such monuments of antiquity are listed to be of national importance.

Sue Hooper MBE

'Road Safety About More than Just Driving It'

Air pollution along the A38 should remain a major component of the Safe38 safety campaigning it was agreed at a recent committee meeting. While there was widespread excitement about the commitment by Highways England to start a study of work to determine possible safety changes at the Menheniot junction near Liskeard, the issue of air quality had been largely ignored by Cornwall Council and needed urgent attention.

Properties especially in Tideford which has been declared by Cornwall Council in 2017 as an air quality management area (AQMA) continued to be exposed to high levels of pollution and monitoring of the situation seems to have been dropped added another member of the committee.

James Millidge, Chair of Safe38 called for a renewed effort. He said: "The time is ripe for us to make air pollution in SE Cornwall a topic again now that we have made substantial gains in accessing safety

improvements and studies for the road itself. With the G7 summit set to take place this June in St Ives and the environment at the core of the proceedings, we need to make sure that Cornwall Council and our MPs are listening."

Air pollution is a top 10 cause of death in the UK, with the main cause of poor air quality being vehicle emissions. In a recent ruling the European Court of Justice found the UK guilty of 'systematically and persistently' breaching air pollution limits, and since 2010 of failing to tackle the problem of toxic NO2 gas emissions in the shortest possible time.

Saltash resident and environmental and social scientist Dr Rebecca Pearce said, "The air quality in Saltash should be a concern to all residents when they are using our roads, whether driving, walking or cycling. Due to the way monitoring data is collated and averaged out, the spikes we see at peak times such as school drop-off, over a year, are not considered a cause for concern. However, if you are present on the most polluted routes at the most polluted times each day, this can increase your health risk substantially. Weather conditions can also contribute to high concentrations of particulates lingering at the roadside."

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Conundrum Answers:

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Norwegian Rearranged the
Rome 8 Elephants 9 Cats 10
Organic 6 Inverness 7
Fantasia 4 Ulysses 5
1 Avebury 2 Bordeaux 3

Friends of Tincombe...

The Friends are Committed to Conserving and Enhancing Tincombe

The Friends of Tincombe is a new community initiative that started in earnest last November. The aim of the group is to maintain and nurture Tincombe Park in Saltash as a haven for wildlife and people.

James Jenkins, who lives near the Park started Friends of Tincombe after noticing the area had become run down, with no seating and inaccessible paths. Many invasive plants had taken over, and along with unchecked fly tipping they were causing the natural habitats to be destroyed. Since then, meetings have taken place with Cornwall Council, CORMAC, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, nearby residents and users of the Park to identify ways in which the area can be improved.

The 'Friends of Tincombe' Facebook group now has over 400 members and is growing fast. The Group's first project was on a cold but bright December afternoon when volunteers planted daffodil bulbs that had been donated by Saltash Environmental Action from a supply they had received from Cormac. The daffodils are adding a welcome splash of sunshine yellow at the Community Orchard and Oaklands Field.

Another project that attracted enthusiastic participation was the photograph competition, with Liz Shaw picking up the prize of the very first Friends of Tincombe mug for her entry named 'Pot of Gold' that captures a stunning rainbow over Tincombe.

Members undertake tasks as they appear, with tasks being as varied as fixing a wooden boardwalk, clearing brambles that are suffocating trees, saving frog spawn from puddles or picking up rubbish. In projects designed to enhance the wildlife of the area while at the same time encourage children to learn about the wonders of nature, local families and individuals have used wood, roofing felt and other materials donated by members of the group to build bird boxes, bat boxes, hedgehog homes and bird box squirrel protectors. Going forward, the Friends of Tincombe have plans to obtain benches, increase the wildflower carpet, install interpretation boards and create safe wildlife havens as well as to hold children's wildlife activities.

At a time when lockdowns have helped us develop a better appreciation of the nature on our doorsteps, it is good to know that James and the Friends are committed to conserving and enhancing Tincombe. Get involved by joining their Facebook group (search for Friends of Tincombe) or by visiting their website at <https://tincombe.ainsaltash.co.uk>

Apologies Incorrect Answers The Answers for February should read:

1 Yellow 2 Brighton 3 Aegean
4 Otter 5 Russia 6 Windmill 7 Garibaldi
8 Larynx 9 Apple 10 Recorder
Re-arranged the letters spell Gary Barlow



Photo Liz Shaw

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Traffic-Free Cycle Routes and Shared Paths

Saltash residents can find out more about walking and cycling routes in their local area with a new map aimed at helping us to stay active and explore our communities. Produced by Cornwall Council, in partnership with Sustrans, the maps highlight traffic-free cycle routes and shared paths. It also gives an indication of how long journeys will take to walk or cycle.

The Active Travel map shows bus routes and key locations including schools, local shops and green spaces and can help with discovering routes in the local area which can be used for exercising outdoors during lockdown. It will be a useful tool for

planning active journeys to schools, workplaces and shops when the Covid restrictions are lifted.

The map shows the new wide, shared walking and cycle routes across Saltash including those near Carkeel Roundabout and alongside Callington Road.

It also contains useful local information and links to cycle and walking routes in the surrounding area including the nearby Plymouth cycle network.

Local Cornwall Councillors Derek Holley and Sam Tamlin have worked on the new map with Sustrans and really hope it will build on and encourage the increased walking and cycling that has occurred since Covid.

Paper copies are included in the March edition of the Saltash Observer to most households in the town. The Saltash map can be downloaded at www.cornwall.gov.uk/activetravel along with maps for other Cornish towns.

Residents are invited to complete a short online survey about the map and enter a prize draw to win a £30 high street voucher <https://sustrans.onlinesurvey.s.ac.uk/saltash>

Royston Recognised

Saltash Library Designated as a Grade 2 Listed Building

Following an application from a member of the South West committee of the 20th Century Society, Saltash Library was designated as a Grade 2 listed building on 17th February 2021.

The building was designed by Royston Summers, of Cornwall County Council's Architects' Department. Royston had joined Cornwall County Council in the early 1960s as part of the team responsible for designing New County Hall in Truro. His first solo job was the new Saltash library building, which was opened in 1963 by the Chairman of Cornwall County Council, Alderman Foster.

The first library in Saltash had been set up in 1926 when it was housed in the YMCA. It was moved to North Road School in 1931 and then to the school room at the Church of St Nicholas and St Faith before getting moved to Church House in 1949. After the completion of the Tamar Road Bridge in October 1961, the Saltash population began to rise and residents began calling for a



purpose-built library building.

Designed in a Brutalist style, the colours and materials used on the exterior of the new building were intended to harmonise with the Cornish landscape: pale-grey concrete and white, with rough rendering. Inside, it was warm and inviting, including richly coloured fabrics for the chairs and Nigerian walnut for shelves, tables and balustrades. Some of the original Nigerian walnut joinery survives today. The 'butterfly' design of the roof is also a noted feature.

In 1964 Royston Summers left Cornwall and moved to Blackheath in London, where he set up his own practice, completing such projects as the first-ever solar-heated council flats, which won a Chartered Institute of Building Services commendation for energy use. Royston was a multiple medal winner who lived the

contradictory highs and lows of a small architectural practice: in 1969 he collected a medal for Good Design in Housing from the housing minister, Tony Benn. After receiving the award, he returned home and changed into jeans to go to collect his dole money.

Royston was an excellent

planner, meticulous and obsessive, passionate about proportions, use of space and appropriate materials, and always aiming for the best possible result.

He died in 2012, but would surely have been proud that his first solo project is now recognised as being worthy of the status of listed building.

Abbeyfield



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Abbeyfield Saltash Society

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Saltash to Remember Firemen Heroes

This April will mark the eightieth anniversary of a tragedy in which six Saltash auxiliary firemen racing to help fight the Plymouth blitz ran over a land mine. Ordinary men doing an extraordinary thing, they suffered horrific injuries and five were killed instantly.

Depending upon current restrictions a service of remembrance will be held on 22nd April, the anniversary, at St. Stephens Church. The families of the deceased firemen will be attending and others who have accepted invitations include the Bishop of St. Germans, Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall and Lord Mayor of Plymouth. Further information is available on 01752 844050.

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