



SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

May 2011 - Issue 226

Incessant trumpet of trade; armoury of fearless truth without fear or favour ...

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FAMILIES OF FALLEN FIRE-FIGHTERS JOINED IN SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE

“Six ordinary men doing an extraordinary thing.” This was how the grandson of Francis Brooking described his grandfather and his “Band of brothers,” all aged in their twenties, who volunteered to join the wartime Auxiliary Fire Service and who died while speeding through the heart of the Devonport blitz when their vehicle hit an unexploded landmine.

They, and the eighteen year old member of the 2nd Saltash Scout Troop who had volunteered as fire crew and who perished while extinguishing a fire in Saltash Station yard during the town’s heaviest raid, were commemorated by a moving

service in Saltash Fire Station, seventy years on from the Plymouth and Saltash blitzes.

Members of the valiant firemen’s families joined with civic dignitaries and young fire cadets, army cadets and scouts to pay tribute to the valour of their predecessors who had died while doing voluntary duty to save others.

“During this poignant moment, and always, we must keep in mind the sacrifices that these men made,” said the Mayor Adam Killea in welcoming those attending.

Thanks on behalf of the people of Plymouth to the neighbouring town were given by Lord Mayor Councillor Mary Aspinall. “We are grateful for all the help that Saltash gave us during those dark days and the

hand of friendship still goes out,” she said of the Saltash-Plymouth partnership.

It was especially encouraging to see so many of our young people in attendance, smartly turned out in uniform and proudly bearing the flags of their organisations.

Inspecting the Saltash Fire Cadets, Cornwall’s Assistant Chief Fire Officer Ted Simpson proclaimed, “The traditions of yesterday are embodied in the young people today. If the call came they would not hesitate to protect their fellow citizens.”

The story of Scout Donald Cummins inspired the founding of the fire cadets as their leader Darren Berrey explained. “I had joined the retained fire service to serve the community. When I heard the tale of Donald Cummins I had the idea of forming a fire cadet service.

There are now almost forty young people proud to wear fire cadet uniform and to serve around the town as well as learn fire-fighting skills.”

The service concluded with the Last Post and Reveille after which a wreath was laid below the memorial on the Fire Station wall.

It was later carried to St Stephens Churchyard where the six firemen are buried, as they died, together. Donald Cummins is interred at Botus Fleming. Guests then viewed an exhibition on the blitz and the fire service presented by Saltash Heritage.

The valiant but unassuming local heroes remembered were: Francis J Brooking

Stanley R Crabb, Alfred J Crapp, Bernard Jasper, John R H Stanlake, Leslie G Tibbs and Scout Donald Cummins.

SALTASH MAY FAIR “One of the best Festivals of its kind in Cornwall.”



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More May Fair Photos on Page 8



CORNWALL
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& our PL12 community

For Observer readers

From Councillor Bryan Preston

Burraton Ward Saltash

Recycling

Recycling rates are now at 37 per cent and although the amount of waste going to landfill has dropped, the amount paid to the Government in Landfill Tax has gone up. So it is more important than ever that we keep increasing the amount of waste we recycle to keep the cost and therefore the Council Tax down. The standard cost of sending a tonne of waste to landfill is £56, it will rise £8 each year until it reaches £80 in 2014 and that's without the cost of collecting waste and tipping at landfill. As residents of Saltash you are really good at recycling so please make every effort to increase recycling rates and encourage your neighbours to do the same.

Health Service Careers

Students from Saltash Community School, now an Academy visited the Health in Innovations and Healthcare exhibition at the Knowledge Spa, Royal Cornwall Hospital to see the wide range of work, jobs and careers available to them in the Healthcare sector. The exhibition was aimed at those considering a career in medicine, health and medical technologies as well as those interested in sciences but with no firm career intentions. We must make sure that we give our Young People every help with their future careers as the recession affects job opportunities in the County.

Domestic Violence

I am a member of the Cornwall Safety Partnership (CSP) in my role as Vice Chairman of Devon and Cornwall Police Authority. The Council and the CSP has worked to secure funding for the Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy Service.

This Bodmin based agency is an independent charity, and in addition the Council has offered premises which will ensure that the Women's Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre can continue to provide a wide range of services to local women who have experienced domestic or sexual violence. The CSP places domestic violence high on its list of priorities and recognises the importance of providing these services to help protect those most in need of support and advice. In addition to this, the Domestic Violence Coordinator post has been secured along with funding from all statutory partners in the Cornwall Safety Partnership, for the

three refuge centres in Cornwall.

The move to financially support services shows recognition for the 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men that are subjected to this horrendous abuse and sends a collective message to perpetrators that this behaviour is never excusable and will never be acceptable.

Leisure Services

The Council is proposing to transfer its Leisure Services into a Charitable Trust. Because of the 30 per cent reduction in Government funding savings of more than £1 million have to be found in the Leisure Services budget in the next twelve months. The Council believes that by transferring the Leisure Services to the Trust model, it will help ensure that the services can be maintained broadly at the current levels. The benefits outlined are a £1 million saving in VAT and rates, a governance and legal structure that is attractive to private finders and public grant making bodies and a new structure including user forums to encourage greater community engagement. This is obviously a radical change which will be implemented this year. Your Saltash Cornwall Councillors will be keeping a close eye on the effects it will have on the Leisure Services provided to you, the residents of Saltash and comments from you when the new service is in place would be welcome.

OPENING OF BUSINESS BRINGS NEW LIFE TO FORE STREET



"A wonderful business employing local people and bringing more life into Fore Street," was congratulated on its official opening by Mayoress Mrs Merryn Killeya.

She cut the ribbon to open the 'NHS Centre' facility for the hard of hearing in the presence of local councillors and businesspeople, all of whom had been invited by the proprietors of 'The Hearing Room' to celebrate the arrival of a new facility for Saltash. The business, which has spread from its Saltash roots to become a nationwide concern, is now able to provide a range of hearing services for NHS patients at their new premises, as well as the services for private patients in the well established 'Hearing Room' opposite.

Chamber of Commerce Chairman and Secretary William Cotton and Peter Dickerson were among local businessmen wishing the new business well. A number of Saltash Rotarians accompanied our Editor, Rotarian Mary, in enjoying wine together with delicious home made scones and cream while touring the newly refurbished premises and inspecting the technology now available for those from Saltash and around who avail themselves of what the new service can offer the town.

"This is excellent for Saltash and excellent news for all those with hearing difficulties," concluded the Mayoress.

Better seats for Fore Street

The public benches along Fore Street are targeted for repair and refurbishment as part of an ongoing town enhancement project.

The full town council accepted a recommendation from its Civic Affairs Committee that up to £2,000 from the Saltash Regeneration Fund be allocated to this work subject to confirmation of costs.

"Life after Parliament" Making Peace in Middle East

The challenge of bringing Parliamentary democracy to a country torn apart by war and sectarian strife was one which South East Cornwall's former member of parliament has chosen to accept. Saltash Chamber of Commerce and Industry invited Colin Breed to address their monthly meeting on his experiences of 'Life after Parliament,' after Mr Breed worked with the Chamber in promoting apprenticeships for local youth.

A joint meeting of Saltash and Plymouth Chamber of Commerce in Saltash Wesley Church had been organised through Mr Breed's efforts. The meeting, well attended by members of Saltash Chamber and other local businesspeople was informed as to how the apprenticeship scheme could help employees as well as local youth eager to learn a trade or profession.

At his subsequent talk to the Chamber, Mr Breed advised as to how his growing involvement in the Middle East while serving as our local MP led to his post parliamentary career working with the newly established Iraqi parliament. He vividly described the problem of having up to 175 parties standing for 325 seats in a country where a 'loyal opposition' was considered a contradiction in terms. Fist fights on the parliamentary floor, intimidation in particular of female MPs and widespread corruption are just some of the problems that Mr Breed and his three colleagues have to contend with in seeking to bring Westminster style democracy to Baghdad. While street

violence is diminishing, sectarian strife continues and foreigners are treated with suspicion. However, though many problems remain, Mr Breed indicated some hopeful signs of a peaceful and democratic state emerging from the chaos as he continues to work with a government that now hopes to introduce a British style national health and social security system.

FIELDS FOR THE FUTURE

To mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee year, 2012, a total of 2012 playing fields throughout Britain are due to be given permanent protection from development.

The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge allows the owner of any such land more than half a hectare to make application for this protected status.

Saltash Town Council does not own the playing fields within the town but will seek that local county councillors consider which land in particular should be submitted for consideration under the scheme.

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A Feast of Literature promised at Pentillie

Saltash's very own 'Litfest' is due to be launched on Wednesday 22nd June during Independent Booksellers' Week and offers the chance to hear and to meet with a wide variety of writers.

The stately home of Pentillie Castle, just off the Saltash to Callington Road, will be the venue for a full day during which those attending may also choose to enjoy the spectacular grounds leading down to the River Tamar.

The day will begin at 9.15 am when Chris Robinson, known for his many books on local history as well as his regular 'Looking back' columns in the Herald, will open the Festival. He will be followed at 11 am by the right Honourable Ann Widdecombe, former Cabinet Minister, well known writer and sometime ballroom dancer.

Lunchtime will bring the opportunity to meet with Tamar Valley Columnist Virginia Spiers before the afternoon begins in breezy nautical style with Julian Stockmin, naval historical writer. He will be followed by Debbie Fowler, Cornish crime novelist.

Tickets to the event are just £3.50, or else £7.00 to include viewing of the gardens. They may be purchased in advance from Saltash Bookshelf whose proprietor Jill Male is organising the event. Lunches may be purchased and enjoyed in the Castle during the Middy interval.

Bicycle Thieves at Large

Pedal cycles have been targeted in the Saltash area by thieves extracting them from insecure premises. Some of those stolen are of high value, PC Paul Andrews told Saltash Councillors during his local crime report.

Pilmere had also been targeted by burglars with three offences within two days, though PC Andrews was pleased to advise that a person had been arrested and released on police bail in regard to these offences.

There had been a total of seven burglaries in the Saltash [Police Area over the month, seven criminal damage to vehicles, two thefts from motor vehicles and two thefts of marine equipment among a total of 67 reported offences, up from 44 the previous month.

However, crime in the area was still 187 offences down on the previous year.

Among changes in local policing was the transfer of Inspector Tony Joslin from Liskeard to Saltash Division, taking in an area covering as far as up to Bude.

The public office at Saltash

Police Station would be closing in April. The friendly face of local policing, station office enquiry officer Sue Deeble would be retiring after forty-one years of service in Torpoint and Saltash police stations.

PC Andrews was unable to comment in respect of a rumour that Saltash, Torpoint and Callington Police Stations were all targeted for closure with the area controlled from Plymouth. He was able to confirm that our police community support officers would stay on the street.

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FROM THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR...

This will be my last column as Mayor – indeed by the time you read it we will probably have handed over to our successors, Colin and Marilyn Oakes, who I know will do a tremendous job for the town.

I will list some of my 'thank you's' in more detail in the Town Messenger, but I must mention here the Council for their hard work and support and for electing me; the Town Council staff likewise for their hard work in a tricky year of change and the many organisations of Saltash for their support, hospitality and hard work for the community.

I must also thank Colin and Marilyn for their sterling work as Deputies, my own family for their support and of course Merryn for all her work and support as wife and Mayoress, and for her persistence in the near impossible task of keeping me in line.

Thanks and acknowledgement are also due to all those who help create the impression that the Mayor works harder than they do, and who offer essential publicity to the towns councils work and events. Editor Mary was also kind enough to allow me to share my thoughts with you each month, and ace reporter Martin to lighten my deeds and words with his wonderful punny headlines. Mary has also generously offered me the chance to continue to write for the Observer after May, an offer that I was delighted to accept.

This month Merryn and I attended the Opening of the new Saltash Heritage Exhibition 'Please Sir', a Concert for Cornwall Air Ambulance with Saltash Town Band, Saltash Town Junior Band and Western Approach at saltash.net; the 100th Birthday of Albert Rogers at Saltash Football Club, St George's Daycare Centre 10th Anniversary at China Fleet, Thursday; the unveiling of a plaque for the Burraton Community Centre new roof; the opening of the Saltash Bowling Club's Season; the Saltash Rotary Club President's Dinner; the 70th anniversary memorial service for Saltash Firefighters at Saltash Fire Station; the opening of the Churchtown Cemetery Extension; the Male Voice Choir Festival Concert at Saltash Wesley; the Town Council Royal Wedding Garden Party; St Anne's Royal Wedding Party; Saltash Mayfair and Half-Marathon; the Sue Hopper Charitable Foundation Concert at Saltash Film Society Mayfair Film Show.

Many thanks to the organisers of all of those

events, in particular to the Mayfair and the Royal Wedding Garden Party: events of those scale take a lot of very hard work: so much that it's difficult for those not involved to quite appreciate it.

In addition I officially attend the Burraton Players Murder Mystery – Murder at the Villa d'Essa – by myself, because Merryn was in it; and Merryn officially started the Saltash Mayfair Fun-run by herself because I was running in that! Just before Mayor choosing we will be attending the Torpoint Mayor's Ball, which as things stand will be our 159th engagement if the year – Mayor Choosing will be our 160th and last.

This has been a very interesting and enjoyable year – at the start I laid out three things that I particularly wanted to do. Firstly continue and improve on 'business as usual' at the town council, including appointing a new clerk. Secondly work with partners to consult on and deliver Town Centre Improvements. Thirdly to emphasise the Saltash environment and work to improve it. In all of those areas we have seen progress – the Town Council now has an excellent clerk and is working very hard to deal with all outstanding issues and move forwards; the Saltash Town-centre Improvement Group (STIG) has several concrete projects under way, the results of which should be seen soon, and Saltash Environment Action's Making Saltash Greener Fortnight was a tremendous success.

The fourth theme that I wasn't expecting last May was do defend Saltash' Cornish border, from the threat of parliamentary merger with Plymouth – although we did not succeed in ensuring that Cornwall would be kept separate for MPs we did raise a great deal of awareness of the strength of feeling, and have taken many steps to proclaim our Cornishness for all to see. The fight to convince the boundary commission to cross the Cornish border somewhere other than Saltash continues.

In conclusion many thanks to the whole town for their kind words and support throughout this year, a year that we will also treasure great memories of.

Town Mayor & Cllr Adam Killea

WESLEY MEMBERS VISIT ZIMBABWE



Eleven Wesley Church members have travelled to their partner church in Mbare, a suburb of the capital Harare. The group had an interesting trip, delayed in Nairobi by the double aborting of a jet take-off due to computer failure.

Passengers spontaneously clapped when a substitute plane cleared the runway, 14 hours late. However the journey from the airport to the Nairobi hotel was of some interest, being the closest thing to the Wacky Races most of us had experienced.

Except in the Wacky Races cartoons the vehicles are mostly in one piece and not nose-to-tail for six miles. Traffic in Nairobi is incomprehensibly awful. Suffice to say that drivers routinely streamed the wrong way around roundabouts in their frustration, against the oncoming traffic.

However the welcome in Harare from the Methodist Church people there made up for everything. They are warm, friendly folk, not prone to complaining and always willing to help. The group lived with the ordinary people, experiencing life at first hand, visiting members of the Church, helping with services and visiting schools. Matthew Rusike is a school for orphans which we help support and that was a useful experience, learning how the pupils are cared for and about the outreach work being developed. However it has to be said that Zimbabwe, a beautiful country, has its share of problems in that the infrastructure is in a poor state

and it is to be hoped that the slow pick-up in the economy there will eventually restore the countries roads, schools and health system. The people are poor, without much state aid to help them but remain a happy, resilient community with much small entrepreneurial activity going on as people try to earn a living.

In the middle of the visit the group took two nights off to visit Victoria Falls, a spectacle of incomparable majesty. The entire group were soaked to the skin by the spray which falls like rain from time to time; this was a small price to pay for the grandeur of the scene. The group also did a short safari which revealed apart from bigger animals the rich and varied birdlife of the country. No tourists around, though, apart from the group. The whole experience has been a real learning curve for the group, enriching them and teaching them much about the culture of the country. Really the only way to do that is by living the life, not staying in hotels.

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FASHION SPECTACULAR IN SALTASH



South East Cornwall Conservative Association recently had great pleasure in sponsoring a Fashion Show in Saltash. The Guildhall provided a graceful setting for what turned out to be a highly successful event.

A packed audience enjoyed catwalk shows by local shops, including Intrigue, and VanEssa they were also able to view a wide variety of stands featuring accessories and jewellery by Lou-Lou and Ute

as well as beauty products from Bliss Beauty, you can now visit Bliss Beauty in their wonderful new salon in the Courtyard at the top of the town, where you will be offered a 10% reduction from the normal tariff during May

The audience greatly appreciated the male models that provided dashing escorts for the ladies. The businesses further advertised their goods by providing raffle prizes. Everyone there welcomed Sheryl Murray M.P. who was conducting her first public engagement since the tragic death of her husband and gave a moving vote of thanks.

SECCA would like to thank all the businesses which took

part in the evening, the models, the Guildhall Staff for their help and co-operation and last but not least the Mayor and Town Councillors who had to move out of the building for their meetings! Dr Pat Moore, Chairman of SECCA, said that the main aim of staging the event was to showcase local businesses. "People were so impressed by the range and style of the outfits being modelled. Saltash is certainly a good place for fashion shopping".

Thank you to Ian Denton and Brian Galiptau for providing the photos of the Fashion Show.



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Rotarians' Indian Feast aided African Limbless

Saltash Rotarians were able to enjoy the finest of Indian cuisine while helping raise funds towards the 'Jaipur Limb' appeal, destined to aid the disabled in India and Africa.

Saltash Rotarian Gerry Stevenson with Terry Nicholls and the local International Committee organised the event at the Baba Restaurant on Plymouth's Bretonside. They were delighted to welcome around ninety Rotarians and guests all of whom enthused over the excellent oriental cuisine while socialising and learning more about the particular Rotary charity from which profits of the evening were to go.

Norman Proctor described how these funds were to be added to those of fellow Rotarians and were intended in particular to build a centre in Benin, West Africa, to supply artificial limbs to the sadly many children and adults who are in need of them. Mr Proctor hopes that such a centre, intended as a memorial to his late wife, will also be able to train technicians who will be able to continue the treatment by

supplying and fitting new limbs to growing children.

The evening was acclaimed a highly enjoyable social as well as financial success. The raffle in particular raised substantial sums with its fabulous prizes including a fine piece of original art work won by Diane Hall of Inner Wheel.

Thanks for the evening's success are very largely due to the management and staff of Baba's whose oriental buffet feast included the very finest of Indian cuisine.

Thanks also must go the evening entertainer Pete Carson who stepped in at the last minute to ensure the social success of the event. This fine personality vocalist soon had Rotarians and their guests relaxing while enjoying his excellent vocal accomplishments in song before rising to



Wine on Ice...very nice!

dance the night away to his music.

All went together to help raise a grand sum of £950 towards the Jaipur Limb Appeal.



Rotarian Sally Alexander made lovely Easter cake to go into raffle

Cornwall Cuts to hit Sheltered Home Residents

Those living in Sheltered Home accommodation in Saltash and throughout Cornwall may suffer major effects from Cornwall council's latest budget cuts.

The forty per cent reduction in funding for bought in providers for Adult Social Care will have repercussions for those who currently rely on commercially bought in care providers.

Part of the reason, County Councillor Colin Riches explained to the Town council, is that Cornwall Council is attempting to standardise the different services of the former district councils. Caradon had what he described as a 'Rolls Royce Scheme' through raising a subsidy on the clients' rented accommodation and spending more revenue on care.

In its anxiety to slash its budget Cornwall is seeking to implement the cheapest alternative with the prospect of home visits to clients receiving care being greatly reduced.

Whereas in extreme cases some have been used to four or five visits a week, one visit a month will become typical.

Those services which are not bought in by Cornwall Council are not likely to be effected to the same extent, Councillor Riches added, and it is intended that in-home services will be delivered as normal.

Flood Risks Assessed for Forder and Waterside

Areas of Saltash at risk from flooding have been included in a recent Cornwall Council report on flood planning.

The area at highest risk is the Waterside to the south of the Royal Albert Bridge with the public houses especially vulnerable, though the Livewire Youth Club is apparently considered safe. North of the bridge only the public landing stages are considered to be at risk of flooding, with the houses west of Old Ferry Road judged safely above any floodline.

The Latchbrook Leat is identified as having a major surge risk being in a steep sided valley. However, the containment dam at the southern end of the stream should now protect Forder from the flooding that has hit houses in the village in the past. The 'green finger' of land in the valley at Pilmere has not been built upon because of the risk of a surge flood, the report suggests.

The Town Council's Policy and Resources Committee is to look into the Community Emergency Plan suggested by Cornwall Council's report.

Conundrum Corner

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

- 1 What was the name of the Cow in the Magic Roundabout series?
- 2 What name is given to the growing buds on a potato tuber?
- 3 What does the Welsh word Cwm mean?
- 4 Of which country is Kathmandu the capital?
- 5 At a length of 7km. which is the longest main line railway tunnel in Great Britain?
- 6 What was the name of Oliver Cromwell's son who assumed the title of Lord Protector after his father's death?
- 7 Which lighthouse was the inspiration for Virginia Wolff's novel To the Lighthouse?
- 8 Which well-known musical is based on a book entitled Green Grow the Rushes?
- 9 What does a Pedologist study?

Answers on Page 7

Ashley's Clients Aid Local Memory Café

Creative fun for clients at Ashley's Hairdressers at Christmas traditionally adds to the seasonal spirit as well as resulting in a subsequent donation to a good cause.

Each year clients are invited to exercise their inventive talents in creating items on a set theme from sweet wrappers and many of the artistic results later displayed are truly amazing. Last season's efforts from the fun-loving and charitable clientèle of the Trelawney Road salon resulted in £153.35 being donated to Saltash Memory Café.

This was established last year at the Burraton Methodist Church and has attracted increasing members of elderly patrons to share the social sessions held on the second Wednesday afternoon of each month.

The prize winners have the honour of participating in the 'big switch on' of the following season's Christmas lights at Ashley's!

Last Christmas's winners for the joint effort of the Holiday Inn and the Fire Engine were Miss Tracy Courts and Mr Paul Lumby. Runner up was Lorna Nute with Mrs M Jane in third place.

Not content with these annual charitable efforts the kind generosity of staff and customers at Ashley's has recently raised in excess of £120 for the Japanese Tsunami relief fund.

For those anxious to make an early start towards next year's Christmas competition the theme will be 'Olympics 2012.'



Saltash Rotarians and guests enjoy the evening

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Cemetery space for Future Generations to remain in Saltash

Saltash has a special sense of community and belonging, so much so that its members want not only to live here but to buried in the community that they loved.

So said Mayor Cllr. Adam Killea at the official opening of a Cemetery extension that will ensure future generations of Essanians may remain in a corner of St Stephens Parish that the Reverend Alan Butler, Team Rector, described as having been a burial ground since the eleventh century. It was appropriate that the new cemetery should be in the same surroundings, a peaceful corner for local residents to come and remember their loved ones.

The land formed part of the Antony Estates owned by Sir Richard Carew-Pole who described how his family had lived across the river for 'many years' and had seen Saltash expand. 'We are aware of how beautiful the area is and as landowners we want to keep it this way.' The decision had been made many years ago not to allow development above the Lynher south of the tree-line fronting the existing churchyard. He had therefore been happy to negotiate the release of the land across the lane from the existing cemetery, behind the tree-line but still in a wonderful situation with a quiet and peaceful atmosphere.

The official opening marked the end of a four year project, said the Town's Burial Board co-Chairman Bob Austin. It was in 2007 that the Reverend Alan Butler advised him that

space in the existing cemetery was running out. He had then commenced negotiation with Sir Richard Carew-Pole, whom he thanked for his assistance and support, and the land had been acquired. At the same time there had been an increasing demand for allotments by would-be gardeners and an innovative solution had been worked out whereby much of the cemetery extension was to be rented out as allotments on the understanding that when the land was needed it would revert to cemetery. Work on the cemetery extension had begun last Autumn, it had been completed ahead of schedule and below budget, and Mr Austin thanked all of those involved in the project, most of whom were present at the official opening.

How does one officially open a cemetery extension? This had puzzled many of those present, not least those organising the event. It had been decided to mark the occasion by the unveiling of the sign showing the new cemetery. But, it was agreed, this event really marked the availability of the new burial ground, it would be opened when the existing cemetery ran out of space and the first burial takes place, anticipated as being around a year away.

A Right Royal Picnic in the Park

Saltash always rises to any cause to celebrate and the national jubilations to mark the wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton were too good an occasion to be missed.

Most of the town like the rest of the country – and the world – was glued to the television during the morning enjoying the blend of pomp pageantry and romance that Britain can do like no other nation.

Shortly after that famous balcony kiss the crowds started to flock to Longstone Park, with hundreds from tiny tots through teenagers to seniors all sharing the fun and joy of a right royal celebration. Between enjoying the entertainment laid on families and groups set up their own impromptu picnic parties, as requested, bringing and sharing cakes.

The very special Wedding Cake, prepared by the children of Bishop Cornish School was cut by a couple who shared the same wedding date as the Royals, Kelvin and Shirley Lendon of Hatt who had been married on April 29th twenty-four years before.

A goodly number of children had dressed as knights and princesses. A team of judges led by the Mayor and including Ace Observer Reporter Martin Lister had a difficult choice but awarded the prizes for six years and under to Lizzie Pike and Oscar Clark and for over sevens to Brandon Wills and Annalisa Wills.

Meanwhile the hundreds of children and adults could enjoy a fantastic display of magic including fire eating by Jenny Harding, over from Guernsey, a sing-song for the youngest, and the launching or five hundred celebratory balloons. Photographs were taken with cut-out Wills and Kate, there were games and competitions, and a giant card for all to sign, to be delivered to William and Kate



Kelvin & Shirley Lendon celebrate their anniversary at the Royal Wedding Party

together with pictures of Saltash in celebration. There was a right romantic quiz for all to enter and a chance to vote on the childrens' Royal Wedding Essay competition won by Maxine Denton.

Later in the afternoon the crowd came together to

enjoy the intricate Maypole dancing performed by members of Bishop Cornish School. And before the crowds began to melt away near the end of a day to go down in Saltash as well as royal history, community singing was shared as the stirring sounds of 'Jerusalem' and 'Rule Britannia' rang out across the Tamar Valley to the green clad Cornish and Devonshire hills beyond.



Guides through the Saltash Summer Countryside

For those inspired to enjoy the flower decked banks, hedgerows, fields and woodlands in our Spring and Summertime Saltash there are now a host of leaflets as well as our own Observer book to guide you on your way.

Leaflets depicting six local walks, all starting and finishing within a mile or two of the town yet taking in some of our finest unspoilt rural hinterland have been produced and are on the Town Council website. Local rambler and Town Councillor Peter Clements has been busy checking out and walking the routes which are between two and six miles long and which include full directions as well as some points of interest. It is intended to produce them in paper format in due course, meanwhile they are available for downloading.

For a wider variety of walks around the Town the the villages beyond as well as a variety of information and suggestions on enjoying ones leisure time locally our own Saltash Observer Book 'A Quality of Life' is still available. Walks in it include the best of the fine countryside within ten miles or so of the Town, as well as shorter strolls from the edge of Saltash through the woods and meadows beyond. It is available at 'Saltash Bookshelf' or can be ordered on 07971-484872 or 01579 – 345699 and will be delivered anywhere in our readership area for no charge above its published price of £4.99.

PAULA OF 'BLISS BEAUTY' PROMISES A BEAUTIFUL NEW YOU

To celebrate the refurbishment of her newly acquired premises into a beautiful and welcoming beauty salon Paula, a newcomer to the Saltash business scene, would like to take the opportunity to invite you to meet with her, view her salon "Bliss Beauty", and in particular take advantage of a special introductory offer. During May only clients will be able to enjoy the very best of Bliss Beauty treatments at 10% reduction from the normal tariff.

Bliss Beauty, newly opened in the attractive pedestrianised Courtyard at the top of Fore Street offers a wide range of treatments including:-

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Whether you have a special event, such as a wedding, a school or college prom to attend, or whether you just want to be looking your very best for summer with a seasonal makeover, a visit to Bliss Beauty promises the very best of personal and professional care.

Paula, the founder and proprietor of Bliss Beauty,



completed her training in the West Midlands and is delighted to return to the West Country. She has worked in the beauty industry for over eight years while gaining experience in Freelance, Salon, TV and Studio work.

A wide range of high quality specialist treatments are available at Bliss Beauty. Paula has kept up with the rapidly developing industry, by continually updating her knowledge and skills. She is now pleased to be at the forefront of the profession, offering cutting edge treatments and techniques that can offer real results. Men too are increasingly coming to appreciate the range of treatments on offer.

Bliss Beauty now brings this expertise to your doorstep at an affordable price in the attractive and relaxing surroundings of the

Courtyard. Paula is delighted with the results of the redesign and refurbishment of the premises to create all that she believes a beauty salon should offer to its discerning clientele, and she looks forward to welcoming such clientele and showing what Bliss Beauty has to offer them.

Paula welcomes a visit to the salon from ladies and gents for an informal chat or to discuss specific treatments. She offers individual advice if sought on how each and every client might make the very best of themselves. She promises the highest level of care and attention to ensure that your treatment and the skin care products that you use are exactly right for you.

A Warm Welcome to all Readers from Bliss Beauty... Good luck and best wishes to Paula from Editor Mary and the Observer team.

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A night with the President

A memorable meal followed by first rate entertainment was enjoyed by Saltash Rotarians and their guests at their annual President's Night.

Rotary President David Brown and his wife Mary were delighted to welcome to St Mellion golf and Country Club their special guests who included Saltash Mayor and Mayoress Adam and Merryn Killea and Saltash Lions President Bob and his wife Carol Payne.

Once replete from their repast the diners sat back to enjoy entertainment from Jerry Foale. Having warmed up his audience with some lively jokes, encouraged by Rotary President David's family and friends, Jerry delighted one and all with his wide ranging repertoire of music and song.

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Further Library cuts threatened

Saltash Library, which has already seen its opening hours reduced by one day, may face further cuts in order to allow enhanced opening hours elsewhere in Cornwall.

The Library is now closed on Wednesday, reducing its availability to four and a half days a week. However, a proposal is being put to Cornwall Council that so as to allow funding for longer hours at other branches, Saltash's hours should be further reduced with less opportunity to resident to access books, computers and the Cornwall Council's own One Stop Shop.

All four Saltash representatives on Cornwall Council are to oppose further cuts, Cornwall Councillor Colin Riches assured the Town Council.

Having confirmed the amount of book loanings and visits in Saltash as showing our local Library to be busier than those seeking extended

hours, to Saltash's detriment, they can see no justification for Saltash losing more time.

The more local residents use our excellent Library, of course, the better will be the arguments against further cutting its opening hours.

Second Festival of essentially English Chamber Music in Saltash Concert

The Arnold Camerata returned to Saltash for the second year to perform in the Saltash Wesley Church. Richard Waters, Artistic Director of the camerata, is a Saltash boy completing his studies at Guildhall School of Music in London. In September Richard will be attending the Royal Academy of Music for a Master of Arts on a scholarship.

d – Fantasy for Horn, and Fantasy for Bassoon, Gerald Finzi – interlude for oboe and strings, Rebecca Clarke – Prelude, Allegro, Pastorale and Edward Elgar – String quartet in E minor. A large audience enjoyed the programme played to the highest standard by budding professional artistes, all having played in the most prestigious concert halls of the UK with national and international orchestras.

The Festival also included concerts at Totnes and the Sherwell Centre, Plymouth University each with different programmes. The Arnold Camerata has plans for increasing their impact on the local community in the coming years. It is hoped to include workshops for local school children and a performance platform for outstanding young performers during Essentially English Chamber Music Festival concerts in the future.

The Arnold Camerata takes its name from the late great Oscar winning composer, Sir [Malcolm Arnold, perhaps better known locally as the composer of "The Padstow Lifeboat" march for Brass Band. The piece was composed whilst he lived at Treyarnon Bay near Padstow in the late 1960's. Malcolm was a great encourager of youth and played an important part in the life of the Cornwall Youth Brass Band. He would have been delighted and proud of the three concerts given by this versatile group of talented young musicians.

Observer
Telephone Nos
07971484872 or
01579 345699

BACK TO SCHOOL



Saltash Heritage Highlight Education in New Exhibition

Between the first recorded school in Saltash, in the chantry of St Nicholas Church, and the gleaming saltash.net.academy there have been at least thirty recorded private schools and a number of other town and village schools in which young residents of Saltash and the country around have received some form of education over the centuries.

The changes which have taken place, particularly between the austere Victorian schoolroom and the mid twentieth century classrooms which many still remember form the theme for this year's exhibition in Saltash Museum. Entitled 'Please, Sir!' it takes the visitor on a time trip through the centuries past the age of writing with slate and pencil

through geometry sets and fountain pens to the early calculator. Old text books, school uniforms and the third-of-a-pint milk bottles and straws will bring back memories to many while introducing an alien world of past education to today's schoolchildren. They can also contrast their current classrooms with the Museum tableau of gowned and mortar-boarded master with his blackboard, chalk and cane.

A host of pictorial exhibits range from the early church schools dating back to the sixteenth century through numerous Victorian academies for gentlefolk to the local village and dame schools and right up to the more recent past in which some residents might recognise themselves.

In welcoming the Mayor to the official opening of the exhibition Heritage Chairman John Parsons thanked all of those who had contributed towards the display, a record number this year, as well as those who had helped to assemble such an impressive exhibition, and also Saltash Town Council for their support. The Mayor, Councillor Adam Killea, in reply declared himself delighted to open the exhibition for two reasons. Firstly he was pleased to acknowledge the tremendous

Nick is Top Travel Writer

A top award for travel writing has been given to a Saltash based freelance journalist.

Nick Haslem received a certificate and a £600 cash award at the annual dinner of the British Guild of Travel Writers held in London's Savoy Hotel. He had been judged by leading editors to deserve the accolade for the best trade and business feature of 2010 for an article published in the Geographical Magazine on Aborigines and their role in tourism in Western Australia.

Back home in Saltash he hastened to spend his prize money on a new bicycle. From his studio overlooking the Tamar, Nick told the Observer, "Though I travel frequently for work and pleasure, I look forward to coming home to Saltash and I am now especially keen to cycle around and discover more of South East Cornwall."

work that Saltash Heritage do for the Town and the Summer exhibition, with its Spring opening, is a highlight in the town's calendar. Secondly, as a teacher himself he had a personal interest in education as something which touches on everybody.

The exhibition, together with a permanent display of Saltash history and a new display of some of the treasures discovered in local 'dock dung' on our fields and riverbanks is now open through until the Autumn. It opens each Saturday from 10 am until 4 pm and Wednesdays from 2 pm until 4 pm with additional Thursday and Friday opening from July until September.

Admission to the Museum, in Lower Fore Street nearly opposite the Guildhall, is free though donations to the voluntary organisation running it are welcomed.

YOUNG CORNISH MUSICIANS ROCK OVER EASTER

Given that Roger Taylor, famous drummer of rock group Queen, hails from Cornwall, it was entirely appropriate that The Cornwall Youth Brass Band ended their Easter Monday Gala Concert with the British Premiere of a thirty minute tribute to the group by Norwegian trumpeter, Svein Giske. The Guest Conductor for the four day residential Course of the Band was Allan Withington, himself a Trumpeter with the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra and Professional Conductor of the Foden's Band, who brought the arrangement with him from Norway to challenge the young musicians.

No less than nine of the Groups hits were included, with the Band's Guest Soloist, Michael Dodd featured in Love of My Life, arranged as a Euphonium Solo. With movements and vocal contributions from the musicians, the well known melodies filled St Michael's Church in Newquay with a mass of toe tapping sound, which brought an enthusiastic reception from the large audience. In the first half Michael Dodd, Principal Euphonium of The Grimethorpe Colliery Band, dazzled the audience with his prowess on the euphonium in several challenging Solo's, including Zigeunerweisen by Sarasate, described by Allan Withington as impossible, except for someone exceptional like Michael. The Band also played some recent music by two young Cornish composers, Gareth Churcher and Simon Dobson, The Last of The Mighty Few and The Rother. As well as the intensive Rehearsals, the musicians enjoyed informative workshops and demonstrations from both Allan Withington and Michael Dodd, ensuring they are now better informed on such subjects as, conducting, circular breathing and even playing the didgeridoo. With the support of the Band's own Catering Team and Local Tutors, the Course, held at Truro High School for Girls, ends the Cornwall Youth Brass Band's season. As well as the two usual Residential Courses, the season has included Concerts at the Festival of Brass in Manchester, Hall for Cornwall in Truro and at Truro College.

The young Musicians will now be enjoying busy summer seasons with their twenty six Parent Bands, before returning in September to rehearse for the next two Courses at Christmas and Easter 2012, when they will be welcoming Michael Fowles and Dr Nicholas Childs as Guest Conductors. New members are always welcome and full details can be found on the Band's Web site at, www.cybb.co.uk Further information and photographs available from the CYBB Secretary, Phillip Hunt 01752 843919.



Forder's Industrial past

The medieval mill in the heart of Forder village which ground corn and cleaned cloth until the late nineteenth century still remains though out of all recognition from its original structure.

It's history and that of the more recent industrial archaeology surrounding a tramway which ran through the heart of Forder village were outlined to Saltash Old Cornwall Society by Society member John Parsons at the last of this season's indoor meetings.

The first written reference to the mill is its grant, together with the manor of Trematon, by the Black Prince to Sir Nigel Loring, 'a brave companion in arms' in 1296. It was still working through the Victoria era and Mr Parsons showed photographs and maps including the millpond and leat which he had tried to trace.

He had also traced some of

the line of the tramway which once carried stone from Burraton Coombe quarries to Forder quays for export to Europe as well as English ports. Worked initially by gravity with horses towing the empty trucks back, a petrol engine took over before the line was abandoned during World War II. There are still some who recall the warning whistle as the trucks crossed the road by the bridge in the centre of Forder village. Again Mr Parsons showed pictures of the original track as well as sections which he and others had excavated from half a century of undergrowth and decay.

He was thanked on behalf of the Society by David Coles for a 'well researched and well conducted talk.'

The Society will now enjoy a number of Summer visits before reconvening in St Nicholas Church Rooms on 26th September 2011.

STUDENTS FUNDRAISE FOR CLIC SARGENT



A group of Year 11 students at saltash.net recently organised a number of fundraising activities in support of CLIC Sargent, the charity which gives assistance to young people with cancer and their families.

Their request to raise money at the school was prompted by their wish to show support for a member of their tutor group who has been through a difficult time recently. The students were able to raise the grand total of £237.28 by, among other things, holding a cake sale and organising a Real Live Music Club concert. A representative from CLIC Sargent, Janie Smakle, came into school on the morning of 7th April to receive a cheque and say thank you to all the students and staff who had supported the charity efforts.

'WALL OF GLASS' HOUSING DISAPPROVED

A proposed development of three houses on the site of a former business premises in Ellwell Road, behind North Road, has been described as having a 'wall of glass' of inappropriate design for the area.

Refusal was recommended by Saltash Town Councillors who had read three letters of objection from neighbours. Local residents and councillors also queried whether the position of the proposed garages would allow access from them onto the narrow service road into which they opened. Surprise was expressed that County Highways considered the

access to the garages was satisfactory.

The inappropriate design of the 'wall of glass' was one reason for the recommendation of objection, together with overlooking of existing homes, over development, and the car parking not being well integrated and situated and not supporting the street scene.

Now visit....
www.saltash-observer.co.uk

Collapsed road closed for repair

A road which is in danger of collapsing into a creek is to be closed while vital repairs are undertaken.

Babis Lane, a continuation of Coombe Road, leads past some well established residences to a new and exclusive development on the site of a former sewage works.

A part of the road above Coombe Creek has already been shored up. However a recent landslide has necessitated further concreting and banking up, due to start in May and lasting around six weeks. The narrow land will have to be closed to traffic during this time.

Saltash Councillors agreed the need for this and suggested that the entire bank between the creek and the road should be secured at the same time to avoid further such problems.

True Grit in Berry Park

Residents of a Saltash Street have volunteered to take responsibility for their own grit bin if one is located there.

With a high proportion of elderly or disabled residents Berry Park suffered especially in the big freeze last Winter when icy conditions turned streets and pavements to skating rinks.

A suitable location for a grit bin, out of sight of the passing public, has been located Saltash Town Council was informed during the public question session of their monthly meeting.

Volunteer keyholders have already agreed to keep the bin secure from grit thieves from outside the area.

Their application has been passed on to the Council's Gritting Sub-Committee.

TOWN COULD BECOME BICYCLE FRIENDLY

Healthy and environmentally friendly travel by bike should be encouraged, local young people believe.

They have sought through the Mayor's Youth Panel, that bicycle racks should be provided at various locations especially near community shops in and around the town.

A map showing the requested locations outside the town centre as well as photographs of the preferred cycle rack designs are being produced by the Mayor for the town council's consideration.

Additional bicycle racks in Fore Street might be funded through Cornwall Community Foundation who are to be approached concerning

grant funding.

A Town Council Facebook page is another proposal put forward by the Youth Panel and its feasibility is under current investigation.

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SALTASH MAY FAIR *“One of the best Festivals of its kind in Cornwall.”*

The recently rejuvenated Saltash Town Band struck up, smartly turned out Scouts, Brownies, Fire, Army and Air Force Cadets and many other young people lined up behind the Mayor and Mayoress to march down Fore Street. May Fair 2011 was under way.

Though the skies were threatening and a cool breeze blew this did not daunt the crowds who come as always to share in what Mayor Adam Killea, in his official opening address, described as “One of the best Festivals of its kind in Cornwall.” He reminded the hundreds present that Saltash had been adjudged the best ‘postcode’ in Britain in which to live and the Mayor believed that “The May Fair is a massive part of that sense of Community” which was unique to the Town.

He went on to inspect the Parade of Youth and awarded the ‘best turnout’ prize to the young St John’s Ambulance Badgers.

Other young people to receive awards included the Saltash Town Junior Band which received the Peter Stephens Trophy for the entertainers who had most pleased the current Mayor during his term of office. “They played fantastically well as a new group in what I believe was their first public performance.” he enthused.

The Town’s ‘Young Citizen of the Year’ award went to a boy familiar to the many who have over the years enjoyed the ‘Youngstagers’ or the dramatic performances at saltash.net.community.school. A year 12 student of that school Adam Riylar was commended by the Mayor not only for his excellent performances on the stage but as an active Scout and member of the School Council.

Another well know local Thespian received the Adult Citizen of the Year award. A member

of many societies and organisations who has given five decades of service to St Nicholas and St Faith Church, Ken Speare is known to many for his past performances in the Saltash Operatic and Dramatic Society and more recently with the Anglican Methodist Players.

The awards were presented, the Parade of Youth had marched away saluting the Mayoral party. It was time for the fun and festivities to begin.

Entertainment began at the food of Fore Street with the “Cornish Wurzells” in the arena and at the top of the Street with the Saltash Town Band in Victoria Garden, to be joined later by the award winning Junior Town Band. Throughout the day the two venues offered a variety of Celtic folk Music, big band and vocalist as well as Punch and Judy, juggler and jester and circus skills workshop.

Between the entertainment venues the street heaved with crowds seeking bargains and enjoying activities at the long double lines of stalls, mostly run by local organisations and charities. All seemed to be doing brisk business and keeping the hundreds of townsfolk and visitors entertained. And though the threatened rain did arrive around lunchtime it cleared again and did not dampen the spirits of those out to share the special community atmosphere enjoyed in Saltash on that special day of the year, May Fair Saturday.

The May Fair committee would like to say a special thank you to 355 Squadron Air Cadets for all their help at the May Fair.



Photos captured by Editor Mary Crawford & Mary Marnell at this year's May Fair



THANK YOU TO MARC EDMONDS

Thank you for kindly supplying the main photo on our centre spread May Fair 2011 pull out in the April issue of the Observer.



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