

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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May 2018 - Issue 314

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Photo: Saltash Regatta 2017

Space for Nature Plan for Saltash Parks to Bloom

Saltash's open spaces should be blooming with bee friendly wild flowers, while newly planted native trees and shrubs begin to grow around their borders by next spring. This is the aim of Cornwall Council's Green Infrastructure for growth scheme which as we have previously reported, has selected Saltash as one of seven towns to benefit from the re-wilding scheme.

Public consultation has now taken place and the Cornwall Council team at Warfelton field reported a good attendance from local residents all of whom appeared positive and welcoming to the ideas put forward. They discussed with the team the choice of plants, emphasising a desire for them to be bolder and more colourful.

Warfelton itself is targeted to benefit from a line of small trees between the leisure centre and tennis courts and a line of trees alongside Alamein Road. A copse is planned for the corner by Kimberly Stadium, leaving the main area free for football pitches. Among comments was

a request for a made up path between Warfelton Crescent and the leisure centre and this is to be considered.

Longstone Park will feature a wild flower meadow by the bowling green and some bee friendly flowering shrubs by the toilet block. Adjacent to the play area long flowering bee friendly flowers will be planted by a wheelchair friendly picnic bench. On the west wide of the park more shrubs and small trees will be planted with a natural play area containing boulders and log piles, intended for children to engage with nature by Longmeadow Road.

At Saltmill plans are all to add to biodiversity and improvement for nature. Existing vegetation will be enhanced with more native plants and bulbs. Drainage problems should be assisted by the creation of several small wetland habitats.

Other residential areas due to benefit include Buller Park and the area around Grenfell Avenue where it is aimed to improve vegetation and plant out a number of bubs and long lasting flowers.

The scheme follows money being secured from the European Regional Development Fund as funding for making space for nature. With match funding from Cornwall Council and support from the University of Exeter around £3.5 million will be spent over three years to create nature rich habitat spaces in Cornish towns. Plans are to start planting this autumn and start to see the results next spring.

Comments and questions are welcomed and can be submitted by e-mail on: comments@Cornwall.gov.uk or on: www.cornwall.gov.uk/GI4G



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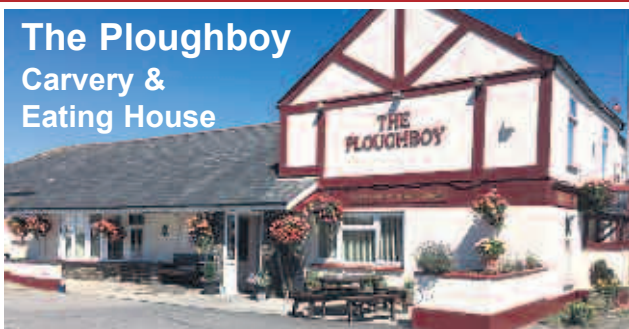
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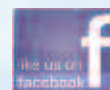
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Town Messenger

Working for the People of Saltash

News from Saltash Town Council
Konsel an dre Essa



Name That Ward

The four current Cornwall Council wards in Saltash are intended to be reduced to three and Saltash Town Council has been invited to suggest new names for them. At a town council meeting it was agreed that local residents might, through your 'Town Messenger', be invited to put forward suggestions.

The current four wards are identical to the town council wards and like them are named after the points of the compass. As mentioned in your April 'Observer' the new ward covering the West of Saltash will also take in surrounding villages out to Landrake and Cargreen, while the new wards North and South will expand to take in the current East ward.

The name Saltash Lynher has been suggested but there is already a designated 'Lynher' ward. Similarly 'Cornwall Gateway' for the West ward has been ruled out since the word 'Cornwall' is inadmissible in naming a ward.

Any suggestions for any or all of the new ward names may be submitted via the Town Clerk at the Guildhall.

Town Will Protect Private Data

Saltash Town Council administrative staff have been busy ensuring that the Town Council will be compliant with the new General Data Protection Regulations. These come into effect of 25th May and apply to any organisation that uses and stores data. Any such organisations, including Saltash Town Council, must obtain the consent of individuals to hold and process their information and must grant access to that data if requested.

In particular a 'specific information regulation officer' (SIRO) has to be appointed and changes have to be effected to ensure that if Town Council data is used, those concerned are aware and agree to it. Many administrative man hours are being put into making Saltash Council data protection compliant.

Library Seeks Users Views on Its Future

By the time you read your Town Messenger the council will have debated and decided upon the future of Saltash Library. Cornwall Council is anxious to dispose of its libraries and the Town Council has to decide whether it is to take over the building and the running of the town's library service. If so it must consider whether to acquire the leasehold or freehold of the building.

It is intended to put out a questionnaire on line as well as in paper format within the library building, seeking the comments of library users as to how they would like to see the library services improved.

Suggestions as to what opening hours would be best suited to users and how the book borrowing and other services available might best serve library users of all ages would be welcomed by the Council.

Have Your Say on Neighbourhood Plan

A document which will decide upon the future of our town and its development is nearing completion of its first draft and will shortly be put out to public consultation.

The Saltash Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Document and Sustainability Check List has been long in the drafting as it had to take into account all of the many comments made when it was first proposed. Several groups of volunteers worked hard to prepare various sections relating to specific issues such as transport and building developing.

The Town Council has agreed to put the document forward as soon as it is ready, hopefully shortly, both at public events and at specified venues around the town. Individuals may comment on it there, or at public meetings

to be held to discuss it. Only after full consultation and taking all proposals on board will it be referred back to Cornwall Council as part of the process to make it a legally binding plan for the town's future.

Festival Funding Agreed

Future festival funding has been agreed by the Town Council and promised from its earmarked festival fund.

It was agreed to allocate May Fair £900, the Festival of Remembrance £700 and the Autumnal Kalan Gwav Festival £1000.

Plant a Poppy for Centenary Year

The people of Saltash are to be encouraged to work alongside the World War I commemoration group to sow a sea of poppies across the town for the summer.

As reported elsewhere in your 'Observer' plans are already underfoot to plant out poppies in the Peace Garden in Alexandra Square and in other appropriate open spaces around the town. The poppy, which smothered the abandoned trenches in a waving ocean of blood red blooms, will forever be associated with World War I.

Individual residents might, it was suggested, be pleased to join in the centenary commemorations by planting out poppies in their own gardens. It would be preferable to plant them in plugs, rather than seeds, and to arrange for successional planting in order to ensure a continual flowering throughout the summer.

Your Town Council

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Deputy Mayor:
Gloria Challen

Town Clerk:
Ray Lane
T: 844846
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Councillors telephone numbers can be obtained at the guildhall.

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

Garden Room Goes Disabled Friendly

The Maurice Huggins Room in the Victoria Gardens at the top of Fore Street is to have a disabled friendly toilet installed, subject to planning permission.

An application to add this facility has been submitted by the Town Council in order to add to its accessibility for future uses. The building, for many years a rest and refreshment room intended in particular for the elderly is currently vacant while the Town Council considers its future.

Spending on Civic Regalia Queried

Whether, in these times of spending cuts, over £2000 being spent on a new cloak and hat for the Mayor and a new hat for the Deputy Mayor is good value, was queried by a member of the public at the April town council meeting.

She suggested that in times of great austerity and the town council's element of the council tax rising by 18% such spending could be considered profligate and the money better spent on those in need.

Deputy Mayor elect Gloria Challen replied that the hats had already been ordered. Councillors confirmed that the current regalia which, as reported in last month's Observer, appears to date back well over sixty years, is in urgent need of replacement. While acceptable from a distance it looks distinctly shabby from close up, councillors who had worn it agreed.

Music Fun and Friendship at Mayor's Fundraiser

An evening of fun, food, friendship and good music, all in support of the Mayor's two chosen local charities ended the year of office of Mayor Councillor Mrs Jean Dent. It concluded her year where it began with her inaugural celebration, in the Saltash Social Club.

The music came from the massed instruments of the Saltash Town Band, one of the two recipients of the fund raiser. Band secretary Sue Higman paid tribute to the support from the Mayor especially in the obtaining of storage space and practice room. The band's repertoire, which was well received by all, ranged from traditional marches through musicals to Adele.

There followed a brain searching quiz with rounds growing increasingly harder, from naming Cornwall's national saint to naming all seven of Snow White's dwarfs. The quiz was organised by Dementia Voice PL12, the other recipient of the proceeds, and Carol Emmet spoke about the work they do with the elderly, and sometimes less elderly, and their carers from the time of



Giant teddy Percy, named and won by a delighted Maisie Ham and presented to her by the Mayor.

diagnosis.

After a pause for a sumptuous buffet supper and socialising the young people of the Junior Band took the stage. They too varied their music from a deep and subtle rendering of 'Over the Rainbow' to stirring and strident marches including a memorable rendition of the 'Great Escape' theme.

The Senior Band returned for the last set concluding with proper Cornish music including of course a rousing finale of 'Trelawney'.

In thanking the many who had helped organise the event as well as those supporting it the Mayor advised that around £500 had been raised for the two local causes.

In Order of Precedence

The Town Sergeant and Mace Bearer precede the Lord Lieutenant who in turn precedes the High Sheriff, followed by the Mayor of Saltash and consort with the Mayor's Cadet following.

This heads the civic event order of precedence as prepared in a protocol recently updated.

The protocol sets forth the exact order in which Town Clerk and Chaplain, Member of Parliament and Councillors (in order of service) or seniority Freeman, Young Citizens and visiting dignitaries, as well as other

distinguished persons will proceed in any specifically civic event, all with the Town Sergeant to 'exercise control'.

Towards a Safer Saltash

Town and Cornwall Councillors have held their first meeting with police, fire and rescue, youth organisations and other concerned group representatives, to further the Safer Saltash initiative. The basis of Safer Saltash and its objectives are described elsewhere in your 'Observer'. The first meeting proved positive with plenty of input from the police describing local crime related issues in Saltash and how the police have been responding to them with apparent success.

The Councillors involved are keen to obtain input as to how the group can effect change and ensure that residents feel safer in Saltash. Any specific concerns regarding public safety can be put to it through the Guildhall.

Hanging Baskets Watered by Wardens

Saltash should be ablaze with bloom throughout Fore Street as usual this summer.

However the recent appointment by the Town Council of town and waterfront wardens means that there is no need to put the maintenance of them out to tender, Town Councillors agreed that costs could be saved by having the plants watered 'in house' by council staff who will do so out of shop trading hours to avoid inconveniencing the shopping public.

Town Messenger news is supplied by the Town Council

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What follows is not all to do with the now famous Stadium vote but is an attempt to help, honest! So, you've had a bad day and decide to become a Saltash or Cornwall councillor, or a even a very bad day and decide to become an MP. If so from time to time you will inevitably face having to vote on an issue which you know is going to be controversial. You will think to yourself, "Whatever I do, am I going to lose votes?"

So what do you do? The really good question to ask yourself is - do I take more notice of what my electorate - you, the residents - have said to me (act like a delegate) or do I listen and make my own mind up (act as a representative)? Technically a councillor is a representative and we may enter the room with a predisposition to vote one way, but we should listen to debate and decide at the end. I think that very, very rarely happens and most people go in to vote one way or another (you can sometimes identify these by their email or obvious social media activity). Occasionally it's not clear and I have great fun as a debate proceeds watching people think rapidly, change their minds, be obviously influenced by shouting from the gallery, look at what their neighbours are doing and even visibly

squirm. Good stuff, or it would be if the business is of no consequence, which it rarely is.

Then there is more good fun in identifying the "great abstainers" - some councillors become "serial great abstainers" - ie. those who cannot or are afraid to make their minds up - afraid of what the public or others may say...sometimes there really is a good reason for abstaining but that should be rare...for goodness's sake we are elected to make our minds up and vote, not abstain.

So to the great vote: for residents who have been in Outer Mongolia for six weeks this was about whether from the council's capital budget (your money put aside for projects, often building or road projects) the council should pay £3million to give to the three businesses concerned (Cornish Pirates, Truro City FC and Truro and Penwith College) to build a new stadium in Truro. This would be matched by £3 million of London money, if the government honours an old pledge by David Cameron to support a stadium financially. If.

What did I do? Unusually I had to keep my mouth shut because I had a cold and little voice left so I just listened and at the end I voted against the stadium. Why? If I was to support it I would have had



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For Observer readers
Derek Holley
Cornwall Councillor, Saltash East.
dholley@cornwall.gov.uk

to be firstly convinced that most of the arguments "for" were valid, that in giving money to private businesses the spend would be for the economy as good as, say, building 100+ serviced small industrial units spread across the county and that it would all be financially viable.

I ignored the protestations that the money could only be spent this way because all the council had to do if it decided the money was better spent elsewhere was to next February decide from the overall income for 2019/20 to put £3 million less into the capital budget and keep that in the revenue budget for potholes or social services or whatever. Yet all you heard from the cabinet or on Radio Cornwall was how it could not be used otherwise.

Was the stadium to be in the right place? For Truro certainly but even on Cornwall Pirates own admittance fans don't travel far (that's why they wouldn't build in Penzance) so for the rest of us, no.

Would a major conference centre help all, probably yes. Would a training centre for cooks help all, probably not.

What would the health benefits of a leading fitness centre be? For Truro quite a lot, for Cornwall, not much really that couldn't be done cheaper elsewhere.

Would the stadium help sport all across Cornwall? Probably not as its already very strong (Saltash has 10+ very good rugby teams, over 20 very good football etc etc.).

Would it be viable on its own in the future? I think it is about 6 stadia in the UK that are stand-alone viable, guess which league. The finances also rely on one key person

subsidising losses for ten years. So very likely not.

Then I took great exception after speakers used the jolly old tactic of intimidation, saying and implying things like, "If you don't vote yes you're not a Cornwall supporter" or, "If you don't vote yes you've no pride in Cornwall". This is the behaviour of thugs.

My electorate? I got fed up getting it in the neck in church, in Fore Street, in the Guildhall, in Lidl and Waitrose...."You're not voting for the stadium, are you?".... I got one well argued supporting email from a resident and that was it. Pretty clear.

The other Cornwall Councillors voted their way so better to ask them. However the vote was in support and this is democracy so now I will do my best to ensure your money is not wasted and the stadium is a success.

Potatoes are earthed up, rhubarb great, I haven't made an unholy mess of the tomatoes this year and leaves are shooting everywhere - but I've noticed some wonderful colonies of greenfly already - do they just love me?

Derek Holley, Cornwall
Councillor Saltash East
dholley@cornwall.gov.uk

Silent Soldier and Departing Troops in Great War Commemoration

A permanent memorial to those who lost their lives in World War I and a re-enactment of the troops who left the town for France, many never to return, are among the suggestions for Saltash's commemoration of the centenary of the end of World War I later this year.

A small working group has been set up to organise the commemorations and Town Freeman Mrs Sue Hooper MBE was unanimously elected to chair it.

One proposal for a lasting monument to those who served, is a reproduction of 'The Silent Soldier' that could be erected at a suitable site in the town. The Peace Garden in Alexandra Square has been suggested. A copy has been requested and though there are few left available one has been promised to the town, by the Royal British Legion, subject to the funding of £250 being available.

Another suggestion was to re-enact the departure of troops from the town for the Western Front. Contemporary photographs show hundreds of troops, who had been encamped at Wearde on a site opposite the present school, lining Saltash station platform or filing onto the Saltash ferry en route to France, many never to return.

A proposal to plant a mass of poppies throughout the town has previously been mentioned in your 'Observer' and is referred to elsewhere in this edition.

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Sat 23rd **Toby Graham** (Bar)
Sat 30th **Banana Thieves** (Bar)
July 2018
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A Year in the Life of a Photojournalist



Pictured: Three grateful Bosnian ladies with boxes of aid that Ian took out from England (toiletries, clothes, wind-up radios, vegetable seeds etc.) He also bought the country a Land Rover for mine clearance, and delivered it with an aid convoy.

For two decades Exmouth-born Ian Robinson wrote stories and took pictures for a broad spectrum of magazines and newspapers, not least The Independent and Sunday Telegraph. His pursuit of adventures took him to Malaysia and Mongolia as Raleigh International expedition photographer, to Patagonia with Land Rover's Camel Trophy, across Alaska chasing a 1000 mile sled dog race, around Jamaica on a bicycle (until it was stolen), through Morocco by truck, to Bosnia leading an aid convoy, and across what was North Borneo on a borrowed mountain bike... to name a few.

He went to New Orleans for Mardi Gras and came away as an Hon. Louisiana Sheriff following a tragedy; Tavistock Rotary Club also nominated him for a Rotary GB & IRELAND humanitarian journalist of the year award in 2006.

Traveller, Country Walking,

Mountain Biking UK, Trail, Motorcycle International, Land Rover Monthly, Horse & Rider, Mushing, Outdoors Illustrated (contributing editor), Runner's World and Railway Magazine are among many to feature Ian's articles.

An all-embracing exhibition of Ian's work will be at Ashtorre Rock community centre during regatta weekend, June 9/10; no stranger to audiences, be it schools, colleges or theatres, Ian will additionally present an evening of slides, music and the stories behind the stories at the same venue in Saltash, Ashtorre Rock, at 7pm on Tuesday June 19, £4 donation to benefit St. Luke's Hospice and the RNLI. Donations at the exhibition would also be welcome for the same benefactors.

Letter to the Editor...

Public Spirited Duty

Last week I encountered a man armed with Pick-Up Tool and almost full black bag, quite voluntarily clearing rubbish discarded not only on the beach section but all around the flats and surrounding streets on the Waterfront. With a cheery smile he indicated he lived somewhere up Fore Street and said he simply did it out of public spirited duty and personal sadness at the way the public treat the area. He was NOT a Waterfront Warden, who also contributes by picking around the beach area, though a slight extension of their territory might be worth considering.

Name & Address supplied

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Peter Ryland Chamber Chairman...keeping us Updated

At our Chamber meeting this month we had a presentation called 'Safer Saltash'. This is an initiative to re-establish the Safer Towns Programme across Cornwall and Saltash is one of ten communities in Cornwall where the initiative is being rolled out. The initiative is a multi-agency partnership and the first meeting (which unfortunately I could not attend) was in the Guildhall on Friday 20th where not only the Chamber but also Town and County councils, Fire Service, Police etc. were represented.

The idea to prepare a delivery plan for a safer community focused on local priorities. The Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall has supplied the seed funding to start this initiative.

One of the members advised, Jacky Swain, of another seed funding proposal to use a crowd funding appeal to set up a Cornish Embassy in London to promote/show the County and its produce.

Another issue, which was discussed, was the car park rebate scheme whereby customers can claim back from some businesses in the town the £1.60 for two hour parking, if they shop with them. This scheme is funded by S.106 monies and the traders can then re-claim the rebate but, unfortunately, the funds are running out. The Chamber has been administering this scheme in recent months and the decision has been made to stop the scheme once the funds are used. However, the Chamber is proposing to carry out a review of what is the most effective scheme

with a view to putting proposals forward later in the year.

All day every day free parking is not an option and, indeed, when there was a scheme of free parking on Saturdays, the town businesses reported no upturn in trade and indeed, it was reported, that many people parked in the car parks and then took the bus to Plymouth. The car parks therefore only provided a park and ride. If anybody wishes to put forward ideas then please do not hesitate to contact me or put proposals on the Chamber blog.

Finally, we will have enjoyed the Mayfair by the time you read this. This is one of the crowd pulling events in the town centre and the other is organised by the Chamber, being the Christmas Festival. We continue to work up our proposals relating thereto, after all it is only 7 months to Christmas!!

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Saltash Springs into Regatta Spirit



Photo Observer 2017

June is bursting out, the river Tamar sparkles in the early summer sunshine and Saltash once again anticipates a highlight of its year, the Annual Town Regatta. It is a time for sailors and landlubbers alike to flock to the town's ancient Waterside and discover what a feast of fun and entertainment lies in store afloat and ashore.

For two hectic days sailors and oarsmen vie for honours and prizes in a packed programme of races above and below the two bridges that mark the gateway to Cornwall. And alongside the seriously contested races there are always the fun events on the water that attract the crowds to line the foreshore, the home made Cardboard Boat Race being an all time favourite of last year.

The fun begins as the whole town gets into festive regatta spirit with the grand parade on the Saturday morning leading through the town and down to a Waterside already lined with bright and attractive stalls ready for business. While the fun continues afloat there is always a packed programme of entertainment ashore with a variety of live music at various venues along the riverfront.

Tempting odours from the food and drink stall attract the many who make a day, or a weekend, of it and are in need of sustenance between checking out the varied events. Last year a sunny Sunday morning saw a large number of hardened swimmers dare the water for a (safety boat supervised) swim to England and back to start Sunday's events, while splashes of a different nature concluded the afternoon at the colourful and lively paint party, fun for all ages.

The Saltash Regatta has been an annual attraction for almost two centuries, with crowds traditionally arriving in the town by water and by special train from Plymouth and beyond. The means of transport may have changed, as have the shore bound attractions on offer, but the festive spirit that attracted our Victorian ancestors to Saltash Regatta still prevails and the atmosphere of fun and friendship ensures that the Saltash Regatta remains as much a happy community event in the 21st century as in the 19th century.

Just come along and share in it.

Saltash Sculpture to Go

The wooden sculpture symbolising the Eternal Parents which was a key figure in the Saltmill Park regeneration less than two decades ago is to be demolished.

The timber from which it was built was of poor quality and it has been fenced off for some time being judged a dangerous structure. Sadly it has been found to suffer from wet rot and the timbers have begun to fail, despite it being built less than twenty years ago. An independent inspection found it to be beyond repair and a risk to public safety so the council is arranging for its removal.

Town Councillors have been asked by the retiring Mayor Councillor Mrs Jean Dent whether they wish to have any input as to its replacement, subject to a grant being sourced to fund it.

Information Found on 'Missing' War Casualties

While the two memorials by St. Nicholas and Faith and St. Stephens Churches record the names of many Saltash men who lost their lives in the First World War, Saltash Heritage members have discovered details of many more whose names were not recorded there.

As Saltash and the world mark the centenary of the ending of the war Saltash Heritage have compiled a database containing the names of 140 men with a Saltash connection who lost their lives. The database also contain service and personal information about each man.

An alphabetical list is available on the Heritage website, while a chronological list is on display in the town's museum. The information acquired about each person is available in folders to be perused by visitors to the Saltash Museum and Local History Centre in Lower Fore Street. For those who are unable to visit, information on individuals can be requested

via archivist@saltash-heritage.org.uk

Terry Cummings, the archivist who has helped compile these records would welcome any further information on individuals, and especially photographs, as well as correction of any errors. He would also like to thank Peter Clements for his enthusiasm and commitment in wishing to remember all of those casualties from World War I including those for various reasons omitted from the two local memorials.

Appreciation is also shown to Christine Douglas who gave up all her free time for a year to complete her extensive research into the casualties, and donated her data to Saltash Heritage in a completed and searchable format.

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Road Closures for Saltash Regatta

Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th June

The following restrictions will be in place from Saturday 9th June 2018 6am till Sunday 10th June 2018 8pm. Various no parking restrictions will be in place throughout the weekend.

Road Closures:

Old Ferry Road FROM Pounds Park TO Tamar Street
Tamar Street FROM Old Ferry Road TO Albert Road
Lower Fore Street FROM Silver Street TO Old Ferry Road

Eastbound (towards waterfront) Only:
Albert Road FROM Station Road TO Tamar Street

Westbound (towards town) Only:
Lower Fore Street FROM Silver Street TO Station Road

Fore Street Roundabout, Fore Street and Lower Fore Street will all be closed on the 9th of June from 10.30am for a parade.

Town to be Promoted on Supermarket Site

Shoppers at the new supermarkets to be built by Carkeel roundabout and those stopping off at the coffee and fast food establishments should be encouraged to come into Saltash and see what its shops have to offer. The town's Chamber of Commerce and Industry has been in active negotiation with the developers, Quora, and has obtained agreement on various additions to the conditions on which planning permission was granted.

The developers have agreed to provide signage within the car park to promote the town. This includes a notice board to promote local activities and events as well as shops, which is to be regularly updated. There will also be other signs adjacent to the entrance where drivers queue for the drive-through cafe and restaurant. The developers will also consider placing posts by the roundabout adjacent to the site where banners can be affixed to promote local events, similar to the banners facing drivers coming up the slip road from the Tamar Bridge.

In addition signs will be placed at the end of Fore Street, visible from the Tamar Bridge slip road pointing to 'Saltash Town Centre - The Gateway to Cornwall'. Additional road signage outside the supermarket site directing traffic leaving Gilston Road to the town centre would be supported by the developers.

Importantly for the town's traders, the developers have agreed that the remaining five thousand square feet of retail space will not be let to any retailer in direct competition (in its main trade) to any town centre retailer.

The Chamber of Commerce has offered the town council the opportunity to take on the responsibility for such signage. After discussion the Council agreed to the Chamber and the Community Interest Company retaining responsibility, with council members on those bodies protecting the council's interests.

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Tue 12th 7pm	DEVONPORT'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE FALKLANDS CONFLICT <i>Bill Trevorrow</i> £3 incl tea & biscuits
Wed 13th 7pm	WEDNESDAY FOLK AND MORE... <i>Rog, Tony and friends</i> £3 Bring your own tippie
Thu 14th 7pm	THE NEW TAMAR BRIDGE LEARNING CENTRE <i>David List</i> Manager, Tamar Bridge £3 incl tea & biscuits
Fri 15th 7pm	THE LONG ROAD TO LUPINS or 3 months in a motorhome Singer/songwriter <i>Martin Crawford</i> takes you on a pictorial tour of New Zealand with his original songs and stories £3 Bring your own tippie
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Crime Rates Up by a Quarter But More Police Promised

A 26% increase in the local crime rate was reported by Inspector Julian Morris to the Cornwall Gateway Community Network Panel. This is for the area covering Saltash and St. Germans as well as reaching down to Torpoint and the Rame peninsula. However Inspector Morris added that this is partly accountable to a change introduced in 2015 as to how historic crimes are reported.

The police presence in the area now includes five sergeants, thirty constables, seven PCSO's four neighbourhood beat managers and one neighbourhood team leader, though there are currently some vacancies waiting to be filled. Sergeant Jo Williams who had served as neighbourhood Sergeant retired from the force earlier this year to be replaced by Sergeant Rupert Engley. An extra hundred officers have been promised within the force area over the next four years, funded by the recent increase in Council Tax. A tri-service officer is currently operating from Liskeard and a minimum of twenty 'blue light' officers across the force are being funded in conjunction with the fire and ambulance services.

Since January 109 persons had been reported missing in East Cornwall.

Local police, together with those across the country are

dealing with rapidly changing patterns in crime, reported Inspector Morris. New patterns to emerge include cybercrime, modern slavery and human trafficking, and rural areas such as those around Saltash are not immune from these. Project Genesis is currently looking at the whole future of neighbourhood policing but no decisions have been made on this.

Inspector Morris spoke also of the success of a locally introduced initiative to help the child victims of domestic violence. Operation Encompass ensures what when a school age child is living in a home where domestic abuse is an issue the school is instantly made aware of any incidents and so can treat the child with understanding if that child's behaviour at school is affected. The project is in its early stages but initial reports appear positive.

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Easter Crime Wave

The Easter weekend witnessed a number reported break-in to shops and businesses in the Fore Street area of Saltash. Most involved entry through the rear of the premises, though two included forced entry by the front.

Cameras mounted by business owners indicated that there was just one male person involved and cameras on the Tamar Bridge appeared to show such a person returning to Plymouth on foot. Police are understood to have identified a suspect.

Police have also warned all local shopkeepers to be extra vigilant as to their security measures and recommended continuous use of CCTV cameras within premises.

The town council is currently, as previously reported, considering various options for outside CCTV systems and locations for the mounting of cameras.

This follows an unrelated shooting incident in the Broad Walk area of town and a suspect later identified in Liskeard. An injury to a hand required hospital treatment.

Webcasting Awaiting Staffing

The option of the webcasting of Saltash Town Council is being considered, Mayor Mrs Jean Dent advised in response to a question from a member of the public at its April meeting.

The budgetary resources are in place for this to be advanced. However at present there is no administrative ability to further it. Webcasting will come when resources are available.

Conundrum Corner

Taking the initial letter to the one-word answers to the following nine questions can you rearrange them to make a Cornish place name?

- 1 Dan Brown's novel The Da Vinci Code begins with a Murder in which famous Museum? (6)
 - 2 In which London Borough was Henry VIII born? (9)
 - 3 In an Indian restaurant what is a Tandoor? (4)
 - 4 In a Trumpet what name is given to the funnel-shaped orifice from which the sound is emitted? (4)
 - 5 Bell, Book and Candle is associated with which Religious Act? (15)
 - 6 Oom-Pah-Pah and Consider Yourself are songs from which Musical? (6)
 - 7 The fur of which animal is used to make an Aukbra hat? (6)
 - 8 The border of China and which other Country lies along the summit ridge of Mount Everest? (5)
 - 9 In which County is Maiden Castle found? (6)
- Answers on page 7

SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...



Last month saw the 100th anniversary of the RAF. It was good to remember the incredible service the RAF has given our country in the last 100 years and in particular my predecessor John Rankin Rathbone who was the MP for this area and was sadly killed during the Battle of Britain. John Rathbone was succeeded by his widow Beatrice Rathbone who became the first female MP for this area and later went on to become a founding member of Hearing Dogs for the Deaf.

During a visit to Derriford hospital I met with the Chief Executive Ann James. I was pleased to hear from Ann that patients are to benefit from a £26m investment in interventional radiology (IR) theatres as announced by the Secretary of State for Health, Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP. The money will be used to build four IR theatres with full imaging capability and an eight-bedded short stay area for patients.

I met with local farmers and the NFU and discussed how the system of rural payments to farmers would operate after we leave the European Union. The NFU have put together a very good presentation on this. I also met with the Country Land and Business Association (CLA). We were able to have an interesting discussion about how farming policy may look like post Brexit.

I would like to thank both organisations for all they do on behalf of their members.

Recently we saw action taken to counter the disgraceful use of chemical weapons in

Syria. Last month I visited a camp of Syrian Refugees in Turkey. The children were really friendly and were really skilled in both academic disciplines and in the arts. How a leader can carry out such actions on his own people is beyond belief. I believe the Prime Minister was absolutely correct in joining the USA and France in action to destroy the facilities where these terrible chemical weapons were produced.

I was really pleased to meet up with a group touring the Palace of Westminster from the Friends of Mount Edgumbe Country House. It really is a jewel in South East Cornwall and as a former Chairman of the Joint Committee which looks after the running of the Park on behalf of the people of Cornwall and Plymouth it is always a pleasure to meet with people who love Mount Edgumbe as well.

I spoke out against anti-Semitism. I raised an issue which had been raised with me by an Israeli politician from their Labor Party about the Leadership of the Labour Party in this country. As a member of the Conservative Friends of Israel I am determined that enough is enough and that all forms of anti-Semitism should be stamped out. I was saddened by the reaction of some on social media when some brave MPs from the Labour Party spoke out on this issue.

I was also really pleased to visit Harrowbarrow Primary following their visit to Parliament in March. I am really pleased that there are grants for schools towards the cost of transport to London given by Parliament.

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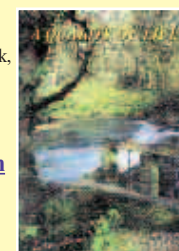
Spring Walks....
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“Significant Industrial Monuments”

History Related To Old Cornwall Society

Described as ‘the nation’s most significant industrial monument’ the Royal William Yard’ has a two hundred year history of service to the fleet. At the last meeting of Saltash Old Cornwall Society before the summer break a society member, Ray Williams, outlined its history before describing the challenges faced in converting the somewhat run-down buildings into a mixed land use of residence and restaurants while preserving their character and heritage.

Following the founding of the dockyard in 1690 vitualling of the fleet was based around Sutton Harbour and it was not until 1822 that it was decided to create as sixteen acre vitualling yard on the Hamoaze at

Stonehouse. The classical style buildings included slaughterhouse, brewery, and the mills and bakery which served until 1925 and were the largest such industrial site in Britain.

By the mid twentieth century the victualling was largely done elsewhere buildings were adapted or left to decay while some were used for weapons support. It was in 1992 that the Ministry of Defence handed the whole yard over and under the remit of the Plymouth Development Corporation ambitious plans were drawn for mixed use. These included prestige apartments as well as cafes and restaurants to allow public to access and enjoy this historic area, and how there two uses were made to be compatible Mr. Williams was able to

describe from personal experience in the city planning department.

In his vote of thanks society secretary Martin Lister commented on how two hundred years ago architects could create such pleasing industrial buildings, a talent seemingly since lost, how fortunate Plymouth was to have acquired such an attractive and historic quarter, and how fortunate the Old Cornwall Society was to have its history outlined by a member who had been so deeply involved in the restoration project,

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Cornwall Ban on Plastic by 2020

Cornwall Council has joined with local authorities, businesses, concerned groups and individuals across the country in showing its concern at plastic waste's effect on the environment.

A motion proposed by Councillor Jesse Foot that Cornwall Council will, wherever possible, phase out the use of all single use plastic from its entire estate by 2020, has been passed by full council. In addition Cornwall Council will urge all businesses with which it works, through procurement and other means, to encourage the banning of such single use plastics within their own business environments.

Water Saving in Local Loos

Water saving ('Hippo') bags are to be purchased for all public toilets administered by Saltash Town Council as a water conservation measure. The town's services committee agreed that the Grounds and Premises Warden carry out an audit to confirm the size of the cisterns, then buy and fit the appropriate Hippo bags.

The warden was also asked to carry out an audit on all public toilet taps and report back.

Sounds of Spring Bring Delight in Concert by Massed Musicians



To end a sunny Spring day in Saltash how could one improve upon crossing the park lined with blossom laden trees and with the sound of birdsong, and then to relax to the "Sounds of Spring" Concert relayed by the massed orchestra and chorus of the South West Philharmonia.

Wesley Church was packed for the concert organised by Sue Hooper in support of her Charitable Foundation to assist young people talented in the performing arts.

The orchestra under the baton of Marcus Alleyne opened fittingly with 'Dawn of a New Day' arranged by Cornishman Chris Northey who helped found the orchestra.

This was followed by the first of three local soloists who added variety to the mass music of choir and orchestra. Amelia Writer, aged 11, confidently made her singing debut in perfect pitch with her haunting 'Path to the Moon' followed by

'The Hills are Alive' as made famous by Julie Andrews who herself was once a child star.

Other soloists included Merryn Cocking, in her first year at Falmouth University and a talented trumpeter. A little known Mozart trumpet solo piece was followed by Cooper's 'By Trevone Bay', Merryn's instrument well evoking the beauty of the Cornish coastline.

In the second half Annie Sutcliffe celebrated centenarian Vera Lynn with three of her less and better known songs, inviting all to join her on the familiar White Cliff's of Dover.

The substantial orchestra exhibited their versatility in a variety of pieces from an instantly recognisable Pavane, to the striking solos and choruses of classic musical 'Les Mis' and 'Phantom'.

As the choir filed on to join them it seemed the file would never cease as eventually around ninety singers joined the forty or so players. The choir was accompanied on piano for part settings of favourites such as Moon River and Fields of Gold. They came together with

the orchestra for a dramatic first half finale of that noble hymn 'How Great Thou Art', and for the final finale an even more overpowering Battle Hymn of the Republic with strident brass solos and the full benefit of almost a hundred choir members joined in the last chorus by the audience.

This was the first occasion, Mrs Sue Hooper MBE told the enthralled audience, that the South West Philharmonia and Chorus had performed in Cornwall. The audience clearly agreed with her hope that it would not be the last.

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Essa Files

Over the Easter break my Mum and I took a trip together to India and it was, you will be unsurprised to hear, fantastic. The Taj Mahal was every bit as awesome as I expected, although still difficult to do justice to in words, and we had many great experiences from Tiger searching in Ranthambore national park, to donning traditional headgear to visit a Sikh temple in Delhi, to a rather unforgettable ride in a camel cart (which is recommended for the experience if not the comfort or dignity).

The subject of this column though was not part of the scheduled tour - on two of our travel days we were delayed and diverted by the 'Dalit protest' - several days of civil unrest resulting in at least six deaths and which took place very close to our route. The Dalit are better known to us as 'untouchables' - the lowest of India's Hindu Caste system, and in fact strictly speaking below the caste system; they traditionally performed jobs seen as 'soiling the soul' such as cleaning cess pits or preparing the dead for burial. Gandhi led a partially successful crusade to end caste-based discrimination but even these days - with discrimination legally outlawed and quotas for the number of Dalit MPs - there is still a lot of stigma. Marriage to a Dalit for example can still be seen as a family disgrace, and there's at least one recent case of a Dalit being killed for attending an event at which his 'kind' were considered unwelcome.

I can't claim to entirely follow the rights and wrongs of the protest, but it did make me think harder about the impact of social class in general, including close to home. Working class children in the UK still perform less well in education than their middle class peers, and in fact the last government introduced pupil premium funding precisely to try to tackle that issue. Equally the weddings of both Prince William and Harry to 'commoners' have provoked comment, despite both

the 'commoners' in question being well-educated successful women in their own right. I'm also aware that, even though my parents were neither 'posh' nor rich, coming from a middle class, education valuing background was probably a big part of why both my brother and I ended up 'doing well' in education, with all of the other life advantages that brings.

Whilst we might not have anything as explicit or rigid as a caste system in the UK, social class, and all the baggage that goes with it, is still very much in evidence. It does frankly seem a little bizarre in the 21st century that we still judge people by their social background - that we continue to accept pejorative class based insults like 'chav' as standard, or to adjust our expectations of peoples' intelligence or life chances based on their parentage - but those are still realities. Saltash has actually always struck me as a place that is relatively un-obsessed by class - a mentality of which I approve - but even so it's still an issue we need to be aware of, and to challenge our own and others' stereotypes of.

Adam Kileya

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Saltash Selected for 'Safer Cornwall' Crime Initiative

Saltash is one of ten Cornish towns to benefit from a 'Safer Cornwall' partnership in which crime and disorder issues in the town will be investigated with a view to new initiatives to make residents feel safer. Ten 'safer towns' in Cornwall were identified, with Saltash coming in tenth alongside Bude, but Saltash was the chosen tenth town, the Town Council was informed.

Local business people at Saltash Chamber of Commerce and Industry received a presentation from Lucy Allison, who will be working in partnership with local councils, the police, and other agencies in furthering the project, as community safety officer.

The ten 'safer towns' were identified based on crime figures and population, she explained. In fact Saltash came fourteenth on the list, headed by Bodmin, but was chosen on the basis of a town profile and

partly because of its closeness to Plymouth and perceived problems resulting from this.

Already residents have identified the major five problems as they see them. These are headed by environmental nuisance which covers anything from dog fouling to loud music. This followed, in order, by using and dealing in drugs, criminal damage, theft and vehicle related nuisance.

A survey has also shown that

16% of local children are living in poverty, as against 19% in Cornwall overall and 20% across England. One in 33 live in the 20% most depressed neighbourhoods in England and 19% of people have no qualifications.

The rate of crime is above average for similar towns in Cornwall, with 702 crimes reported over a year and 322 anti-social behaviour incidents. However, the rate of all recorded crime in Saltash town centre is low, well below the average for large towns in Cornwall, though the volume is increasing, especially regarding violence without injury and public order offences.

Anti-social behaviour is also below the average of large towns in Cornwall, with recorded incidents continuing to reduce. Street drinking in particular is significantly lower than the average for Cornish urban areas. A map showing alcohol related crime hotspots has been produced and includes, not surprisingly, Fore Street and Waterside but also the area around the Waitrose supermarket and various residential areas.

The Chamber of Commerce has agreed to support the Safer Saltash initiative and the Chairman, Peter Ryland, confirmed that he would attend the initial meeting on behalf of the Chamber.

College Building Becoming Apartments

A long empty building in Church Road is planned to be converted into ten new apartments.

The building, to the west of Church Road, formerly formed part of Saltash College, the main building, of which are opposite. It has long been redundant and developers have drawn up plans for the Management Centre to be converted to residential use with car parking, cycle and refuse storage facilities.

The Town Council has recommended approval for these plans subject to an acceptable revision of the bin location.

Latchbrook Park Refurbishment

The two large parks on Yellow Tor Road, Latchbrook, are to be refreshed by Cornwall Council, Councillor Sheila Lennox-Boyd told town councillors in her report on Cornwall Council to the annual town meeting.

Both parks will be cleaned and some of the existing play equipment will be refurbished. Other new equipment will be provided to replace that being removed.

This follows public consultation in the Latchbrook area as to which age groups should be catered for and what equipment should be provided. The equipment chosen received around 60% of the votes cast by local residents and it is planned that it will be installed in May.

Rame Peninsula Male Voice Choir



In the beginning of April, the rafters of St. Stephen's Church echoed to the haunting sounds of a male voice choir singing The Lord's Prayer. In an emotional concert that offered a wide range of music from Abba to Puccini, the Rame Peninsula Male Voice Choir and Keltique Ladies' Choir raised not only the spirits of the audience but also over £350, to be shared between the choirs and the Church.

Rame Peninsula Male Voice Choir has a spectacular track record in fundraising. After losing some members to cancer, the choir and many willing helpers have put body and soul into holding concerts, coffee mornings and auctions to raise money for diagnostic molecular

testing equipment at Derriford Hospital's Oncology Department. By December, the choir had managed to raise over £10,000. This is an astounding amount, but choir chairman Clive Brinkmann described it as "an interim payment", and the choir is continuing with their fundraising efforts, boosted by the Cornish Federation of Male Voice Choir who have picked up the cause. As recognition of their achievements, the Choir is just one of 3 groups in Cornwall who have been nominated for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. Now in its 42nd year, choir members hail from all walks of life, from fishing and the law, to journalism and farming. The only common denominator is a

love of music, which clearly shone through during the concert.

The concert is part of a series of fundraising events organised by the dedicated volunteer team at St Stephen's Church - coming up in next few months are an Evening with Cornish Author Liz Fenwick on 25th May, and a concert with the Rock Choir on 20th July.

Observer Telephone Numbers
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Email your copy to:
maryecrawford@hotmail.com

Situations Vacant

St Mellion Parish Council Vacancy for Parish Clerk

To Perform the Roles of Proper Officer & Responsible Financial Officer

Approx. 8 hours per week, salary in accordance with NALC/SLCC recommended rates (depending upon experience), employer pension scheme, home-based but with regular daytime and evening meetings in St Mellion and Cornwall.

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Letter to the Editor

"Following Cornwall Council's requirement for Saltash Tennis Centre to Tender for its continued usage of the site at Warfelton as a Tennis Club, there has been much speculation as to the outcome and its continuance. I can now gladly confirm that STC's Tender is being accepted by Cornwall Council and negotiations are on going for a long Lease. We can now look forward to the future with some confidence and plan long overdue infrastructure upgrades in association with the LTA and other partners."
Chris Cansfield (Chairman)
01752-851403

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<p>Sat 19th May 9am-5pm (£10) Devon County Show Exeter</p> <p>Sun 20th May 11am-4pm (£8) Lunch @ Trethorn Golf club</p> <p>Tue 22nd May 11am-5pm (£9) Dart's Farm & Topsham</p> <p>Mon 28th May 11am-4pm (£5) Bank Holiday Lunch St Elizabeth House Plympton</p> <p>Thur 31st May 10am -5pm (£10) Trip to Sidmouth</p>	<p>Mon 4th June 2pm - 5pm (£6) Trago Mills & Newton Abbot</p> <p>Thu 7th June 8.30 - 6pm (£10) & Sat 9th June 8.30 - 6pm (£10) Royal Cornwall Show</p> <p>Sun 10th June 10am -4pm (£12) Sunday Lunch at the Royal Duchy Hotel plus visit Falmouth</p> <p>Wed 13th June 10am-5pm (£11) Bickleigh - Lunch at the Fisherman's Cot by the River Exe Tiverton Canal Barge</p> <p>Sun 24th June 11am - 5pm (£7) Cowslip Café Launceston Alder Vineyard</p> <p>Tue 26th June 10am -5pm (£11) Bude and Bude Canal Fri 29th June 6.30 pm Evening Hog roast @ Landulph Details later</p>
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We are very sorry to announce that as from 1st June 2018 our Derriford service will discontinue. We have tried our very best to keep this service going for the last 16 months, but due to the lack of support around our midday services it has proved unsustainable. We apologise particularly to all our loyal customers that have supported us.

All prices exclude food & admissions
[http:// communityenterprisespl12.co.uk](http://communityenterprisespl12.co.uk)

To book a seat please call in our office @ 4 Fore St, Saltash or call **01752 848348**.
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