

Sat 7th December
Saltash Christmas Festival
Special Edition

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER



Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

November 2013 - Issue 256

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Crunch Time For Cornwall

We are approaching the critical time of the year when Cornwall Council must set a budget for 2014/15, the first of four years when savings totalling £196 million need to be made in order to balance the budget (which is legally obligatory). Yes, £196 million – Cornwall is the second largest unitary authority in the UK with a budget of about £530 million, so you can see the magnitude of the necessary savings.

Can it be done? Yes, but only at the inevitable cost of cutting down many front-line services such as adult social care, environment, highways maintenance and the library

service. Some services will also be charged. It is often forgotten that Cornwall Council actually saved over £170 million over the last few years – the Cory waste contract alone, which started so badly, but now runs well, will save £17 million over the separate contracts of the six former district councils. Many staff were also made redundant. But all the obvious "easy" cuts have already been made.

At Cornwall Council last Tuesday, a motion for preparation of a budget based on a 6% increase in council tax (which I supported) was defeated by 79:33. Therefore it is now almost certain that we shall see an increase of 1.97% in



CORNWALL
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and our PL12 community

For Observer readers

From Councillor Joe Ellison

council tax, and the full range of service cuts. Why 1.97%? Because in order to impose a more realistic tax increase greater than that, the Government would force Cornwall to hold a (very expensive) referendum.

To put it in perspective, a Band D tax increase will be about 44p per week. 6% would have been an increase of about £1.45 per week, with about £9 million less in service cuts.

Cabinet member Alex Folkes has toured the county from West to East in public local meetings, to the extent that he lost his voice, setting out the hard options. Despite this and lots of publicity for public suggestions, attendance at the meetings was pathetically low (with Saltash as an honourable exception).

When the issues are so serious, why are the general public so apathetic? It's the same with falling turnout for elections, and many unfilled vacancies for councillors throughout the county. The four

divisions of Saltash had voting turnouts of between 25 and 34% only. It seems that public engagement is minimal beforehand, but that complaints are abundant afterwards!

However, we should all apportion the blame were it truly belongs – on the Coalition Government, and the corpulent Mr Pickles. The Government will reduce revenue grant support to Cornwall by 30% over the next four years, and, to add insult to injury, rural counties like Cornwall receive only about £90 per head, compared to say, Merseyside, which gets £160 per head. Our MPs have been notably silent on campaigning to redress the Rural Fair Share issue.

Cornwall Council now has a new Chief Executive, Andrew Kerr, who has a good track record in executive positions in Tyneside and Wales, most recently as Chief Executive in Cardiff. He will take up his post (at considerably less salary than Kevin Lavery, I'm pleased to report!) in January, just in time to get his share of the unpopularity as the cuts are implemented.

This month I visited Newquay Airport, which will lose its Gatwick daily service next year.

To many people, the £3+ million subsidy to the Airport is one of the obvious targets for cuts. However, few realise that this would trigger repayments of up to £30 million of EU subsidies. Cornwall is now hoping to get a national PSO government subsidy to maintain the service, in line with other remote regions like the Highlands and Islands.

Anyway enough of the doom and gloom. Christmas is coming, even if it may be more modest than usual, and Clare and I are looking forward to visiting my son Ben and his family in Germany. Ben is in the Army, and has just been promoted from a dream posting in USA where he was living in Las Vegas. We are looking forward to German Christmas markets and our first trip on Eurostar to Brussels!

Cornwall Councillor Joe Ellison

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Continental Style Christmas Market

The fun and excitement of a continental style Christmas Market will be shared by Saltash this December as darkness descends and Fore Street is lit by a line of stalls selling seasonal gifts, food and drink, and much more.

The street will become a pedestrian haven for the evening of Saturday 7th December between 4.30 and 7.30 p.m. Last year's popular craft fairs in Victoria Gardens and Keast Mews will be moved on to Fore Street allowing space for stalls so shoppers can explore their wares while also visiting the local shops which will then be fully stocked for Christmas.

There should be many original ideas for Christmas gifts among the arts and craft stalls lining the street, and the stalls selling warm mulled wine, roasted chestnuts, soup and other snacks will help keep out the winter chill. With live entertainment and snow along the way and finishing with a firework display Saltash's very own Christmas Market promises to be a wonderful way of getting into the seasonal spirit while solving some pressing present problems for family and friends.

If you wish to have a stall and have not already booked please check with the Guildhall to see if any spaces are still available.

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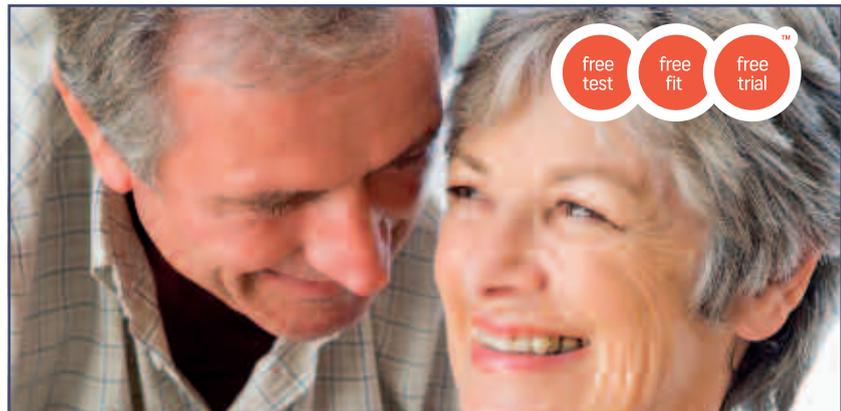
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Local Shops Must Pull Together As Superstores Open and Expand

New Superstores opening and existing ones seeking permission to extend their ranges in direct competition with the town is a growing threat to Saltash town centre.

This is the concern of the Saltash and District Chamber of Commerce who have noted empty pavements on weekdays and at weekends following the opening of a new superstore at Carkeel and traffic blocking the roundabout leading to it and the adjacent Callington Road. "I walked down Fore Street on the Saturday and the Monday and it was dead", said Chamber Secretary Peter Dickerson. There were further applications, the chamber heard, for a change of use for an existing superstore to extend its range of non-food items that it is prohibited from selling under current planning permission. Another national concern is extending to bring a large DIY business to Carkeel where Tesco are still anticipating to move in alongside the two existing food supermarkets.

Meanwhile small shops in and around Fore Street, most of which are owned and run by local families, established for many years, are threatened by the focus of local shopping moving over to Carkeel, the Chamber of Commerce believes. They fear that the town will lose its heart and local families their livelihoods

unless town centre businesses pull together with the full support of local councillors. They are urging local businesses to come together and fight for the survival of Fore Street as a vibrant hub of the community.

"We have some lovely local shops friendly shopkeepers who care for their customers, and every pound spent in these shops remain in the town and aids the local economy", said Chamber Chairman William Cotton. "If we wish to retain Saltash as a real community, alive and thriving, we must continue to patronise our local businesses and these businesses must work together with the Chamber to ensure their survival."

In Case of Emergency

Areas of the town and surrounding areas which are low lying are encouraged to set up neighbourhood emergency plans. A meeting held in the Guildhall on Community Emergency Planning in Cornwall suggested that these should be on a restricted area basis. In Saltash, they could include areas such as Forder, Latchbrook, Waterside and Notter. Town Councillors were asked to encourage local residents in such areas to set up such emergency plans.

Emergency Planning for a major accident in the Saltash tunnel has already been put into effect with the tunnel having, in the past, been closed for a practice run of the emergency operation. The Guildhall is designated a reception centre for this and other local emergencies, with other emergency centres being identified round the town.

Essa Files

I was very fortunate this month to get to see two excellent plays in the space of a few days. The first, at saltash.net, was an adaption of 'Enemy of the people' played by a combination of professionals (including Rupert Holiday-Evans who has been on Doctor Who amongst other things) and our own very impressive A Level drama students.

It also included a shady conniving double dealing Mayor who didn't at all remind me of any local politicians who I know. The second, rather less thought provoking but a very entertaining romp, was 'A Midsummer Night's 'Dream in the West End, with David Walliams of 'Little Britain' and other shows.

Theatre does of course share much in common with politics - the tendency of some of the characters to play to the gallery, the importance of saying the right thing at the right time, and the dangers of being booed if your performance is not quite up to snuff are all shared challenges.

Perhaps the key similarity though is that just as a play cannot function without a cast, crew and audience all playing their part and pulling in the same direction, so the council cannot function without the councillors, staff and residents doing the same. One of the reasons Saltash Town Council has enjoyed a successful 'run' in recent years is that everyone has worked together for the good of the whole 'production' - we have suffered from no prima donnas, no staff revolts, and fortunately no rotten tomatoes from the public either.

This was particularly brought home to me this month by preparations for the Christmas Festival - an event very ably led by one councillor (the self-effacing 'director' of this particular show, who prefers not to be named) but which could not

take place without a lot of hard work from other individuals, businesses and organisations and the attendance of so many residents: it literally has a cast of thousands, but fortunately not a budget of millions. This year it has an added layer of complexity from the fact that the event itself kicks off 'Saltash Shopping Week' - a week of free parking, entertainment in the street and free competitions. I hope to see you all there for the 'opening night' on 7th December!

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Support your Local Shops this Christmas!

The outdoor Christmas Market along Fore Street on 7th December will herald the start of Saltash Shopping Week. Both Fore Street and Keast Mews offer a massive variety of shops with hundreds of gifts ideas, from art to food to DIY to books, and much more besides. And with shops running special Christmas promotions there is even more reason to be shopping in Saltash this festive season.

During Saltash Shopping Week parking will be FREE every day from 10am. It will also be FREE to park in town centre car parks every Saturday up to March.

Take part in the daily draw, where every customer who makes a purchase in a participating store gets a chance to win £25 cash. Or search for the object that doesn't belong in the shop window in the 'Odd One Out' competition. (Pick up an entry form from a participating store.)

Daily free entertainment will offer a wide variety of music, including Saltash Town Band, Steve Blake, Western Approach Close Harmony Chorus, Jude and Diddle Buskers

Community Christmas Chorus



One and all are invited to participate in this year's Saltash Christmas Festival by raising their voices together as part of the Saltash Community Christmas Chorus.

No previous musical training or experience is necessary and no need to read music. Any child or adult who would like to sing out familiar carols to the community in order to welcome Christmas to Saltash is asked to attend just one rehearsal. This will be held on Friday 29th November at 7.30 p.m. in the Wesley Church at the top of Fore Street. The rehearsal is free but participants are asked to register in advance at the Guildhall (01752 844846).

The Chorus will be invited to join the Civic Parade, behind Father Christmas, the Mayor and Saltash Town Band, to leave the Guildhall at 5.30p.m. on Saturday 7th December and make the streets of the town echo to the sound of carols as Saltash once again welcomes in the festive season.

This is a new event which it is hoped may become a regular Christmas fixture in the Saltash calendar so come along and give it a go!

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From The Mayor's Parlour...

First a piece of really good news, Saltash has won two awards in the Cornwall in Bloom competition, "Full Bloom" and "Town Centre". Can I say a big thank you to everyone involved in this magnificent achievement. These awards are recognition of the huge amount of work that has been put in by many people to give us a floral display we can be proud of and which greatly improves the appearance of the town.

For the remainder of this edition I will be talking about dealing with waste. The most commonly used mantra when talking about dealing with waste is Reduce Reuse Recycle.

Reduce. "Reduce" means using fewer resources in the first place, for example less packaging. This is the most effective of the three R's when dealing with waste and the place to begin. It is, however, for the individual, the hardest to carry out because packaging is largely in the hands of the supplier.

Reuse. Before you recycle or dispose of anything, consider whether it has life left in it. As example a jam jar can store leftovers, an opened envelope can become a shopping list, DVDs can be used as bird scarers. Reusing keeps new resources from being used for a while longer, and reduces waste.

Recycle. Recycling is the "R" that has caught on the best. Partly, this is because kerbside recycling is relatively easy. What keeps it from being the total answer, for the disposing of

all plastics for example, that we would all like it to be is the fact that Cornwall Council can only recycle materials for which there is a market.

So, why should we recycle? Even if we have no views on protecting the environment the costs of disposing of rubbish make a powerful argument. So how much does it cost?

I have taken some figures from the Cornwall Council website which give a good summary.

Every working day Cornwall Council sends about 555 tonnes of rubbish (about 80 lorry loads) to landfill.

According to Cornwall Council figures it costs around £185 per tonne to collect and dispose of a tonne of rubbish. So, in Cornwall we are spending over £100,000 every working day just to throw away our rubbish, that's over £26,000,000 every year. However, to collect and recycle a tonne of rubbish only costs around £110

Most recent estimates are that a minimum 25% of the rubbish that goes to landfill could be recycled using the existing household recycling system. So every day Cornwall Council is spending over £25,000 on landfill items such as paper, cardboard, glass and plastic bottles, tins, cans and textiles that could be recycled, saving Cornwall over £10,000 a day, that's over £2,500,000 every year that could be saved if we all used the kerbside recycling service.

Just a final thought however high the costs of collecting,

FREE PARKING for Saltash Shopping Week

The Christmas Festival which will fill Saltash with the seasonal spirit on 7th December heralds a full seven days when the town will show what it has to offer residents and visitors. Saltash Shopping Week aims to showcase the town's businesses and especially the wide variety of small, locally-owned shops where customer care is still to the fore.

Fore Street shops will encourage shoppers into the town with free parking all the week in the town centre car parks. This is in addition to the free Saturday parking, which attracts shoppers from a wide area into Saltash, and which will continue through until March 2014.

Live music and other street entertainment is being planned to add to the pleasure of strolling down our friendly street and enjoying the window displays, many with a special seasonal theme. And to add to the fun there will be a free daily draw with a substantial cash prize. Call into any participating shop and pick up a ticket with every purchase. Each participant will be entered into the draw with a £25 prize each day of the week.

transporting and disposing of rubbish are they are far outweighed by the effects of fly-tipping and littering. These cause problems because they pose a threat to the environment and human health; they are unsightly and can affect local business prosperity. After all what is the point of providing floral displays to attract visitors if the memory they take home with them is a rubbish strewn countryside and streets covered with litter. Sometimes the best thing we can do for our town is as simple as putting our litter in a bin.

*Cllr David Yates
Town Mayor*

Saltash is always a good place to shop away from the packed pavements and high parking charges elsewhere. With a week's free parking and a variety of entertainment and other promotions Saltash

Shopping Week promises to be an extra reason for doing one's seasonal shopping in the town. But beware of lingering too long under the hanging baskets: there is mistletoe in them...

Get Involved with the Saltash Christmas Festival!

Sing in the Community Christmas Chorus

We are trying to get a huge crowd of people to sing the carols when the lights are switched on. There is just one, fun rehearsal, which is in the Wesley Church on Friday 29th November from 7:30pm. Anyone of any voice or age is welcome. No musical expertise necessary, but please contact Saltash Guildhall in advance to register your interest. (Tel: 01752 844846)

Help with the Lantern Parade

Help us make the Lantern Parade a signature, community event in the Saltash calendar by joining our group of Lantern Parade volunteers. You'll be helping at workshops, stewarding, promoting the Parade and making happy memories. Contact Saltash Guildhall for details. (Tel: 01752 844846)

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- Dec 10 Maybrook Mobile
- Dec 12 Pollards Way Mobile
- Dec 13 Lidl Static
- Dec 14 Fore Street Static
- Dec 15 Waitrose Static
- Dec 16 Latchbrook East Mobile
- Dec 17 Lynher Drive Mobile
- Dec 18 Garden Centre Static
- Dec 19 Fore St Static
- Dec 20 Lidl Static
- Dec 21 Waitrose Static Late Shift 2-8
- Dec 22 Waitrose Static
- Dec 23 Waitrose Static
- Dec 24 Waitrose Static

The sound of Santa's bell ringing out above the sound of traditional carols is in Saltash a sure sign that Father Christmas is on his way and will soon be skimming across the rooftops bearing gifts.

It is a well-loved local tradition that Saltash Rotarians



provide a Santa, together with a sleigh, to bring the festive spirit to our streets and to other popular venues during the weeks leading up to Christmas. So popular have his visits been that Rotary have in recent years had to build Santa a new sleigh. He will be touring the town as well as stopping outside stores, including Fore Street, as shown below. Please return

Father Christmas's cheery greeting, and he will be especially pleased if you are able to place in the tin of his helpers a generous contribution towards the Saltash Rotary Club's deserving local causes.



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Sat 30th Thomas Ford

December
Christmas Eve Tuesday 24th BlueTrane
Tues 3rd Martin Dale Tues 10th Jazz Trio Tues 17th Louise
Fri 6th Hungry Beans Fri 13th The Organisation
Fri 20th Banana Thieves Fri 27th Barracudas
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Santas on Bikes Support the 'messy art room' at Little Harbour



Those who visit Fore Street in the morning of the Christmas Festival may behold an unusual seasonal sight. Around two hundred Santas, having substituted motor cycles for their sleighs, will be roaring up Fore Street at around 10:45 a.m. These Santas on motorbikes will be diverting through the town en route from Plymouth to St. Austell during their very seasonal task of delivering toys and other gifts to the young residents of the children's Hospice at Little Harbour. This is the hospice for which local women raised over £30,000 during their Moonlight Memory Walk from Longstone Park, as reported in last month's Observer.

All Saltash residents will have the opportunity to help these terminally ill children this Christmas season when, again on a biker theme, members of the Brotherhood of the Third Wheel ride their trikes into Fore Street during the Christmas Festival evening. A favourite focus of the children in the hospice is their 'messy art room' and the bikers will be collecting donations of art materials to add to their fun. All are invited to donate arty items

such as paper, pens, paint, glitter, or crayons - any art materials that will enhance the Christmas fun of the hospice families. Proceeds from the Santa's Grotto in For Saltash at the bottom of Fore Street will also be going to Little Harbour.

Another biking group who put their two wheels to charitable purpose, the Freewheelers will also be stationed on Fore Street in the evening of the Festival. We recently reported on how this group lined the Tamar Bridge with bikes in memory of local rider Adam Smart, a Freewheeler who lost his life at Carkeel this summer while enjoying his favourite pastime riding his motorcycle. The Freewheelers will be in Saltash once again to remember Adam and to publicise their vital work rushing blood and other medical needs through Cornwall to where they are urgently required. Local bikers will be adding a vroom factor to this year's Saltash Christmas Festival while seeking to help others in the true Christmas spirit.

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Local Talent to Provide Festival Entertainment

As Fore Street's Pedestrian Haven converts into an exciting Christmas Market lined with stalls packed with products suitable for the coming season, including food and drink, there will also be a feast of entertainment for shoppers and browsers to enjoy.

This year the street entertainment will concentrate on local talent and in particular our young people. Our own long established Youngstagers can always be guaranteed to put on live entertainment for all seasons and these vibrant and enthusiastic young people will again be to the fore in Fore Street.

Last year's Christmas Festival saw the debut of a newly formed youth group, Page 2 Stage. Having consolidated during the year for their greatly acclaimed Summer Show they are once again eager to entertain the Christmas crowds with their own lively street entertainment. And by way of contrast traditional morris dancing will be performed by a side from Tideford, the Cat's Eye Morris Dancers.

The youngest residents, always looking for new members, so do call in and say hello if you're interested in getting involved. Don't forget to visit the Friday Food Market on the day before the Lights Festival as it will have an especially festive flavour. The regular food producers will be bringing the best of their seasonal fare, so look out for specially selected hampers, turkeys and ducks direct from the farm, a variety of vegetables, fruit, eggs, fish and much more. The Tartendown Nurseries team is working hard to ensure there will be plenty of Christmas trees on Fore Street as well as the usual selection of high quality plants. If you want to be sure of getting a tree in to the food market - Dawn will be happy to take your order for collection nearer to Christmas.

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Relax in a Christmassy Atmosphere as Saltash Shops Prepare for the Festive Season

Our friendly, largely locally-owned Saltash shops with their constant welcome and with owners and staff who are ever eager to please their customers and cater for local needs are a pleasure to visit at any time of the year.

It is however at Christmas that they really come into their own. While most of us were enjoying those hot hazy summer days (yes, we really had them this year!) local shops already had their Christmas plans in preparation. Now we can enjoy the results of their foresight as shops are stocked with a wide variety of seasonal products, food and drink that may be that little bit different and special. And it is away from the busy city stores that one can relax in a Christmassy atmosphere and

examine a myriad of ideas for special gifts for loved ones, stocked by shopkeepers who know their stock and can



offer helpful suggestions and advice. This year Saltash shops

have been invited to join in the theme of "Christmas Colours" and many will have their special window displays ready for judging. The Chamber of Commerce Cup will as ever be awarded to the best dressed window and once again the Chamber has agreed that the judging should be carried out by local children representing the town's primary schools. These children will be touring all the shops and we are advised that last year they all took their responsibility extremely seriously.

Whether it is during the day of the Christmas Festival, Saturday 7th December, during the Saltash Shopping Week from 7th to 14th December, or at any time during the run up to the Big Day, search out the Saltash shops, avoid congested streets, inflated parking fees and packed pavements, and rediscover the joy of Christmas shopping in a traditional town centre where customers are made welcome.

As they reach the centre of Fore Street, which this year will be the focus of the Festival, the



A Grand Christmas Parade Led by Father Christmas

It is one of the most eagerly awaited moments in the Saltash year, a tradition as keenly anticipated and enjoyed by the youngest child as well as the most senior citizens. As darkness falls on the early December evening Saltash Town Band will strike up and the grand Christmas Parade will set off from the Guildhall up a Fore Street lined with lively Christmas Market stalls, the procession led by Father Christmas himself in a sleigh kindly lent him by Saltash Rotary.

He will be followed by the Mayor and other civic leaders in full regalia parading to the music of the Saltash Town Band, now once again a lively and vibrant group of musicians building a growing following.

The band in turn will be followed by the Saltash Community Christmas Chorus, an assembly of young and old singers with mixed musical experience, but all eager to raise their voices together in welcoming Christmas to Saltash. The Chorus will be directed by Neil Bailey, well known in the town and an 'old Youngstager', former member of the town's youth drama and music group.

As they reach the centre of Fore Street, which this year will be the focus of the Festival, the

procession will halt by the rostrum and the countdown will begin to the switch on of the Christmas lights. The town's Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year, Brian Whipp and Aaron Bezat, will be invited to press the switch which will illuminate the street with its glittering lines of lights, creating a spectacular sight leading up to the tree in Victoria Gardens.

This year Pirate FM will be participating and their presenter will assist in the countdown as the popular regional radio station broadcasts live from Fore Street.

Once the lights are on the traditional open air Mayor's carol service will be led by the Mayor's

Chaplain, the Rev. Gordon Cryer, with Saltash Town Band and the Community Chorus accompanying townsfolk and visitors in their carol singing.

Then under the newly lit lights there will be time to walk the brightly illuminated streets, look in the shop windows, and relish the Christmas spirit while anticipating the fast approaching festive season, once again welcomed in traditional style to Saltash. But there is further seasonal magic to anticipate as soon the Parade of Lanterns and Firework Display will add more colourful illuminations and fun to the Festival evening.

Lantern Parade brings Christmas Magic to the Festival

Last year's Lantern Parade, with its long line of children and adults bearing aloft the gaily decorated illuminations created at local workshops, was an acclaimed highlight of the Christmas festivities.

Well, it is happening again! After the lights have been switched on and the carol service is over the lively Cornish folk music played

Home, and Saltash Rugby Club will be carrying a giant rugby ball, with other mega lanterns being anticipated.



And once the Lantern Parade has brought its own Christmas magic to those who line Fore Street the Saltash skies will light up as the

Christmas Festival finishes with a firework display created by the same company that brought us the spectacular fireworks a few years back.

As the Christmas Festival, and in particular the Lantern Parade, continues to grow and to include more events there is a growing need for helpers to spread the amount of work that needs to be done to bring these celebrations to Saltash. It involves a lot of work, even more fun and tremendous satisfaction. Anyone wishing to join in and become involved in making Saltash Christmas Festival 2014 a success is asked to leave their details at Saltash Guildhall in person or by telephone (01752 844846).

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Church Bedecked with Christmas Trees

Our ancient parish church bedecked with Christmas trees decorated by our many local clubs and organisations is a feast to behold and a beautiful welcome for one and all into the Christmas season. The St. Nicholas and St. Faith Church Christmas Tree Festival continues to expand and now in its seventh year the over sixty trees are expected to bedeck it. Schools, youth groups, clubs and societies all vie to create the most finely decorated tree to be wondered at by those who come to enjoy the Festival in the ancient heart of the town.



This year the Festival will run from Saturday 30th November to Friday 13th December. On the opening Saturday the church will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and the following Saturday 7th December to co-incide with the Saltash Christmas Festival, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. On other days it will be open from 3p.m. to 6p.m. Admission is £1.50, accompanied children free, and there is easy access for the disabled. On Sunday 8th December the Ladies Choir will perform a concert at 5 p.m. On both Saturdays hand bell ringers will be performing throughout the day, there will be refreshments available and on 7th December there will be Christmas stalls in the adjacent church rooms until around 3 p.m.

Fun for all the Family Saturday 7th December

10am - 8pm	Christmas Tree Fair in St. Nicholas & St. Faith Church
10-45	Convoy of Santas on motorbikes rides up Fore Street
2:00 - 7:30	Elriotts Museum and Saltash Heritage Museum open
4:30 - 7:30	Pedestrian Haven and Christmas Market on Fore Street
4:30 - 7:30	Music from Catseye Morris dancers, Youngstagers and Page 2 Stage
4:30 - 7:30	Blood Bikes and Fire Engine on Fore Street
4:30 - 6:30	Christmas Decoration Craft Table run by SEA in the Brunel Inn
5:30	Civic Parade leaves Guildhall and goes up Fore Street, led by Saltash Town Band & Father Christmas
5:40	Saltash Citizen & Young Citizen of the Year switch on Christmas Lights
6pm - 7:30	Santa's Grotto in For Saltash, at bottom of Fore Street (Proceeds to Little Harbour, the children's hospice near St. Austell)
7pm	Lantern Parade processes up Fore Street, led by the Rubber Band
7:20	Fireworks, visible from Fore Street

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Road Closures for Christmas Festival Saturday 7th December 2013

Fore Street will be closed to traffic from 15:00 until 20:30. Diversions will be signed along North Road (B3271), Glebe Avenue and Callington Road.

From 15:00 until 20:30 King Edward Road will be one-way heading North from the junction with Victoria Road to Fore Street (towards the roundabout), and one-way heading South from the junction with Victoria Road to Essa Road (away from the roundabout). This is to ease congestion at the roundabout at the top of Fore Street.

Wesley Road will also be shut completely from 15:00 until 20:30.

Anyone wishing to take a taxi or be dropped off is asked to go to the bottom of Fore Street, where there will be a designated drop-off/pickup zone. Vehicles will be moved on within 5 minutes, although taxis and buses will be able to wait for longer. A no-stopping zone will be enforced at the roundabout at the top of Fore Street as well as at the junctions where Fore Street meets St. Stephen's Road and Callington Road.

Public transport will be in operation on the day, but will be diverted onto North Road, where services will use stops along North Road.

Parking will be free in all town centre car parks. Please note that the following roads will have a no parking zone enforced all day: St. Stephen's Road (between Fore Street and Dunheved Road), Callington Road (between Fore Street and Longstone Park), Glebe Avenue (entirety), Belle Vue Road (east side of the road), North Road (east side of the road), Essa Road (north side of the road) and King Edward Road (entirety). We strongly recommend using public transport, or getting to the Festival early.

Any issues or queries on the day, please feel free to ask a member of the Air Training Corps who will be overseeing the traffic management operation and will be wearing high visibility. All information can be found by visiting <http://www.335.org.uk/index.php/events>.

If you wish to speak to the Tasking & Traffic Management Co-ordinator in advance, please contact Chris Tandy using the Saltash Guildhall number: 01752 844846.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused, but hope you will extend your co-operation in making this community festival a success.

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The Immigration Bill had its second reading in the Commons recently. This marks another important step in the Government's work to clear up the mess we inherited from Labour, by building an immigration system which is fair to hard-working people and legal immigrants, while cracking down on those who are here illegally.

As things stand, it is too easy for people to live and work in the UK illegally and take advantage of our public services. The appeals system is like a never-ending game of snakes and ladders, with almost 70,000 appeals heard every year. The winners are foreign criminals and immigration lawyers - while the losers are the victims of these crimes and the public. It is too difficult to get rid of people with no right to be here.

This is not fair to the British public and it is not fair to legitimate immigrants who want to come and contribute to our society and economy. The Immigration Bill will stop immigrants using public services where they are not entitled to do so, reduce the pull factors which encourage people to come to the UK, and make it easier to remove people who should not be here.

Specifically, the Immigration Bill will make it easier to identify illegal immigrants by extending powers; to collect and check fingerprints; to search for passports; to implement embarkation controls and to examine the status and

SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...

credibility of migrants seeking to marry or enter into a civil partnership.

The Bill will also make it easier to remove and deport illegal immigrants by cutting the number of decisions that can be appealed from 17 to 4 - preserving appeals for those asserting fundamental rights; extending the number of non-suspensive appeals - where there is no risk of serious irreversible harm, we should deport foreign criminals first and hear their appeal later, ensuring the courts have regard to Parliament's view of what the public interest requires when considering Article 8 of the European Court of Human Rights in immigration cases; and restricting the ability of immigration detainees to apply repeatedly for bail if they have previously been refused it.

Finally the Bill will make it more difficult for illegal immigrants to live in the UK by requiring private landlords

to check the immigration status of their tenants, to prevent those with no right to live in the UK from accessing private rented housing, making it easier for the Home Office to recover unpaid civil penalties, introducing a new requirement for temporary migrants who have only a time-limited immigration status to make a contribution to the National Health Service, prohibiting banks from opening current accounts for migrants identified as being in the UK unlawfully, by requiring banks to check against a database of known immigration offenders before opening accounts and introducing new powers to check driving licence applicants' immigration status before issuing a licence and revoking licences where immigrants are found to have overstayed in the UK.

The Home Office has produced a series of factsheets that cover the detail of each of the measures in the Immigration Bill. These can be accessed online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-bill> and I hope they will help my constituents to understand the Bill.

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Counterfeit Cash Passed in Fore Street - But Crime Still Falling

Shoppers and shopkeepers have been warned by local police to watch out for counterfeit cash after four cases of counterfeit money being passed were reported from Fore Street. Sergeant Christopher Chilcott advised that the ten pound notes passed in were faded, of different texture to real notes, and fairly easily identified.

Crime overall however had more than halved from the equivalent period last year with 48 offences reported as against 111 during the same month last year. This was largely because of a rash of vehicle crime last year, greatly reduced after a number of arrests were made.

Offences over the past month this year, as well as the counterfeit money passed, included one of intent to supply drugs in Fore Street, two of drug possession at the railway station which local PCSO's located, and an alleged rape involving an acquaintance of the suspect. There were also fourteen thefts, nine criminal damage, twelve assaults and three public order offences. There were three breaches of the communications act reported, generally of sending offensive message, two burglaries, and two of drink driving.

Sergeant Chilcott told the town council that the Police were working with the families of the two local young men tragically killed when their vehicle left the A38 at Whity Cross near Trematon. The Mayor added the Council's condolences to the families of Lee Skeldon and Christopher Williams.

Yellow Lines for Problem Parking Area

The "unwritten rule" not to park cars opposite each other in residential roads is being largely ignored in Saltash, causing problems for passing drivers and possible danger for emergency vehicles access, a resident of Deer Park told the Town Council.

He picked out in particular Hillside Road, Glebe Avenue, and Old Ferry Road as areas of concern.

Hillside Road had already been identified as a problem area by County Councillor Derek Holley who had carried out consultation with local residents. As a result he had persuaded Cornwall Council to put yellow lines along one side of the road near to Glebe Avenue. Funding for such matters had run out before this could be done but it is on the programme for action when funds allow.

The lower part of Glebe Avenue towards North Road does present a problem, Councillor Holley confirmed. Most properties had no garage or parking space and many local families now had two cars. Putting double yellow lines along one side of the road might help but would simply push the parking problem elsewhere.

Fire authorities had spoken to Councillor Holley and confirmed that they could access properties in the area if required shunting vehicles if they had to, gaining access from the other end of the road and utilising their long hoses from a distance away.

Contentious! Tolls Across the Tamar!

Do you know I can't remember a time when the tolls across the Tamar were not contentious. Certainly I was very small, my Dad used to complain about being charged at all!

He swore blind that the tolls were only supposed to be in-forced until the cost of the bridge was paid for and the only reason why we tolls were imposed at all was because the government of the day didn't want to pay for a bridge. So Plymouth and Saltash Councils raised the funds for the bridge and the tolls were the way to pay it back. I'm not sure that was entirely the case but many years on it would seem that we again face more charges for our regular commute across the bridge.

Cllr Bob Austin explained to me that with increased costs and falling revenue the committee that oversees management of the bridge and ferry had not choice but to recommend an increase fees in order to stem the losses. The question is, should an 80p charge per month be the best way to pay for it?

Apparently, part of the problem is that more locals then expected took up the TAG system and then only use it occasionally. This was compounded by a drop in overall traffic which lowered the overall revenue. The 80p per month aims to tackle both issues and I can see why you could reach that conclusion. However personally I think if we do have to raise additional money we should put up charges for the casual non tag

users, rather than the locals who use the bridge as a lifeline.

But actually we need to think beyond that, I believe the additional cost of crossing the bridge could be a real barrier to job opportunities in Saltash. Why, for example, if you were setting up a business would you look at our side of the water when you know every bit of freight will cost you that bit more because it crosses the bridge? This may be only be a small factor, but it cant help.

I think it is about time that my fathers rant became the truth and we pushed the Government to adopt the bridge and make it toll free, and invest in a second crossing (I believe a tunnel has always been the preferred solution) for Torpoint to open up opportunities there.

Sadly South East Cornwall is one of the poorest areas in Cornwall. So we need a transport infrastructure that helps not hinders progress. One thing is for sure I will be knocking on doors and bending ears until we can get a solution that works, instead of just making us pay for living on the right side of the bridge.

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Mike and Joan Bring more Seasonal Magic to 'The Ploughboy'

It will soon be the third Christmas which Mike and Joan have enjoyed at the "Ploughboy Inn". The ancient Burraton hostelry, which until recently was bedecked with such flowers as to win it an area award for the second year in 2013 as "Pub in Bloom" will soon be similarly bedecked inside with decorations to include the renowned Ploughboy Christmas tree. "I absolutely love Christmas and always go mad with the decorations" Joan admits.



The Ploughboy's reputation as a seasonal venue has grown over the past two Christmas's and Mike and Joan are anticipating that their third could be the busiest ever. They have prepared a special seasonal menu to cater for all tastes from traditional turkey and trimmings to full alternatives including equally tasty vegetarian dishes. Bookings are already coming in for lunchtime and evening, and the spacious dining room is expected to fill as Christmas approaches with couples, families and work colleagues out to share that special meal together. The two function rooms, available at no extra charge, ensure that larger family groups or parties of fellow workers can socialise in private while enjoying a personally prepared sit down meal or sumptuous buffet at lunchtime or evening. Joan will be delighted to discuss a special menu to suit individual tastes for any party.

Christmas Day itself will once again be a very special occasion at the Ploughboy as Mike and Joan welcome those who have pre-booked a dinner to ensure the very finest of

festive feasts, with no preparation or washing up afterwards. The friendly ambience of these Christmas dinners has ensured that regulars return to share with Mike and Joan, during the build up to Christmas and on the day itself, that very special seasonal magic that the Ploughboy offers at Joan's favourite time of the year.

A Flavoursome Feast for all the Family

So popular are the family friendly meals, served for extended hours at sensible prices, that the "Ploughboy" kitchen had to be refurbished last winter to help speed service to hungry and eager families.

Now Chef John is well established in his enhanced kitchen and able to ensure that families which appreciate the separate dining area, away from the bar, can receive speedy service from the extensive menu. As well as selecting their own favourite foods children can have fun in a choice of indoor and outdoor play areas. The opening of the restaurant at 5 p.m. on weekdays, with food served until 8.30 p.m. make the Ploughboy a popular choice for an early after school family meal, avoiding cooking at home. Weekday lunches are available from midday until 2.30 while at weekends there is continual lunch into supper service from midday until 8.30p.m. on Saturdays, 8 p.m. on Sundays. Among those regularly enjoying a meal at the Ploughboy are the group of senior citizens who travel in the St Georges minibus many of whom have over the years come to depend upon the Ploughboy as their main source of a nourishing meal! All regular and occasional customers appreciate the freshly prepared and home cooked food, largely sourced from the finest farms in Cornwall and Devon is personally selected and prepared to perfection by John and his busy team to ensure the full family enjoys a flavoursome feast on each and every visit to the Ploughboy.

Fundraising Nights... Great Benefit to Local Charities

Now actively preparing the "Ploughboy Inn" for what they aim to be its best ever Christmas with a feast of food, drink and entertainment to please all, Mike and Joan can look back on a busy year of supporting the community of which they believe a good local pub should be the heart.

Derriford Hospital's Birch Ward, which has helped some of the Ploughboy's locals as well as family members suffering leukaemia, has been the beneficiary of two major fun fundraising nights at the Ploughboy. There are fond memories of the fun Spring quiz evening when hospital staff were entertained at the Ploughboy, as well as the Mega-summer quiz when the bar was packed with participants looking "pretty in pink".

Those marvellous Macmillan nurses were remembered when the "Ploughboy" took part in the MacMillan coffee morning when Mike supplied coffee and refreshments as well as a substantial donation. Crohns and Colitis sufferers were also remembered this Autumn



when they had their own quiz in support.

As well as organising quiz's and other events including open darts evenings Mike and Joan are always willing to support charity by letting any groups have, with their compliments, of either of two function rooms for use as a fund raising quiz or any other event.

Local sports teams including St. Stephens Cricket team and Saltash Borough Football team have been

supported by sponsorship from Mike who also welcomes youth team members with complimentary post match refreshment. "Many of the sports people I am sponsoring come in with

their parents who remember me sponsoring themselves in their sporting days while I was landlord elsewhere in Saltash" says Mike, "It is good to be helping a fresh generation enjoy their sporting success".

THE PLOUGHBOY

Liskeard Rd Saltash

Mike & Joan welcome you to join them, for great food and congenial company

Christmas at 'The Ploughboy' Bookings now being taken!

Don't forget to book for our very popular

'Sunday Carvery'

Sunday Carvery £7.25

Children 12yrs & under £4.95

Enjoy a Sunday Lunch with family and friends

The Ploughboy is available as a Venue for Quiz Nights

(See Mike & Joan for further details)

Celebrate at The Ploughboy Private function rooms available

Book now for your office & family Parties Weddings, Christenings & Funerals

Groups & Organisations welcome for regular or One off events. Tel: 01752 842861 for more details

Look Out for details of our...

Entertainment at the Ploughboy

Sunday 24th November: Jazz Evening

Jazz Night last Sunday in every month

Saturday 7th December: Total Strangers

Friday 13 December: G Sharp

Saturday 14th December: Short Notice

Christmas Eve : Tues 24th Dec: Clive Price Disco

Saturday 28th December: Dave Rich Disco

New Years Eve :Tues 31st Dec: Clive Price Disco

Comprehensive Menu with Specials Board

Choose from Our Varied Menu

Monday to Thursday

Enjoy 2 Home-made specials for £12.00

(Choosing from the home-made special Menu)

All day Tuesday 2 Rump Steaks £13.00

Food...

Lunch Menu available from: 12noon-2.30pm Mon-Fri
Evening Meals available from:

Mon-Thurs-5pm-8.30pm Fri-5pm-8.30pm

Saturdays from 12noon-8.30pm Sundays from 12noon-8-00pm

Clubs, Organisations & Coaches Welcome

We are open for Morning Coffee & Afternoon Tea.

Call 01752 842861 for bookings

and all enquires...book early to avoid disappointment!

-- Bookings advisable --



Sunday Carvery is a Weekend Favourite

With fresh usually locally sourced meats cooked to perfection ready for carving and serving alongside a generous helping of seasonal vegetables, it is little wonder that the "Ploughboy" Sunday Carvery is a Saltash weekend favourite. Bookings are strongly advised for those who wish to relax over a Sunday roast without the chores of preparation or clearing up.

Fast becoming equally famous are, the Monday to Thursday "Two for £12.00" meals which can be selected from the home made specials menu. Many local couples are coming to look upon weekday lunchtime visit to the spacious Ploughboy restaurant as a regular outing. And for those who relish a special steak cooked to order Tuesdays continues to be a special day with two rump steaks served with chipped potatoes and peas for just £13.00.

To heighten the enjoyment of any meal there is of course a wide selection of white, red or rose wines served by the glass or bottle, chilled if appropriate. The real ale fan can alternatively have brought from the bar a selection of local ales including Doom Bar, Tribute and Courage Best, poured to perfection. Lager connoisseurs may choose a chilled Kronenbourg or San Miguel. All of the beers and wines can also of course be enjoyed in the spacious bar area alongside a wide selection of ciders and spirits as well as bottled beers from Cornwall and beyond. Mike's many years behind the bar as landlord in Saltash and elsewhere have given him the skills to ensure that every barrel and bottle is perfectly stored, drinks properly poured, all to ensure full customer satisfaction.

An Exciting Programme of Entertainment

The "Ploughboy" has since Mike and Joan have been building up their contacts in the local entertainment world, presented a wide variety of music, live and recorded, to dance, jive and boogie to, or simply to relax and enjoy.

Christmas and New Year are traditionally a time to get on the dance floor and with this in mind well-known local DJ Clive Price will be presenting music to suit one and all on both Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. A selection of every era and style, with requests welcome, aims to ensure that every couple will take to the floor and dance the winter's night away.

It is well worth checking out the programme of entertainment in order to ensure that one does not miss the very special musicians and singers who perform at the Ploughboy.

Check out details of forthcoming events in your "Observer" or on the board outside the main entrance.

Or organise your own night to remember with two function rooms available for private parties where you can provide your own choice of music or other entertainment while relaxing over a buffet or sit down meal. At Christmas or at any time the "Ploughboy" is the place to be for live action on the dance floor or simply relaxing over a top class meal or just a well-earned pint.

Christmas at...

THE PLOUGHBOY

Traditional Christmas Day Lunch

2 Course Carvery + Coffee & Mince Pie £39.50

(3 courses available ask for details)

Special Christmas Optional Menu Available

£25.00 per child 12years & under

Book Your Office, Family & Friends Christmas Parties Now!

Christmas Party Menu

2 Courses £13.95 3 Courses only £17.95

Available Sunday 1st to Tuesday 24th December

Starters:

HOMEMADE SOUP - Broccoli and stilton served with a granary roll

SMOKED SALMON AND DILL CREAM MOUSSE - a creamy lemon, dill and smoked salmon mousse, finished with a layer of chopped smoked salmon and dill, served with a salad garnish and melba toast.

BREADED BRIE WEDGES(V) - two deep fried, melt in the mouth breaded brie wedges, served with a cranberry dip and salad garnish.

Mains:

ROAST TURKEY - traditional succulent Turkey, served with four seasonal vegetables and roast and new potatoes.

ROAST BEEF - Cornish topside beef, served with four seasonal vegetables, roast and new potatoes and a Yorkshire pudding.

HADDOCK FLORENTINE - a fillet of prime haddock, served on a bed of spinach, in a rich cheese sauce and accompanied with carrot and green bean bundles and new potatoes.

MUSHROOM AND WALNUT HOTPOT(V) - a crisp pastry case surrounding rich, braised mushrooms and onions and topped with slices of potatoes and finished with chopped walnuts. Served with seasonal vegetables and new potatoes.

Desserts:

CHRISTMAS PUDDING - traditional Christmas pudding, served with brandy sauce or Cornish clotted cream (must be stated on pre-order)

WHITE CHOCOLATE AND RASPBERRY CHEESECAKE - an individual white chocolate cheesecake on a crumble biscuit base, marbled with raspberry sauce.

ICED HAZELNUT AND HONEY PARFAIT - this frozen dessert is flavoured with honey and finished with chopped, caramelised hazelnuts and served with Cornish clotted cream.

CHOCOCLATE BOX - an all butter shortbread base, topped with an indulgent dark chocolate mousse, surrounding a caramel centre... naughty but nice!

Tea or Coffee, & Mince Pie.

Tel: for a Party menu/planner to be sent out

Call 01752 842861 for bookings

And all enquires...book early to avoid disappointment!
Normal menu also available throughout the festive period

Bookings advisable

Check your Observer for further details of Events & Entertainment, during the Festive Season

Liskeard Rd Saltash Cornwall