

Sat 4th Dec
Join us for Saltash
Christmas Festival

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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November 2021 - Issue 356

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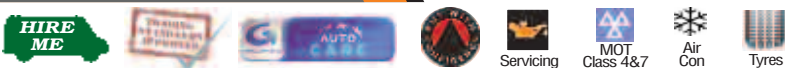
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May we take this opportunity to thank all our loyal supporters?
We wish you all a Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year

Bridge Opening and Final Ferry Anniversary Marked in Fitting Style

The sixtieth anniversary celebrations of an epoch-making event for Saltash began early, at 6 a.m. on a Friday morning. A group of early risers shouted a cheery "Good Morning" to Radio Cornwall listeners as presenter James Churchward broadcast live from Ashtorpe Rock, under the Tamar Bridge which had opened sixty years ago that weekend and alongside the slipway of the ferry that made its last voyage that same weekend after centuries of service to Saltash.

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Photo Mike Pitches Photography

A party atmosphere prevailed as Observer correspondent Martin Lister joined those who munched on bacon butties between summonsed to speak live on air to Radio Cornwall and Radio Devon in a joint broadcast. Among them was Carol Peck who, as her birth certificate confirms, was born on the ferry, "on the Saltash side, I am definitely Cornish" she confirmed to your Observer.

And the Observer was to the fore later that morning when Radio Cornwall's Julie Scantlebury talked live on air with ace reporter Martin

Continued on P4

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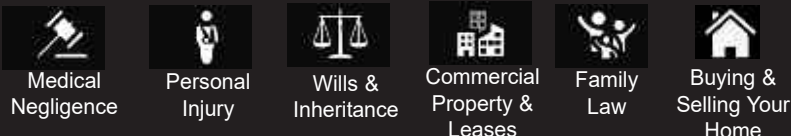
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Saltash Christmas Festival Sat 4th Dec

STREET MARKET RIDES INFLATABLES STILT WALKERS

PROGRAMME
13.00 SANTAS ON BIKES
14.00 SANTA FUN RUN
18.00 LANTERN PARADE
18.15 FIREWORKS

STAGE ENTERTAINMENT
13.45 ST STEPHENS SCHOOL CHOIR
14.30 GERALDINE LAMB DANCE
15.15 ROXIE GREW
16.15 GRACENOYES ACAPELLA
17.00 FIRE BREATHER

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL
27TH NOVEMBER – 10TH DECEMBER IN THE CHURCH OF ST NICHOLAS AND ST FAITH

14.00 SANTA FUN RUN: A 3KM FAMILY EVENT. SETTING OFF FROM THE TOP OF FORE STREET AND FOLLOWING A ROUTE ACROSS THE TAMAR BRIDGE AND BACK. LIMITED TO 200 SANTAS, SO PLEASE REGISTER IN ADVANCE. MORE DETAILS ON THE SALTASH CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL FACEBOOK PAGE

15.00 – 19.00 SANTA'S GROTTO IN THE COMMUNITY KITCHEN, 8 FORE STREET

13.00 – 19.00 SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OPENING OF SALTASH HERITAGE MUSEUM AND ELLIOTT'S SHOP MUSEUM, LOWER FORE STREET

13.00 – 18.00 CHRISTMAS TREASURE HUNT: COLLECT A FREE ENTRY FORM FROM THE SALTASH REDEEMER CHURCH STALL AT THE TOP OF FORE STREET

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Cornwall Councillors/ Wards

Saltash Essa ED
Cllr Hilary Frank
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Saltash Tamar ED
Cllr Sheila Lennox-Boyd
cldr.sheila.lennox-boyd@cornwall.gov.uk

Saltash Trematon & Landrake ED
Cllr Martin Worth
cldr.martin.worth@cornwall.gov.uk

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From the Mayor of Saltash

Time flies as they say, which is underlined by the fact that we are now halfway through the Mayoral Year. It seems like such a short while ago that I put myself forward for another year in the role, having previously served 9 months of a shortened term of Office, which was brought about by the pandemic.

Whilst I can reflect on the past fifteen months and what has been achieved against the odds, the immediate future still seems full of caution and there are a number of areas



where we have nearly, but not quite, achieved what we

would like to think of as normal.

By the time you read this article, Saltash Town Council will have held the traditional Remembrance Sunday Civic Event and Parade for the first time in two years, due to the pandemic, so whilst we are seeing something of a return to normality, there are still some limitations on what we can do, the Church Service prior to the Parade was by invitation only, something that came out of necessity and keeping within certain

limitations. If you would normally have attended the Church Service, but were unable to do so, then on behalf of the Town Council I offer my apologies, whilst looking forward to hopefully a greater return to normality for next year.

On a different subject, your Town Council continues to work hard on your behalf and an example of this is the opposition to the Cornwall Council proposals that could result in the closure of the Leisure Centre. Whilst the

future of this valuable asset is still in doubt, we can only work and hope for a satisfactory outcome.

Your Town Council has worked with Cornwall Council to postpone the planned major resurfacing works in Fore Street until early next year, although work to the bus stops and parking bays was required to go ahead. Delaying the major works was seen as a way of limiting inconvenience to the traders within our Town in the run up to Christmas. I thank

those businesses for their patience.

On the subject of our traders, I would ask you all to support local businesses as fully as you can. We have a wonderful variety of businesses who work hard to keep our Town a vibrant place to shop, something that the internet giants do not.

I'll be back next month, in the meantime take care and stay safe.

*Cllr Pete Samuels
Mayor of Saltash 2021-22*

Meet Your Councillor

Cllr Matt Griffiths
Essa Ward



I have lived in Saltash for 25 years. My wife Sarah and I moved here in 1997 as a great place to bring up our children. We love living here and I was delighted to be co-opted as a Councillor for the Essa Ward on Saltash Town Council in June this year.

My career has been primarily focused on leading charities and social enterprises, particularly in education, the creative industries and in community regeneration. I am currently the CEO of Youth Music, a national charity supporting young people to make, learn and earn in music particularly those facing barriers in their lives.

As a Councillor, my goal is to make a positive contribution to help Saltash reach its full potential, improve people's lives and promote the town as a great, welcoming and inclusive place to live, work and visit. I'm learning so much in my first six months in the role and thank-you to everyone for making me so welcome.

Saltash Town Council Notice of Essa Ward Election

Cornwall Council received 10 signatories from members of the public calling for a by-election for Essa Ward.

Polling cards will be made available and the election will take place on Thursday 2nd December 2021 at the following polling stations: Latchbrook Scout Centre
The Core – 2 stations
The Guildhall

A Renovation Worthy of Brunel

Isambard House Opens its Doors

Representatives of many organisations gathered at Saltash Station today to view the extensive renovation works that have seen the former station building at Saltash transformed into an award winning heritage building that should support the community for years to come.

Having been left to the mercy of the elements for many years, the town council listened to the residents of Saltash who demanded action. In 2017 the town council took the decision to buy the near derelict building with a view to restoring it to its former glory.

Dubbed one of the Gateways to Cornwall, Saltash Station, which lies immediately adjacent to Isambard Kingdom Brunel's magnificent Grade I listed Royal Albert Bridge, was crying out for a building that fitted its surroundings, rather than the green and rotten building that existed for a number of years. With water pouring into the building and large plants growing from the gutters and chimneys, the station was a sorry sight that travellers to Cornwall witnessed every day.

The renovation works have been underpinned by a strong partnership led by Saltash Town Council, that included Cornwall Council, Great Western Railway, Network Rail and the Railway Heritage Trust. All these organisations have brought welcome enthusiasm and experience to the project, along with much of the funding.

The project was also supported in the early stages by the Architectural Heritage Fund, with the finishing touches to the platform and fences that set the building

Your Town Council & Wards

Saltash Essa:

1. Cllr Richard Bickford
r.bickford@saltash.gov.uk
2. Cllr Rachel Bullock
r.bullock@saltash.gov.uk
3. Cllr Gloria Challen
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4. Cllr Matt Griffiths
m.griffiths@saltash.gov.uk
5. **Vacancy**
6. Cllr Sheila Lennox-Boyd
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Saltash Tamar:

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5. Cllr Pete Samuels
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2. Cllr Brenda Samuels
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3. Cllr Garry Taylor
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4. Cllr Yates
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Cllr Pete Samuels
Deputy Mayor:
Cllr Richard Bickford

Town Clerk:

Ray Lane
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E: enquiries@saltash.gov.uk

Councillors' Telephone Numbers can be obtained at The Guildhall.

**Saltash Town Council, The Guildhall, 12 Lower Fore Street,
Saltash PL12 6JX**

**Tel.: 01752 844846 Email: enquiries@saltash.gov.uk
Website: www.saltash.gov.uk**



Photo Saltash Town Council

off so well, being funded by a grant from the Community Rail Development Fund, a joint initiative of the Department for transport and the Community Rail Network, with the help of the Devon & Cornwall Rail Partnership.

The renovated building will fulfil a number of functions, from providing a new passenger waiting room with toilets, train information and refreshment facility, to a new community hall and meeting space in the now light and airy main section of the building, and a small office or business hub

situated in the north eastern section.

Lead councillor for the project, Councillor Richard Bickford said 'I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved, there are so many people, from my fellow councillors to some heads of industry I wish to thank. I think we have achieved what many people thought was not possible, and I hope that Saltash has a legacy building that will serve both the community and travelling public very well for many years.'

Joe Graham, Business Assurance Director for Great

Western Railway commented 'Well done to Saltash Town Council for pulling off this renovation, I have often thought it could never be achieved. This building will provide passengers with a great facility and something to be proud of. GWR are pleased to have played their part in the renovation of this building.'

Christian Irwin, Industry Programme Director (South West) for Network Rail added that 'This is a fantastic

example of how the rail industry can work together with local authorities to deliver investment and improvements. This is a real showcase for others to aspire too.'

Councillor Pete Samuels, Mayor of Saltash added 'Saltash Town Council can feel justifiably proud of what it has achieved with this derelict and historic building, something that the residents of Saltash have long asked for.'

www.saltash-observer.co.uk

Chamber Chairman Sarah Martin Keeping us Updated...

So we're steaming towards the end of the year, and I don't know about you, but I'm full of anticipation about what the next year brings for Saltash with some exciting projects in the pipeline for Saltash Chamber! Until then, I'm so looking forward to trying best I can to do all my Christmas shopping in our local independent retailers. It's a challenge I set myself each year - and I've made my first few purchases for those Christmas stockings!

Fore Street Works

Road works and disruption seem to be attracted to Saltash like a magnet at the moment, and it's proving to be a difficult start to the Christmas shopping period. Despite the main thrust of the Fore Street roadworks being moved until April time of next year, we still will have a 'give and take' traffic flow to contend with on Fore Street as the bus bay humps are removed and resurfaced, and this will also impact our parking on Fore Street as they work on the parking bays too! The contractors have promised to keep the disruption to a minimum and hopefully all works should be wrapped up by 26th November.

Car Parking initiative to start 19th November

Friday 19th November sees the start of a new Chamber initiative to subsidise car parking. Car parking

charges up to £1.60 will be able to be redeemed at participating shops against a purchase of £5+. At present, £1.60 gets you two hours car parking in Saltash, so that's two hours of shopping time free of charge. Look out for the logo on Page 3 of this paper. Initially the scheme will run for three months, but we're hopeful of extending it if we have a good response. So make the most of two free hours to start all your Christmas Shopping locally this November!

Christmas in Saltash

Hopefully a few of you may have noticed our Christmas at a Glance posters in shop windows in the town. It's just to give you a flavour of all the wonderful things happening in the run up to the Christmas to get us in to the spirit of things! Several of the shops will be displaying designs created by local schools in the Window Wanderland event, which will run from 2nd to 6th December. Why not get involved and help turn Saltash into an outdoor art gallery? To list your display or view the interactive map visit our Chamber website: saltashchamber.co.uk/event/window-wanderland-2021. Window Wanderland will run from 2nd to 6th December, launching on the same night as the second late-night shopping event. Come in and make the most of what the town has to offer!

As a Chamber we are so pleased to be bringing you a Christmas Festival this year for the first time since 2019! With the first ever Saltash Santa Fun Run and the 10th annual Lantern Parade it's going to be a magical day on 4th December. I would like to thank my committee team (which is small but very fine) for managing to pull together such a fab event which includes so many schools and groups in the community. It's a mammoth effort, and I know we will all appreciate it. Visit our Chamber website for more details or to register to take part in the Fun Run. Put Saturday 4th December big, red and bold in your diaries!

Business Clusters Team @Cornwall Chamber

Do you have an idea to grow your business but could do with some help with training, networking, connectivity or some other aspect of it? The Business Cluster team at Cornwall Chamber is funded by the EU Social Fund to help SMEs and Micro businesses to grow. Just approach them with your business need and they will look at how they can help you.

And you don't need to be a Chamber member to apply. For more information go to: <https://www.cornwallchamber.co.uk/business-clusters>

Have fun this festive season and remember to Shop Local - our Chamber member Donna at Eclectic Interiors always says 'Small business isn't just for Christmas'... but it's a good place to start if you haven't shopped local before!

News from Community Enterprises PL12

We're busy organising our activities for the Festive season, including extended opening hours for the Community Shop during festivities, including the Window Wanderland, Christmas Lights switch on, and Christmas Festival. We'll be joining other independent traders in welcoming customers with a glass or two of something lovely! Shop in Saltash, with the knowledge that you're helping small, local businesses.

The Community Shop is joining in with the late night openings in Fore St on Thursday November 18th & 25th, Thursday December 2nd, and Saturday December 4th (Christmas Festival). Join us in the Community Shop, with free prosecco & nibbles for all our lovely customers during late night openings; the shop is bursting with quality, locally-made gifts and goodies. All our profits help to support local community projects, so please Shop Local to Help Local.

It's hard to believe, but our Community Fridge is now 1 year old! During that time, we've re-distributed over 15 tonnes of food which would have been wasted, and served over 11,000 customers. We now receive surplus food from a wide range of sources, including direct from growers and farmers. Food waste is one of the biggest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, and we hope it's one of the things on the agenda for COP26.

If you've never visited the Community Fridge before, you'll be amazed at the quality

and variety of food we receive... pop down, & help us stop good food being wasted!

During the festive season, the Community fridge will be open on Tuesday 21st December 3pm - 5pm, Christmas Eve 10.30am - 12.30pm, and Tuesday 4th January 3pm - 5pm. Normal hours will then be resumed.

Our plans for the Community Kitchen are now in full swing, and you may have noticed that we've had a big clear-out in no 8. One of our volunteers, Rachel, has researched the history of the site, & this makes fascinating reading; see the posters on the front window of the Community Kitchen. Many will remember it as The Kitchen, Hatch's Kitchen, or Hatch's Supreme Restaurant, but before that it was a bomb site, air raid shelter, and watchmakers. If anyone has any photos showing the building, we'd love to have a copy to add to our story board.

Bus Service Improvements Promised

There have been "many challenges" to the two companies providing bus services to Saltash as a result of which the services have fallen below acceptable standards. This was admitted by representatives of both Stagecoach and Citybus, who administer Transport for Cornwall, and who attended Saltash Town Council to explain the reasons behind the all too frequent late running and cancelled services.

Stagecoach have been forced to introduce a temporary timetable in October reducing both the 2 and the 2A from every twenty minutes to every thirty minutes for most of the day and to the annoyance of many passengers

Saltash Town Council Funding Awarded to Saltash Leisure Centre 'Use It Or Lose It' Campaign

On 4 November Saltash Town Council awarded £1,500 to match fund Saltash Leisure Centre proposal to assist the Leisure center's 'use it or lose it' campaign.

The money will be used as part of a marketing campaign in Saltash and surrounding areas to encourage residents to use the leisure centre facilities.

The leisure centre will run the campaign.

Saltash Community Tree Planting Initiative

Saltash Town Council will be launching a community tree planting initiative. The Climate Change and Environmental Working Party have been working with Saltash Town Council voluntary tree wardens to identify suitable locations for tree planting.

Local schools will be asked to get involved to help plant a network of trees which supports the Neighbourhood Plan and climate change.

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Redeem your car parking charges up to £1.60* when you spend £5 at participating shops where you see this sign.

Just take the counterpart from your ticket and hand it in for a refund.

Support your local Fore Street businesses and shop local. *For more information, terms and conditions, visit www.saltashchamber.co.uk

'Here to Help - Shop Locally'

*The end date of the scheme will be kept under review depending on take-up.

Essa Voices

Growing Nature

Do you have memories or photos of a red squirrel or a beaver in Cornwall?

As part of its response to the climate and ecological emergency, Cornwall Council is developing policies to 'Grow Nature', and we are collaborating with a team of ecologists to explore the potential reintroduction of six species that used to live in Cornwall but are now considered extinct here: the red squirrel, water vole, pine marten, wild boar, beaver and wildcat.

There are no definite plans, and ultimately the decision will be taken by people living locally. We are inviting you to share your views and information to help the team understand the history of these species and their cultural relevance in Cornwall. I'll give you the link at the end of this article.

Cornwall Wildlife Trust believes that beavers could bring real benefit to Cornwall – from reducing flooding to making river water cleaner. It was back in June 2017 that the Trust, working together with a number of universities and the owner of Woodland Valley Farm, introduced two adult



Councillor Hilary Frank
cldr.hilary.frank@cornwall.gov.uk

beavers into a 5-acre enclosure on the River Tinney, upstream from the village of Ladock, near Truro. The beavers began building dams after just two nights, and over the years they have re-engineered the site. Analysis shows that water quality has improved and biodiversity greatly increased.

I was lucky enough to join a group from the Friends of Churchtown Farm on a walk led by Cornwall Wildlife Trust at Woodland Valley Farm on a crisp autumn evening earlier this year. Seeing the beavers glide through the water, and hearing their sharp teeth gnawing through wood made it an experience I will never, ever forget.

Cornwall Wildlife Trust looks after 5,500 acres of land across Cornwall, and one of the

areas under their management is our own Churchtown Farm Nature Reserve, 150 acres of hay meadow, arable fields, woodland, rocky shoreline and mudflats leased from Antony Estate. The ancient hedges are trimmed on two or three-year rotations, with only one side cut in any year, providing food, shelter and nesting sites for birds and wildlife. The arable fields are sown with a seed mix for farmland birds, and without herbicides or pesticides arable weeds like the scarlet pimpernel are able to flourish there. In the estuary, salt seawater meets fresh river water carrying rich sediments that form mudflats which are full of worms of many sizes, shrimps and bivalve molluscs like the peppery furrow shell.

The Friends of Churchtown Farm Nature Reserve group was set up in 2001, and is run by volunteers who 'beaver' away to support the work of Cornwall Wildlife Trust and provide a link between the Trust and the local community. Bob Austin, previously Mayor of Saltash, has been the Chair of the Friends since its early days, and says: "Our committed volunteers run a range of events like talks about the geology of the Reserve or the butterflies you'll find there. We have four volunteer wardens, too, who are the Friends' eyes and ears." Bob says the Friends would welcome input from anyone who wants to help them protect and grow the wildlife on the Reserve, and they are particularly keen for people to join the Committee. You can contact Bob via the Friends' Facebook page or website.

The Churchtown Farm website is also where you will find a membership form. Annual membership of the Friends costs just £8 per family, with all money going towards projects like new stiles or new benches, helping Cornwall Wildlife Trust in its vital work. And while you're online please share your views about the potential reintroduction of those six species. Here is the link: letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/species-reintroductions.



Bridge Opening and Final Ferry Anniversary Marked in Fitting Style

continued from page one

Lister about your local community newspaper's thirty years of bringing local news to your door while promoting local businesses, many of them for most, some all, of those thirty years.

The Ashtorre Rock was the venue that evening for a fascinating illustrated talk on the history of the Saltash Ferry, by Bruce Hunt, vice chair of Saltash Heritage. The talk had proved a sell out and a repeat was planned for those unable to attend.

Many more residents and visitors came to Ashtorre Rock the following day, the actual anniversary of the last run of the Saltash ferry, to enjoy an exhibition based on the ferry's long history. As well as a working model of the chain ferry and exhibits including the original ferry telegraph (on loan from Saltash Heritage Museum) there were fascinating photographs and documents dating from the foundation of the first steam chain ferry in the 19th century.

Sunday marked the bridge's birthday and despite a damp drizzly morning many turned out for the organised walks in which volunteers told how the bridge was built as a pioneering engineering feat of its day. There was an opportunity for the bravest (not your Observer reporter) to mount the towers for what we are told was a spectacular view.

Instead, your reporter mingled with the crowd by the Tamar Bridge car park where a host of classic cars were

Photo Ian Robinson



assembling. Then waved off by Mayor and Mayoress Peter and Brenda Samuels, Sheryll Murrey MP and husband Bob, with Plymouth's Lord Mayor and other dignitaries the parade of cars crossed the bridge. Organised by the Tamar Historic Transport Club the twenty or so vehicles were all pre 1961 such as might have witnessed the bridge opening. They ranged from a classic 1930's Rolls Royce and Austin 7 to 1950's Ford Popular and Zephyr Zodiac.

Walking back, we were delighted to meet a guest of honour Anne Robinson whose late husband "Robbie" Robinson worked on the construction of the bridge from the beginning, ending as foreman on the Saltash side. Work was tide dependent and she still has vivid memories of bringing the children to say "goodnight" to him as he descended from a tower in a bucket or climbed from a caisson. There were long hours, almost total lack of

modern health and safety standards and after hours of working below water level he had to undergo decompression before leaving the site. Yet when Robbie was introduced to HM The Queen Mother at the official opening and Her Majesty, looking up at the towers asked him "wasn't your wife terrified for you?" Robbie briskly answered "no". We feel sure that Robbie, and all those who worked on building the bridge, as well as generations of ferrymen, would have been more than satisfied to see how Saltash marked sixty years since the opening welcomed in a new epoch for the town.

Memorial Rose Bush and Memorial Bench at Churchtown Cemetery

Memorial rose bushes together with a plaque are now available at Churchtown Cemetery.

The memorial rose bush and plaque is available to remember a loved one for a lease period of ten years at a cost of £350. The lease can be renewed for a further charge.

Memorial benches together with a plaque are now available at Churchtown Cemetery.

The memorial bench and plaque is available to remember a loved one for a lease period of ten years at a cost of £350. The lease can be renewed for a further charge.

For further details please visit the Town Council website <https://www.saltash.gov.uk/churchtowncemetery.php> or contact the Guildhall on 01752 844846

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Refurbished Station Good for Town, Railway and Environment

Saltash's refurbished station building is "good for Saltash, good for the spirit of the new railways and great for the environment and decarbonisation". These were the words of Joe Graham, Great Western Railway's Business Assurance Director speaking at the official opening of the building following a Saltash Town Council project that has taken many years to realise. He added that Saltash has something incredibly special and you should be grateful for what has been achieved.

The opening ceremony was introduced by Deputy Mayor Councillor Richard Bickford who has masterminded the project over the years. He stated that it could not have been realised without financial aid from Cornwall Council, the main funder, but also GWR. In thanking them he also acknowledged the invaluable help received from the Railway Heritage Trust, Community Rail Network, the Bailey Partnership and Cormac. "It has been a long journey but the people of Saltash really wanted us to do it", he admitted.

"If we could harness what has been achieved here and reproduce it elsewhere, we could really showcase this", believed Christian Irwin, Network Rail's Industry Programme Director. He spoke of the value of the building in



Photo Saltash Town Council

what is known in the rail industry as "first and last mile activity", ensuring passengers get safely between the station and their ultimate starting and arrival points. While rail passenger levels in Britain had recovered by between 40% and 50% since the pandemic, in Devon and Cornwall they were back to 100% or more and with passenger train services

between Plymouth and Penzance doubled since 2018 he foresaw a bright future for Cornwall's railways, with buildings such as this helping bring passengers back to the railway.

The Mayor, Councillor Pete Samuels, was delighted to accept, on behalf of the town, two awards for the building, the Conservation and Regeneration Award for Construction Excellence South West and the Best Non-Residential Conversion award from the LABC South West. The project is in the running for the national award in both instances.

In accepting these awards, the Mayor thanked Councillor Richard Bickford for his "vision and expertise without which this building could have remained an eyesore". Referring to it as a jewel for Saltash he hoped for even more stopping trains for Saltash where passengers could alight to enjoy the town and 160 years plus of railway history.

Before guests adjourned to view the building and for pasties, Councillor Bickford anticipated the future of what is to be known as 'Isambard House'. He hoped that the building would be well used, being available for organisations to hire.

Saltash Rotary are seeking to refurbish the adjacent telephone box and instal a defibrillator, while the town is eager to work towards platform improvements to improve accessibility. As the station building waiting room and refreshment facilities open the town will work to ensure even better and increased services. "This is not the end of the journey", assured Councillor Bickford.

Lanterns Brighten Christmas Hope

Thanks to generous funding from Saltash Scrapstore, the much-loved Lantern Parade will again make its way up Fore Street as the finale to the town's annual Christmas Festival on Saturday 4th December.

"To minimise our impact on the environment, we will be using biodegradable cling film to make the lanterns this year," said local artist Jill Hudson, who is pleased to be back leading lantern workshops in primary schools, helping fingers much smaller than hers craft the pyramid-shape lanterns that have become symbolic of the Saltash Lantern Parade.

Schoolchildren are also busy creating displays out of tissue paper to stick in windows for the Window Wanderland, turning the town into an 'outdoor art gallery' between 2nd and 6th December. The windows of St Stephens Primary School will be decorated along the theme of Julia Donaldson's Stick Man, with other schools making displays to light up Saltash Guildhall and town centre shops.

The Chamber of Commerce is inviting all residents to create a display in a window of their home for Window Wanderland. Residents of Victoria Road will be making scenes from the Twelve Days of Christmas, but the design can be anything from a chorus of cheeky robins to a full Nativity scene. Visit the Saltash Christmas Festival Facebook page for more details and inspiration. The event is free to Window Makers and Wanderers, so have a look at the online map to see the window display locations, then wrap up warm and go for a wander with friends and family to enjoy the creative, festive fun together. The launch of the Window Wanderland on 2nd December will coincide with a late-night shopping event in the town's retail centre.

The Christmas Festival on 4th December will see the Christmas market, stilt walkers, musical entertainment and fireworks return to Fore Street. At 1pm, Santas on motorbikes will

taking a break on Fore Street on their way to delivering Christmas cheer to Little Harbour, the children's hospice overlooking St. Austell Bay. Then at 2pm intrepid Santas will run down Fore Street in the inaugural Saltash Santa Fun Run, a 3-km course across the Tamar Bridge and back. Just 200 Santas are able to take part in this family event - so make sure you register in advance. Entry fee is £10, which includes a Santa suit and a medal for all finishers. Go to the Saltash Christmas Festival Facebook page for details or send an email to admin@tamartrotters.co.uk.

Hilary Frank, who started the Lantern Parade ten years ago and leads the team at the Saltash Chamber of Commerce organising the Christmas Festival, said: "We've all been through a lot together since the last time we had the Christmas Festival, so seeing those lanterns lighting up Fore Street and children's faces will be quite emotional, especially as it is our tenth anniversary! A lantern version of our Saltash Cornish Cross will be leading the way - a symbol of hope and community."

Saltash Town Council Successful Town Vitality Bid Application

Saltash Town Council submitted a Town Vitality Bid Application to seek funding to determine the optimal location/s and feasibility of developing a multi-use community space within the town's retail centre and have been successfully awarded £84,000 under the Town Vitality Fund.

The fund is managed by Cornwall Council and is to provide funding to help towns revitalise town centres and high streets.

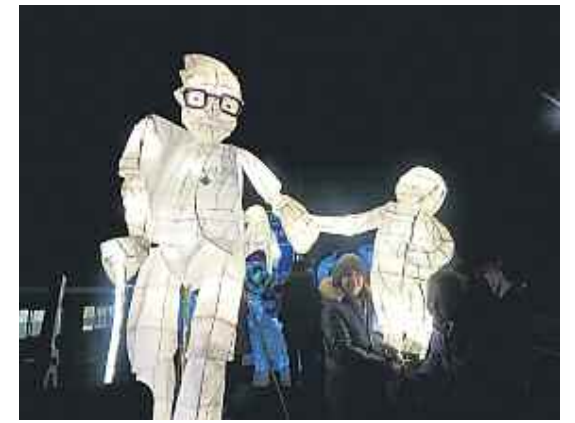
Forder Village Tribute to the Fallen



"Tommy"

Taken at the Source of Forder Creek
Photo by Bryan Baker

Saltash Remembered
See December Issue for full coverage



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The Cost of Living Crisis: Three Ways to Help Those Hit Hardest

We're all aware that the cost of living has risen significantly recently, with prices for energy and food at the highest we've seen in many years. But did you know the devastating impact this is having on low income households in particular? According to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the rise in costs could see those who are already struggling financially having to pay up to £700 more per year.

On top of this, many of the protections put in place to shield those on low incomes during the pandemic have now

come to an end, including the vital £20 per week Universal Credit uplift. The reality is, with bills up and income down this Christmas, thousands across the UK will struggle to feed their families and heat their homes. So what can we do? Here are three ways you can help right now.

Donate to your local food bank

We've all seen the news about the growing level of child poverty in the UK and sadly the number of people relying on food banks right now is higher than ever. Maybe you can support them. If you're not able to give financially, donations of non-perishable groceries and toiletries will most likely be welcome. Look out for donation baskets around the town, or contact the food bank directly.

Check on your neighbours

Through our work at CAP, we know that debt and poverty can be an isolating experience.

Many people feel ashamed or embarrassed about their situation and are reluctant to ask for help. It's important to check in on those in your community who may be particularly vulnerable, we can all play our part.

Refer a friend

Do you know someone who is particularly struggling to make ends meet? At Saltash Baptist Church, we can provide financial help to absolutely anyone in the PL12 community. We offer debt help to work towards going debt free, emergency funds for those in a crisis, funding for non-emergency situations and can signpost people to other areas of support too. Call us on 849948 and select option 2. No-one needs to suffer this Christmas.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a UK charity with over 580 services across the country delivering debt counselling, money management education, job clubs, life skills groups and more. Visit capuk.org to find out more.

Tim Squires Debt Centre Manager
Christians Against Poverty Saltash
Book an appointment with him by calling 0800 328 0006 or email timsquires@capuk.org

Conundrum Corner

Taking the initial letter to the one-word answers to the following ten questions can you re-arrange them to make the name of a well-known celebrity? 4,6

- 1 Who was the eldest of the Bronte Sisters? (9)
 - 2 In which British City can you board a train at Waverley Station? (9)
 - 3 Daddy Warbucks is a character in which musical? (5)
 - 4 Which sauce is an essential part of the dish Egg Benedict? (11)
 - 5 Myxomatosis is a disease of which creature? (7)
 - 6 During World War 11 Wing Commander Guy Gibson commanded which group of Royal Air Force pilots? (10)
 - 7 In Mathematics what is the number above the line in a fraction called? (9)
 - 8 What are the ridges across Guitar finger boards called? (5)
 - 9 Seen mainly in the Countryside, Smock, Post and Tower are types of what sort of structure? (8)
 - 10 Which landlocked Country is in the Himalayas? (5)
- Answers on Page 7

Wesley Pals - 40 Years of Friendship



Wesley PALS group

This year the PALS group from Saltash Wesley Methodist Church celebrate 40 years since its first meeting in 1981. During that time the group began meeting together on

alternate Wednesdays taking part in all sorts of activities including games, walks, talks, taking part in Saltash carnivals, going on holiday, leading services and much fund raising.

During the late 1980's fund raising took place on a very large scale in every way possible to build a new church. By the early 1990's £200,000 was raised which, added to other funding, grants etc. was enough to build the current Wesley Church.

A celebration Sunday morning service with the theme of friendship was recently held at Wesley led by the PALS group. Tea, coffee and a large birthday cake followed this.

So forty years later the group still meet regularly and look forward to a lively time together for many more years.

Saltash a Stage on Rugby President's Walk

Saltash Rugby Club was pleased to welcome the President of the Rugby Football Union, Jeff Blackwell, and his wife Sally, as Saltash was chosen to mark a stopping off point on the President's 150-mile walk.

This is the 150th anniversary year of the founding of the rugby football union. To mark the year the national president decided to do a 150-mile walk, visiting all corners of the country while raising funds for the rugby players' injury fund.

From here he was to walk across the Tamar Bridge to meet Devon rugby club officials.

Before the walk there were tea and bacon butties served in the Saltash Rugby Club and Jeff and Sally Blackwell met local players as well as host Bill Ryan, President of Saltash Rugby Club and Dave Saunter, Chair of the Cornwall RFU. Also present were Mayor and Mayoress of Saltash Peter and Brenda Samuels and Cornwall Councillor Hilary Frank, who had attended the Rugby World Cup in Japan in 2019 as official interpreter.

Bill Ryan expressed pleasure that Saltash had been chosen for the Cornish leg of the walk and noted that the Saltash club had donated £300 towards the President's charity.

In reply Jeff Blackwell thanked all for a great welcome to Cornwall, a county where he had served at HMS Raleigh and enjoyed family holidays.

"We are aiming to visit fifteen counties and walk ten miles in each and we have had a fantastic welcome in each county", he proclaimed.

He told us, "Rugby is fast emerging from the last


desperate eighteen months. I strongly believe that rugby is a force for good and when its values are taken into the community rugby players make better citizens".

Fortified by bacon butties your Observer correspondent joined most of those present to walk through the town and onto the bridge where, as Bill Ryan put it, "One and All meets Uncle Tom Cobby and all".

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Signed  on behalf of the applicant
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Tamar Reflections

Trematon Castle

It is understood that England is the home to over 4,000 castles, which were built hundreds of years ago, and situated throughout the countryside and coastlines of the UK. For sure thousands still stand today, and proudly the Norman built Trematon Castle is one of them with the haunting remains resting majestically above the Forder Creek.

Trematon Castle (named after Trematon Manor), like all our castles is now a reflection of our rich yet turbulent heritage and steeped in quite extraordinary history that reminds us of the vital roles they played many hundreds of years ago.

After the Battle of Hastings in 1066 the Normans felt a need to build strong forts and castles, and at Trematon they used the old earth-works site which gave an uninterrupted view of the estuary.

Trematon Castle built by Robert the Count of Mortain (William the Conqueror's half-brother) was a "motte and bailey" castle first constructed around 1070 as one of the measures that had to be taken to put down a rebellion in the South West against King William I. The original defenses of the previous incumbents the Saxons were much more modest in the way of earth-works and timber. Later the timber was replaced by masonry and developed from there onwards, with the Keep in the 12th century and the bailey wall in the 13th century. However, the castle never needed to be used in a defense situation.

In 1270 Roger de Valletort a more recent occupant sold the castle and barony to Richard, Earl of Cornwall. When the earldom became extinct all its possessions passed to the Duchy of Cornwall which King Edward III created in 1337 for his eldest son Edward, later known as the "Black Prince", who was the first Duke of Cornwall. The



Images from Sue and John Hooper's own collection Trematon Castle c1734

Duchy still owns the castle today.

Late in the 16th century Trematon castle was used to house many Spanish prisoners of war, and where Sir Francis Drake under the instructions of Queen Elizabeth I unloaded the treasures from the Spanish ship the San Felipe (taken on Drake's Cadiz raid).

Trematon Castle in one of the many castles in the UK that is not generally open to the public, but has opened its gates on various occasions for charitable events, of which I have been delighted to attend. Likewise my husband John and I have been guests of the various tenants over the years; some became good friends of ours.

Trematon Castle has within its grounds a Grade II listed house (the residence), which has been leased to tenants of the house for well over 200 years. Noteworthy tenants have employed a broad range of staff, from servants, housekeepers, nannies, cooks, butlers and gardeners; and there are still families living in Saltash today whose ancestors worked at the house and a few others that have proudly claimed that their families lived in Saltash during the

occupancy of the "Black Prince."

The 8/9 bedroom house was built in 1808 by Benjamin Tucker, who was at that time, secretary to the Admiral Earl of St. Vincent and later to become Surveyor-General to the Duchy of Cornwall. Tucker had demolished much of the castle but recycled the stone from the ruins to build this magnificent manor house. HM Queen Elizabeth II visited Trematon Castle (now owned by Prince Charles) in 1962 as a special guest.

I have in our collection an old programme of a Pageant of the "Black Prince" that was performed in the grounds of Trematon Castle, dated June 30th, July 1st & 3rd 1920 (priced one shilling).

Within the grounds today we can see wooden cannons, period landscapes and the breathtaking views of the estuary and beyond.

Walkers and visitors alike can only marvel at the breathtaking view of Trematon Castle and all its surrounding beauty.

Long may such castles enchant us all with their mystery and history in abundance?

Sue Hooper MBE

Resailing of Final Ferry in Slipway Celebration

A fully illuminated ferry setting off across the waves exactly sixty years to the minute after the last ferry landed at Saltash formed a fitting climax to a weekend of celebratory commemorations for this historic event at Saltash Waterside.

The Ashtorre Rock community centre had been filled with those determined to mark the moment when, sixty years ago, nine hundred years or more of ferry service came to an end the night before the Tamar Bridge opened to traffic.

Among those present was Nick Kelly, leader of Plymouth City Council with wife Helen, and Carol Peck who had been actually born on the ferry. The crowds emerged from Ashtorre to watch Carol unveil the plaque placed to mark the event in 1961 and now restored by Saltash Town Council.

They then returned inside to where a sumptuous buffet had been laid on by Gloria and Neil Challen of Landrake's Bullers Arms. There were also ferry fairy cakes and a superb celebratory cake featuring the Devon and Cornwall County flags baked by Diane a volunteer at Ashtorre and a member of the Saltash Observer team. These could be enjoyed with drinks from a well-stocked bar including, to your correspondent's delight, Ferryman Ale donated by Exeter Brewery.

Entertainment was provided by Bernard Stuart, a swing musician with the Dave Hankin Band who had returned to his Waterside roots specially for the occasion.

There was also music from bagpiper Clint Hayes who played the haunting 'Highland Cathedral' at the request of Observer correspondent Martin Lister. He was also to feature in the evenings' surprise climax.

Pleasant as the party was, one and all turned out just before eleven to brave a chill wind blowing across the Tamar and to share in the special surprise event. Lights flickered on the water as the slipway, which had witnessed so many comings and goings from Saltash over the centuries, saw a large and fully illuminated reproduction of the last steam



Photo Mike Pitches

Photo Mike Pitches

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Exeter Brewery's Generous Donation



Photo Mary Crawford

Some of Ashtorre Rock's volunteers and friends acknowledging Exeter Brewery's generous donation of a cask of Ferryman Ale for the Saltash Ferry 60 celebrations. Exeter Brewery made a similar donation 8 years ago for the unveiling of the Ferryman Sculpture – and much enjoyed it was too!

Plea to Remember War Dead's "Missing Names"

A commando "veteran" whose father served for thirty years on Saltash Town Council has renewed his plea for the town to honour its 74 "forgotten" war dead. These are men of Saltash or with strong local connections whose names were omitted from the town's existing war memorials, 44 from World War I and 30 from World War II.

Barry Brooking raised the issue with the town council in November 2019 to no avail and pursued the matter further at the October 2021 meeting when he asked that the council look into how it manages the town's annual remembrance.

Firstly, stressing his affection for the council on which his father served and emphasising that he was seeking only to criticise constructively, he first commented on the policy whereby a number of past mayors had informed him that they had not been invited to the service while covid was still an issue. Secondly, he asked why the service, which used to alternate between different churches of different denominations is now always held in the Wesley Church.

"A wrong needs to be put right", claimed Mr. Brooking, referring to the 2018 Remembrance Day when the then mayor was heavily criticised in social media and the national press for supposedly "cancelling" the Remembrance Day parade. In actual fact, said Mr. Brooking, the Mayor that year had decided not to hold one, it was not normal practice to parade the short distance from the "Brunel" to the Alexandra

Square on 11th November following the two minutes silence and the mayor had noted that there was plenty of other commemorations on the centenary of the armistice. Adverse publicity has resulted in the "trolling" and even death threats to the then Mayor. Even now it is not too late to rectify this, said Mr. Brooking.

His main concern however was the honouring of the 74 war dead omitted from the memorials. He had been told in 2019 that this could not be done unless it was ascertained that there were no further names to be discovered – an impossible task as the war memorials trust confirmed.

"I am not asking for public funding, all I am asking is that a plot be made available, perhaps in the Peace Garden, where the 74 missing names can be inscribed with space left in case any more come to light." Mr. Brooking subsequently told the Observer, "This has been done in Torpoint, why not Saltash?"

Deputy Mayor Richard Bickford who chaired the Town Council meeting thanked him for the question and confirmed that the points raised would be considered.

A Bridge Too Few

Three of the footbridges promised to connect Pillmere with Saltash town centre have never been built though approach ways and foundations exists on the Pillmere side.

The issue was raised by former Cornwall Councillor Derek Holley when he sought the Town Council's support to have installed a bridge linking Dellohay Park with the footpath running around to the south of Pillmere. Here a footpath on the Pillmere side leads to an abutment and bridge foundations have been laid but there is nothing on the southern side. Supposedly Wayne Homes were to have completed the work and it was believed that they paid Cornwall Council for the work to be done but it was never carried out.

Saltash Town Council has agreed to write a strongly worded letter to Cornwall Council asking that this be remedied.

There is also a footpath between Berry Park and Pillmere linking to a bridge whose foundations were placed but was never built. It is understood that the owners of a narrow 'ransom strip' is asking a sum of money for the land so high that there is no intention to proceed.

Further east a path linking to Dartmoor View was intended to continue across a stream to link with a bridge to Brooks Hill. Here some residents use stepping stones as a short cut towards the lane leading up to New Road.

Hundreds Protest Proposed Closure



Photo Mike Pitches



Photo Mike Pitches

Photo Mary Crawford

Hundreds of people, young and old, marched in solidarity on 30th October to protest against Cornwall Council's proposal to close Saltash Leisure Centre. Protesters included elite swimmers from Caradon Swimming Club, as well as Kim and Jack who had come over from St. Budeaux saying the facilities at Saltash are infinitely preferable to the Life Centre. Organisers were pleased at the strong message that was sent to Cornwall Council.

At the start of the march, young Ruben Pocock handed a letter to Councillor Hilary Frank on behalf of Saltash Supporting Everyone's Needs, a group of 200

parents and carers who have children with additional learning needs or disabilities. The letter was addressed to Councillor Linda Taylor, Leader of Cornwall Council, who will be chairing the meeting on 15th December when Cornwall Council's Cabinet is set to make the final decision on the fate of Saltash Leisure Centre. The letter highlights the group's concerns about the potential impact the closure will have on their children and young adults, pointing out that there is no detail in the Council's draft strategy about how

disabled and vulnerable users will be able to access swimming facilities should Saltash close. Cllr. Frank gave Ruben her assurance she would make sure Cllr. Taylor received the letter. More than 4,700 responses were received to Cornwall

Council's survey on its draft Leisure Strategy before the deadline of 31st October. Cornwall Council has stated that the views are being captured in a report that will be uploaded to a digital platform that can be reviewed by the public.



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