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# SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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November 2025 - Issue 399      **Established 33 years**

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## Essa Voices

### Where Peace Takes Root

It began with an apprentice gardener and a story of survival. Five years ago, Sam Nicholls, then working at Penmount Crematorium for Cornwall Council, came across an article about a ginkgo tree that had stood close to the epicentre of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945. The tree was scorched and thought to be dead. But when spring came in 1946, new buds pushed through the

charred bark. Against all odds, it lived. That one tree became a living emblem of endurance and hope, a reminder that life and peace can take root even in the aftermath of devastation.

When Sam read that Hiroshima City was offering to send seeds taken from this tree, he wrote to ask for some for Cornwall. The reply came with a condition: the seeds were being shared only with local authorities that were members of Mayors for Peace, an international movement founded by the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and recognised by the United Nations. Today, more than 8,000 local authorities in over 160 countries are part of this global network, working together to promote peace and foster resilient communities.

It brings together members of the Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Islamic, Jewish and Pagan faiths, along with representatives from the Humanist community. It's a partnership that celebrates diversity and grows through trust, understanding and care, mirroring the patient growth of the ginkgo trees now taking root across Cornwall.

Christmas is approaching, a season when we speak of peace on earth. Through the Faith Covenant, Cornwall has been nurturing peace close to home, showing how faith literacy and shared learning can build trust and understanding. The little ginkgo saplings seem to echo the same message, inviting us to notice peace in our everyday lives, in the way we listen across differences, support neighbours in hard times, and nurture the shoots of connection in our towns and villages.




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So in December 2020, when I was Chair of Cornwall Council, an email arrived in my inbox inviting us to join the Mayors for Peace network. What Sam didn't know when he set this all in motion was that my husband is Japanese and that his family comes from Hiroshima. Sometimes the threads of a story weave together in ways that feel quietly meant to be.

Cornwall Council joined Mayors for Peace, and the seeds were sent from Hiroshima. Sam has been nurturing them ever since, and six saplings now stand ready to carry their message of renewal into Cornwall's soil. The first was planted this November at a ceremony at New County Hall, hosted by the current Chair of Cornwall Council. My husband and I were both there, alongside representatives from local governments in Japan and mayors from Cornwall's towns, including the Mayor of Saltash. It was a moving ceremony, especially seeing Sam there as the first of his saplings took root in Cornish ground.

The remaining saplings will find homes at the Eden Project and in several of Cornwall's great gardens. Wherever they grow, each will remind us of the power of nature to heal and of the human spirit to choose hope over despair.

The timing of the planting felt fitting. This year marks 80 years since the bombing of Hiroshima, and November marks the first anniversary of Cornwall's Faith Covenant, a joint commitment between Cornwall Council and our faith communities to work together. Cornwall was the first rural authority in the country to adopt a covenant like this, and

Perhaps that is the quiet magic of this story: that one young gardener's curiosity has planted something lasting. Long after this year is over, the ginkgo trees will keep growing, tended by the Cornish rain and reaching towards the light. They will remind us that peace, like a tree, begins with care and patience, and that the smallest act, rooted in hope, can grow into something far greater than we ever imagine.

*Cllr Hilary Frank*



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*May we take this opportunity to thank all our loyal supporters?  
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# Town Messenger

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## Cornwall Councillors/ Wards

### Saltash Essa ED

Cllr Hilary Frank  
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### Saltash Tamar ED

Cllr Keith Johnson  
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### Saltash Trematon & Landrake ED

Cllr Paul Cador  
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Tamar Bridge

## From the Mayor of Saltash

Welcome to this month's Mayor's column. October has been a very busy month with lots of events to attend near and far.

Over the past few weeks, I, along with my husband and Deputy Mayor, Cllr Brian Stoyel, have had the pleasure of attending a number of community events. These have included the U3A showcase at Saltash Wesley Church, the Captain's Lunch at Trevol House with a visit to HMS Raleigh, the St Stephens School harvest festival concerts, the opening of the new kitchen at the Girl Guide Hut, the Mayor of Falmouth's civic service, a visit to Bishop



Cornish School to present Summer Reading Challenge prizes, and the Saltash Music, Drama and Speech Festival AGM — to name a few!

### On 11th October, Saltash Town Council held its Beating the Bounds event.

The sun shone throughout the day as walkers enjoyed a scenic route and informative commentary around Botus Fleming, Hatt, and Notter, with me, as Mayor, being bumped on various boundary stones. The Town Crier made his cry at the first and last boundary

stones, and there were prayers along the way from Michelle and Tim Parkman.

St Mary's Church at Botus kindly welcomed us in for tea, coffee, and biscuits, and showed us around their beautiful, historic church. The day ended with a bus ride from Notter to St Germans, followed by a train journey along the border to Isambard House for a well-deserved cuppa, cake, and scones provided by Saltash Rotary.

The walk was led by local historian Martin Lister. As the event has become so popular, the Council aims to make it an annual tradition, with each new Mayor receiving a bump on the boundary stones!

### 1st November was my Mayor's Halloween Charity Quiz night.

Teams dressed in scary costumes and battled it out, with various spooky rounds, music, a smelling round, and even a Play-Doh round. It was a fun night, which raised £360 for my Mayor's charities. Look out for my next 1980s-themed

charity quiz early next year.

### 9th November was Remembrance Sunday.

The day began with a lovely Service of Remembrance held at St Stephens Church. Following the service, the congregation paid their respects by laying wreaths at the St Stephens war memorial. Following the service, the Civic party laid a wreath at Waterside, and my husband, fellow councillors, and I threw red flowers into the river in remembrance of the many soldiers that left from the ferry and the D-Day troops. The Civic party then laid further wreaths at the railway stations and the Pebble War Memorial at the Peace Garden.

The afternoon was Saltash Town Council's remembrance service, held at Saltash Wesley Church. It was a moving service which involved the reading of the Roll of Honour for all the Saltash men and

women who have lost their lives in war. Following the service, and despite the rain, the parade, led by a piper, marched down to the St Nicholas and Faith Memorial to lay wreaths. It was very touching to see so many residents come out to attend or watch the parade, even in the awful weather. It is amazing how our community comes together for such events.

### 11th November was Remembrance Day.

My husband, Deputy Mayor, and I attended Saltash Train Station to hand a wreath over to the Poppy Train. The train was already full of wreaths given by various other towns in Cornwall prior to stopping at Saltash. Once at Paddington Station, the wreaths were taken to be laid at the Cenotaph. At 11 o'clock the same day, the Civic party, Councillors, and staff attended the Royal British Legion's remembrance, which took place outside The Brunel. It was a very

moving experience and, again, a good crowd gathered to join in the two-minute silence.

One of Saltash's next big events is the annual Christmas Festival on 6 December, hosted by the Chamber of Commerce and featuring Santas on Bikes, the Santa Fun Run, Lantern Parade, and a firework finale. We look forward to seeing you there.

To finish, please don't forget that if you'd like to have your say on local issues, residents are always welcome and encouraged to attend Saltash Town Council meetings. It's a great way to stay informed and share your views on what matters most to our community. You can find upcoming meeting dates at [www.saltash.gov.uk/council.php](http://www.saltash.gov.uk/council.php) and any questions or comments can be sent to [enquiries@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@saltash.gov.uk) or handed in at The Guildhall no later than 12 noon on the day before the meeting.

## Meet Your Councillor

*Cllr Pete Nowlan*

I have been a resident of Saltash since the early 1990s, when I met my wife and moved across the Tamar to make our home here. Saltash quickly became more than just a place to live — it became the community we wanted to raise our family in. Our two sons grew up in the town, attended our local schools, played for local football teams, and have always benefitted from the strong community spirit that Saltash offers.

For over 10 years, I served as Chair of Governors at St Stephen's Primary School, a role that gave me the privilege of working closely with dedicated staff, parents, and pupils to support the school's continued development. This experience strengthened my understanding of local needs, decision-making processes, and the importance of community involvement in shaping positive outcomes.

When the opportunity came to continue serving the town in a new capacity, I stepped forward to become a co-opted Town Councillor. After presenting to the Town Council in June, I was honoured to be selected to represent Tamar Ward. Since then, I have taken time to understand the work of the Council and the key projects that contribute to making Saltash a vibrant and



welcoming place to live, work and visit.

I have enjoyed taking part in community events, including the recent Beating the Bounds walk — a wonderful reminder of our rich heritage and the beautiful landscape surrounding us. I am passionate about the outdoors, and strongly believe in promoting activities that support health, wellbeing, and connection with our environment.

I hope to use my experience, energy and commitment to make a positive and meaningful contribution to the whole community of Saltash.

### New Councillor Committed to Serving Saltash Community

Saltash Town Council has welcomed Pete Nowlan as the newly co-opted councillor for Tamar Ward. Pete has been a familiar face in Saltash since the early 1990s, when he moved across the Tamar after meeting his wife. The town quickly became home, and it is where they have raised their two sons, who both attended the local schools and played for community football teams.

Pete is well known for his long-standing contribution to education in the town. He

served as Chair of Governors at St Stephen's Primary School for over ten years, working closely with staff, parents and pupils. During this time, he supported the school's development and helped guide it through key changes. He says the experience strengthened his understanding of how communities can work together to improve opportunities for young people.

When the chance came earlier this year to continue supporting the local community in a new way, Pete put himself forward for co-option to Saltash Town Council. After presenting to councillors in June, he was appointed to represent Tamar Ward.

Since joining the council, Pete has been actively learning about its ongoing projects and priorities. He has already taken part in a number of community events, including the recent Beating the Bounds walk. He described the event as "a wonderful reminder of the town's history and the beautiful environment that surrounds us — something we should all value and protect."

A keen advocate for outdoor activity, Pete enjoys walking and cycling and believes strongly in encouraging opportunities that support health and wellbeing.

"I hope to use my experience, time and energy to contribute positively to the whole community of Saltash," he said. "This is a town with a strong identity, and I'm proud to play a part in its future."

## Your Town Council & Wards

### Saltash Essa:

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### Saltash Tamar:

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### Deputy Mayor:

Cllr Brian Stoyel

### Town Clerk:

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## Children Came together to Remember

On Monday 11th November, the whole community at Brunel Primary and Nursery Academy took time to stop, reflect, and remember those who have given their lives in service to our country. The school gathered together for a special Remembrance Day service, filled with heartfelt songs, thoughtful reflections and beautifully written poems.

In the days leading up to the service, every child in the school took part in making poppies, which were proudly displayed along the school drive — a striking and moving tribute that greeted all who arrived. Each class also created a unique wreath, carefully designed and thoughtfully made, which they laid during the service as a mark of respect and remembrance.



The atmosphere was one of unity and reflection as pupils and staff stood together in silence to honour the fallen. Through their words, songs and creativity, the children demonstrated a deep understanding of the importance of remembering those who fought for the freedoms we enjoy today.

Headteacher Darren Woolner said, "It was wonderful to see

our entire school community come together in such a meaningful way. Our pupils showed great respect, empathy and understanding — values that lie at the heart of our school."

Brunel Primary and Nursery Academy's Remembrance service was a poignant reminder of the power of coming together to reflect, remember, and give thanks.

## Chamber Chairman Peter Ryland Keeping Us Updated

Can I firstly start by thanking all of you who have sent on best wishes to my wife following my last article. She has made good progress and was signed off by the hospital but it will still be a while until she is fully mobile. She will, however, be able to be more active with Christmas coming up.

Talking of Christmas, by the time you read this article the Christmas lights should be on in Fore Street. I saw them while they were being tested and they looked impressive. A big "thank you" to Saltash Town Council for providing the lights which will give a Christmas effect to the town in the build up to the big day on the 25th December. But before then we have the Christmas Festival on the 6th December, this is the annual event which is organised by the Chamber and includes many stalls, Santas on Bikes, fireworks, fairground rides and the Santa Fun Run.

The Chamber organises this each year for the benefit of the community and, by the number of you who turn out each year, you obviously enjoy it. Let's hope the weather allows it to happen this year. Don't forget if you want to help with funding the event there are collection boxes around the town in

various shops, every little helps. Unfortunately, I won't be there to thank all who do the organising as my youngest son has chosen that date to get re-married.

What else is happening before Christmas. The last of the current run of Saturday markets will be in December and Town Team are looking at ways for them to continue next year and we hope to find a solution by the New Year. Research is also being carried out to find a longer-term solution to funding activities in the town centre so that your town centre is an even greater attraction for shopping than it is at present.

The Chamber is also looking at ways to encourage you to shop local, with various thoughts at present. Whether it be in the town centre or at the various other traders throughout the town. Saltash is well endowed with traders from books to carpets, jewellery to bakery, dry cleaning to fancy goods, insurance to cards/stationery and toys to spectacles and whilst you are making up your mind as to what to purchase you can always pop into one of the many coffee shops/tea rooms.

*On behalf of the Chamber, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

## Peace Garden Boat Re-launched

Saltash Rotary Club were recently offered the opportunity to take over the flower boat which is a prominent feature of the Peace Garden in Alexandra Square. This arose due to the fact that the previous custodians of the boat were no longer able to keep up the maintenance and planting schedules.

In true Rotary style, the boat was repainted and replanted, with the 35 surrounding area weeded and tidied, all in a space of a week and a half from the time that the boat was offered to the local Club, this all being done in time to look ship-shape for Remembrance Sunday on 9th November, the Peace Garden being a point of focus on that day. Rotarian Pete Samuels commented that it could have been completed even sooner, were it not for the inclement weather across several days.

It's that time of year when the most famous member of Saltash Rotary Club, Santa Claus, is to be found out and about the Town, which commenced with the 14th November Christmas Light switch-on. Santa will be seen around Saltash right up to just a few days before Christmas, before his return to the North Pole, where he will organise his delivery schedule to get all those presents delivered in time



for Christmas Day. Saltash Rotary would like to thank all those who donate so generously to the Santa collection at this time of year, the money raised is wisely and prudently spent on a wide range of projects.

Saltash Rotary will have a well decorated and lit tree on display in the St. Nicholas and St. Faith Christmas Tree Festival, which commences on Saturday 29th November and continues until Friday 12th December. If you've never visited this before, you will have missed out, it is

truly spectacular.

The members of Saltash Rotary are very active around the Town, rolling up their sleeves and becoming involved in various projects.

Always on the lookout for any help and assistance, you may have seen their stall at the November market, they would love to hear from you, perhaps by email to [rotaryclubsaltash@gmail.com](mailto:rotaryclubsaltash@gmail.com) and the current Club President Mike Phillips or the Club Secretary will get in touch.

## Cornwall's Labour MPs in 'Final Push' for Deal for Cornwall Ahead of Budget

Cornwall's Labour MPs met with Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Minister Miatta Fahbulleh MP to continue to make the case for a 'Deal for Cornwall' ahead of the Budget.

This final push comes as the latest in a long series of discussions between Government and the Cornish Labour MPs, emphasising not only the vast economic potential of Cornwall, but also the needs of the people of Cornwall to rectify long-standing issues derived from high levels of remote coastal deprivation. There has been increasing concern around deprivation following the loss of Shared Prosperity Funding, which is set to end this year

following a one-year extension granted after persistent lobbying by the four Cornish Labour MPs. Subsequently, the four MPs have held a series of meetings pushing a Fair Funding settlement for Cornwall, following the official consultation which took place earlier this year.

*Noah Law, MP for St Austell and Newquay said:*

"We've been fighting for investment to support Cornwall's economic development and devolved, long-term funding which moves away from the bids and begging bowls approach of recent years. Cornwall is ready to stand on its own two feet and open for investment. The right kind of development funding will be unabashedly focused on

job creation and ensuring that local people truly share in the spoils of our most promising local growth industries".

*Jayne Kirkham, MP for Truro and Falmouth who, on Monday, met with Minister Matthew Pennycook together with the leadership team of Cornwall Council said:*

"We have been working with the Government and Cornwall Council on a housing strategy for Cornwall to ensure that Cornwall gets the funding we need for the right homes in the right places for local people".

*Perran Moon, MP for Camborne, Redruth and Hayle who, in Prime Ministers Questions on Wednesday asked about National Minority Status, said:*

"The opportunity to enshrine

support for the Cornish language, the only UK Celtic language that has a lesser status than the other four, would be a significant moment for those of us that cherish Kernewek. But there's more to do to nurture and develop our cultural heritage. Ministers are engaged and listening to our requests."

*Anna Gelderd, MP for South East Cornwall who has been campaigning for fairer Tamar Tolls for local people said:*

"It's crucial that we begin to lay the foundations for much more transformative transport connectivity in Cornwall and across the region. We are grateful for the time of Ministers from across Government and look forward to continuing our discussions following the budget".



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**What I've Been Up To in Saltash**



So often I am on the move, between visits and meetings, Westminster and home, so I savour the moments when I can stay in one place for the day and speak more with local people. Most recently, I have enjoyed this opportunity in Saltash, which never disappoints.

A strong community does not happen on its own. It happens when you have Town Councillors who lead with care and passion, local people support their independent high street businesses and organisations such as Community Enterprises PL12 go above and beyond to support and serve. In all these ways, Saltash really shines as one of the gateways into Cornwall.

**Late Payments**

I was very pleased to have the opportunity to catch up with Mayor Councillor Rachel Bullock and hear about the Town Council's recent success in installing CCTV in several locations across Saltash. This Saltash Town Council-led project was delivered and supported by a range of stakeholders and local businesses. It is a great example of collaborative working that demonstrates strong local support. A breezy stroll along Fore Street to see some of the cameras in situ took us to The Bookshelf, where the conversation continued, over a delicious lunch, turning to how crucial regeneration is for our high streets and small businesses. I know this is a top priority, and I am determined to help clamp down on late payments and find ways to support the revitalisation of our town centres.

Saltash is home to several organisations that provide

activities and support for young people. On this occasion, it was a treat to visit Livewire, which helps young people unlock their creative talents. I enjoyed learning more about the vital services they offer and some of the many successes they have had in recent years. Music is incredibly important for self-expression and mental health, and it was fantastic to hear that ex-students were both playing in the bands and working the sound desk for their event 'Rocking By The River'. Livewire has done amazing things and should be commended for their fundraising efforts.

I hold both my MP surgeries and open office sessions in different locations each month. After a week of meetings in Westminster, it is always a highlight to come back home and meet with the incredible people who make South East Cornwall the special place that it is. This October, I was back in Saltash, supporting residents with a wide range of topics, including housing, transport and support for local veterans.

I'll continue to work on all these important issues whenever I am in Saltash. Details of upcoming MP surgery or open office dates can be found on my website: [www.annagelderdmp.com](http://www.annagelderdmp.com).

Anna Gelderd MP

**Brass and Voices in Harmony – £750 Raised for Children's Hospice South West**



Photos courtesy Gretchen Melley (STB)

The amazing and multi award-winning Saltash Town Band (STB) presented a special charity concert, raising £750 for Children's Hospice South West (CHSW).

The concert took place at the Saltash Social Club on Saturday, 27th September, under the very capable baton of guest conductor Mark Arnold, who kindly stepped in at short notice.

Adding colour and energy to the evening were talented guest performers, including the band's own award-winning Training Band, led by Christy Smith, and featuring a host of outstanding young musicians.

An additional highlight came from Saltash's popular and well-established Burraton Male Choir (BMC), under the

direction of Phil Taylor, whose performance perfectly complemented the band's uplifting programme.

Although entry to the concert was free, donations on the night were invited in support of CHSW. The evening proved a musical delight — a wonderful blend of brass, voices, fun, and exceptional musicianship from both seasoned and young performers.

A spokesperson for the Band said:

"The Saltash Town Band once again chose to support Children's Hospice South West in recognition of the outstanding care and comfort

it provides to families of seriously ill children. The charity offers hospice stays, emergency and palliative care, and end-of-life support at its three wonderful hospices — Little Bridge House in Devon, Charlton Farm in Somerset, and Little Harbour in Cornwall."

They added: "The evening was an overwhelming success. Both the musicians and choir performed to a full and generous audience, and as a result, an incredible £750 was raised for CHSW. We would like to thank everyone for their tremendous support."

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**Guides New Kitchen Open for All Ages**

Saltash Guides of all ages from four years old Rainbows to late teens Rangers are already delighted at enjoying the enhanced facilities of the kitchen recently opened at the Warfelton headquarters.

At the official opening of the kitchen carried out by Mayor Rachel Bullock the guides district commissioner for Saltash Cheryl Smith explained; Prior to Covid we were just managing with a tiny kitchen. Then came lockdown and during our zoom sessions by far the favourite activity proved to be cooking. This enthusiasm continued to grow when we resumed meetings in our headquarters, and the management committee was soon immersed in fundraising to accommodate the budding cooks.

Parents and the local community in general proved highly supportive, while the girls themselves were busy organising fundraising activities, local businesses and organisations including Saltash town council also proved generous.

Guests at the official opening cream tea admired the shiny new equipment in the large kitchen area. There are specially adapted facilities for the younger children as well as the disabled, while the rangers will more easily be able to cook the three course meals for which they are renowned.

Guiding remains as popular as ever with around two hundred girls signed up in Saltash and more on a waiting list, Guide leaders wish to thank again all of those individuals and organisations who helped to achieve the enhanced facilities which will bring pleasure as well as culinary skill to these guides and to future generations of guides to come.

## Saltash Celebrates Christmas Dogs and All

Saltash is set to sparkle on Saturday 6th December, when the annual Christmas Festival returns to Fore Street with market stalls, carols, Santas and a surprising number of dogs in fancy dress.

The street market opens at 1pm, with stalls offering plenty to explore. Right on cue, hundreds of Santas on Bikes will be roaring up Fore Street, raising funds for the children's hospice Little Harbour and adding an early burst of festive excitement.

At 2:30pm, the Santa Fun Run heads across the Tamar Bridge and back, supported and delivered by the Tamar Trotters Running Club, whose expert organisation ensures this colourful dash is always a highlight.

A new feature this year is a fancy dress competition for dogs and their owners, with two categories: Most Creative Costume for Dogs and Best Dog-Owner Duo. Registration starts at 3:15pm at the stage at the bottom of Fore Street, with judging at 3:30pm. Expect colour, imagination and no shortage of tinsel tails wagging enthusiastically.

At 4:30pm, children will join Redeemer Church in singing outdoor carols at the stage, creating a warm build-up to the Lantern Parade at 6pm. Thanks to funding from Saltash Scrapstore, lantern workshops have taken place across all four primary

schools and the secondary school, giving hundreds of young people the chance to take part. When the Parade reaches the top of Fore Street, the Festival will finish with a firework flourish that lights up the town.

Saltash shops will be open throughout the day, offering festive treats and plenty of inspiration. It's an ideal opportunity to shop close to home and support the town centre.

Logistical and financial support from Saltash Town Council has helped bring the Festival together, and the town's new Christmas lights, switched on in mid-November, have already brightened Fore Street. Organiser Hilary Frank said: "Santas, handmade lanterns and outdoor carols all add up to something special. The support from our schools, volunteers and local organisations brings the Festival to life, and I'm delighted to see it all come together."

With creativity, community spirit and a dash of seasonal flair from humans and hounds alike, Saltash is stepping into the season with good humour and good cheer.

## Flower Power Blooms in Forder Community

The Forder Conservation and Community Association (FCCA) celebrated a burst of colour, community pride, and good-natured rivalry recently where the neighbourhood came together to congratulate the winners of the annual Forder Sunflower Competition.

The newly established event has grown into a much-anticipated highlight of the Forder calendar, reflecting the village's deep-rooted commitment to nature, sustainability, and shared fun. Each summer, residents transform gardens into seas of gold as sunflowers rise skyward — some taller than their growers — bringing enjoyment to neighbours and pollinators alike.

"It's wonderful to see how much enjoyment and participation the sunflower competition brings each year," said an FCCA spokesperson. "Every entrant, whether they won or not, has helped make Forder a brighter, happier place. 'Flower Power' is truly alive and well here!"

Beyond the friendly competition, the project carries an environmental message. The FCCA encourages wildlife-friendly planting and reduced pesticide use, helping the local bee population thrive and supporting biodiversity in this picturesque riverside community.

This year's competition saw increased entries and a high standard of blooms, with some sunflowers towering above fences and others admired for their perfect symmetry of petals. Judges praised the creativity of participants — from carefully nurtured seedlings to spontaneous late bloomers that defied the British summer weather.

## Sir Robert Geffery's Reception Class Join Scarecrow Trail

Children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Reception class at Sir Robert Geffery's Primary School, Landrake, have been taking part in this year's National Trust Scarecrow Trail at Cotehele, combining creativity, storytelling and adventure in one exciting project.

The theme of the trail inspired the EYFS team to write a story about a brand new local legend — the tale of Captain Strawbeard, a friendly pirate and his loyal shipmate Polly the donkey. The children then helped to design and build a scarecrow based on the story, contributing their own ideas and plenty of enthusiasm along the way.

To celebrate their hard work, the class went on their first ever school trip to Cotehele, where they saw Captain Strawbeard and Polly proudly on display alongside other scarecrows from local schools and community groups. The children had a wonderful time exploring the trail, spotting the different creations, and enjoying the beautiful autumn surroundings, EYFS teacher Mrs Hawkings said, "The children were so excited to see Captain Strawbeard and Polly at

## Safety Measures Bring Benefits but Also Longer Journey Times

*Writes James Millidge*

Over recent months we have seen a significant amount of progress on the A38, finally, writes James Millidge, Chair of Safe38 campaign group. The installation of average speed cameras between Carkeel and Trerulefoot, the installation of two spot cameras within the villages of Tideford and Landrake coinciding with the lowering of the speed limit to 30mph, and the removal of a 2+1 road arrangement east of Tideford (a collision hot spot according to the data from National Highways). It is worth reminding ourselves why these average speed cameras, in particular, have been deployed.

This section of road has had an historically and stubbornly high killed and seriously injured (KSI) rate between 2.5 and 3.5 times the national average for a road of its type. The human cost of that shocking safety record must not be forgotten. Safe38 started in 2018 following a 12-

month period where seven people lost their lives on our section of the A38.

As well as costing lives, the economic impact of multiple, long, unplanned closures caused by collisions has had a hugely damaging effect upon the lives and livelihoods of both local residents and visitors.

Only now have we seen the delivery of a significant package of safety improvements that will at last enable the section of road between Carkeel and Trerulefoot to perform far better from a safety perspective. We have also seen the announcement of the delivery of a long-awaited signalised crossing for pedestrians at Tideford.

Journey times will inevitably be longer for users at certain times of day with all of the safety measures and changes referenced above, and they certainly will be impacted by the long distances of temporary speed restrictions currently in place for the construction of a new roundabout at Stoketon Cross.

However, once work is complete, the road will be far safer for us all resulting in less unplanned closures. There is a fine balancing act however between achieving a minimum journey time while improving safety with

less disruptions. It's always been our understanding that making the road between Carkeel and Trerulefoot perform better from a safety perspective would lead to the road being slower and less free flowing. This is far from desirable for a road that should be a high-performing part of the strategic road network and backbone of the Cornish economy.

That is why we have consistently campaigned for a long-term solution like the dual carriageway relief road that was planned and cancelled in the 1990s, designed to carry the huge volume and type of traffic that the current A38, built in the 1940s, struggles to cope with.

If you are feeling fed up with sitting in heavy traffic congestion on the A38 we would strongly encourage readers to write to our local MP to voice your concerns.

There is a solution and we all know what that is. We just need our government to prioritise investing in our corner of Cornwall so we can have the integrated transport network that we so desperately need



Cotehele. It was lovely to watch their faces light up when they recognised their scarecrow. It really brought their learning to life."

It was a wonderful morning filled with smiles, stories and a taste of Cornish adventure. A memorial beginning to the children's Reception year.

## Liz Gay and James Churchfield Join Pudsey for the Three Legged Challenge



BC Radio Cornwall presenters James Churchfield and James Dundon participated in the Children in Need Thousand Mile Three-Legged Challenge in November 2025. The duo, along with other presenters, walked over 1,000 miles across the country, with Dundon and Churchfield covering a combined 25 miles in and around Cornwall, often walking through challenging weather conditions.

Their goal was to raise money for the charity by walking tethered to various people, volunteers and staff from Children in Need-funded projects included Liz Gay a volunteer at the Scrapstore in Saltash (who were recently awarded at BBC Radio Cornwall Make a Difference Awards 2025 "Highly Commended" -The Green Award) she joined them for a stint in HMS Ralieggh Torpoint.

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Admission Free - Donations are very welcome.

Wheelchairs Welcome - Easy disabled access

— Refreshments Served 10am -1pm —

**Sat 29th Nov & Sat 6th Dec**

Also Sat 6th Dec church will stay open late to coincide with the town late night shopping and Christmas Festival.

Mulled Wine and Shortbread will be served.

For further details visit:  
www.saltashteamministry.org



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SANTAS ON BIKES 13.00 | SANTA FUN RUN 14.30

CAROLS ON FORE STREET – 16.30

LANTERN PARADE & FIREWORKS 18.00

This event is made possible thanks to grants from Saltash Town Council and Saltash Scrapstore

## Christmas on a budget:

*Five ways to keep costs down this year*

Christmas is coming! While the financial pressure can become overwhelming, Christmas doesn't have to be a burden, and there are some really simple things you can do to reduce costs without losing any of the joy.

### Manage expectations

Start by listing everything you think you'll need - this will help to plan your Christmas budget. The reality is you may not have enough money to buy everything you want, so start with what you really need, and then look at where you can cut costs, so you stay within your budget. Chat with family and friends about how much you're happy spending this year, so that you've set realistic upfront expectations for everyone.

### Give gifts from the heart

Why not get creative, use the skills you have and save money by making your gifts instead of buying them? You don't have to spend a lot to show someone that you care, and giving a homemade gift, or even doing a task for someone, can truly demonstrate your love and thoughtfulness.

### Get crafty with wrappings and cards

All of these small expenditures add up, so if you've any gift bags left over from previous years, reuse them this Christmas. Maybe forget about cards completely. If not, make

your own or send an e-card instead - you could even have a go at making your own digital card and emailing it for free!

### Get thrifty with decorations

Over the years, Christmas decorations can become tired and outdated, so it's understandable to want some sparkling new ones. Just think about the cost and if they're really needed. Check out charity shops for some low-cost options or again try making your own. There are plenty of creative ideas for decorating on a budget available on CAP's website that you can try.

### Plan your food options

Do you ever find yourself buying Christmas food that never gets eaten? Rather than buying purely for tradition, save money by buying what your family genuinely loves to eat. Often making things from scratch is cheaper and tastier than buying shop-bought, and if hosting Christmas dinner for adult guests, perhaps agree who buys what for the meal so that the cost doesn't all fall on you.

Many people on low incomes are unable to afford the basics, never mind having any money set aside for Christmas. So, if you are overwhelmed by debt and financial pressure this season, please know that there is free, confidential help available. Visit [capuk.org/help](http://capuk.org/help) to find out more.

*Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a UK charity working with over 1,000 affiliated churches to deliver debt help, budgeting guidance, support to find work, life skills education and more. Visit [capuk.org](http://capuk.org) to find out more.*

## Saltash Model Club Raises £750 for St Luke's Hospice

Saltash Model Club has once again demonstrated its creative spirit and community heart, raising an impressive £750 for St Luke's Hospice during its ninth annual charitable Model Show.

The two-day exhibition, held on Saturday and Sunday, October 4th and 5th at Ashtorpe Rock, Saltash, was officially opened by former Mayor and Freeman of Saltash, Sue Hooper MBE, accompanied by her husband, John. The event was kindly sponsored by Ian Timbrell and Darren Smee.

This year's show featured a captivating range of models from military and civilian vehicles to sci-fi creations, RC aircraft and vehicles, and a fascinating model railway display, drawing enthusiastic visitors of all ages who share a love of craftsmanship and imagination.

### Among the highlights:

Charlie Crabtree received a special award for his striking WWII tank "Matilda", which caught the eye of Mrs Hooper. Furthermore, Charlie delighted audience with an engaging account of Matilda's vital wartime role.

Mark Lane, a long-serving member of the club, was honoured with the Dave Lloyd Memorial Trophy, introduced this year to commemorate the late Dave Lloyd. Mark's outstanding service, particularly in designing the club's promotional materials, earned high praise from his peers.

Pete Mills proudly took home the Top Accumulated Score Trophy in the club's ongoing competitions.

In a touching tribute, Mark Lloyd, son of the late Dave

## Pete's Point of View

Okay, so I've said it before, but Saltash really does have an amazing community spirit, the like of which perhaps does not exist in many other places.

This was exemplified on Remembrance Sunday, when despite the pretty awful weather, the Wesley Church was packed with those that had come to remember either loved ones or perhaps pay homage to total strangers, all of whom had laid down their lives to defend our Country and our freedoms. The Remembrance service and subsequent parade down Fore Street and onward to the memorials at St. Nicholas and St. Faith Church, is a Town Council organised event, with the Wesley often being chosen for its capacity and closeness to Fore Street.

Whilst there is a contingency to cover the event of bad

Lloyd, sold many of his father's unbuilt model kits, raising additional funds for St Luke's Hospice. Over half of the collection was sold during the event, a heartfelt testament to Dave's legacy and the generosity of the modelling community.

Refreshments throughout the weekend were provided by Saltash Rotary Club and the Ashtorpe Rock Centre, adding to the warm and welcoming atmosphere.

Club Chair David Parsons said:

"We're always thrilled to welcome so many visitors and share the history and techniques behind our models. "It's especially rewarding to see young people fascinated by how these models work, it keeps the hobby alive and thriving for future generations."

Founded over nine years ago, Saltash Model Club brings together model enthusiasts of all ages and abilities.

weather, it was decided that the parade down Fore Street would go ahead, despite the relatively heavy rainfall and blustery conditions. It became apparent, as we paraded, that it was not only those who were making their way through the Town who had decided to brave the prevalent conditions, it was also a large number of residents and visitors who had come out and show their support, whilst remembering those to whom we all owe a massive debt of gratitude. Well done, Saltash.

Mindful of the fact that other Churches would like to feel included and represented, Her Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Rachel Bullock, had also attended the morning service at St. Stephens, laying a wreath at the Memorial there, in the company of her Consort, the Deputy Mayor and his Consort, together with other Members of the Town Council. It is perhaps worth noting that it is within the remit of the incumbent Mayor to decide on the venue and locations attended on Remembrance Sunday, during their term of office.

It was then on to the Waterside and Waterfront, where I was delighted to learn that something I had initiated during my term as Mayor, whilst during Covid, was being continued. This was to pay respect by the laying of flowers in the water near the Ashtorpe Rock, from where many brave souls departed Saltash for the very last time, never to return from war. It is my fervent hope that this tradition will continue for as long as we, our children and in turn their children, continue to remember the fallen.

May I say a heartfelt thanks to all those in Saltash who volunteer their time, working to support a myriad of organisations and groups, who tirelessly maintain their efforts for the benefit of Saltash. Wishing you a very merry Christmas, one and all.

**Pete Samuels**

*Any views expressed are personal views and not that of any organisation with which Pete is associated.*

## Sustainable Saltash

*A regular column on changes Saltash residents are making to confront climate and ecological breakdown*

### The Humble Hedgehog

Last year, my daughter discovered a small prickly ball in the lane at the back of the house. This was in the middle of the afternoon. A little coaxing revealed a snuffly nose and four little feet poking out of this surprise find. Our new friend spent several weeks at a sanctuary, infested with mites and underweight, then returned to our garden where she lived for a number of months before moving on. That winter she was discovered a second time. On this occasion, hibernating in a bag of orchid bark in the shed. We haven't seen her since and I wonder what became of her but am grateful to her for teaching my daughter something about illness and recovery, and for the insight she gave us into a fascinating mammal.

Hedgehogs are elusive. Throughout history, we have misunderstood them, judged them to have medicinal or even supernatural powers and even eaten them. As well as being timid and beautiful animals, we now know them to be a vital part of the ecosystem, eating many pests and balancing their populations. They are also in trouble. Between hedgerow loss, changing use of land and a slipping climate, their numbers are plummeting. At the start of my mother's life, there were estimated to be 30 million in the UK. They were commonplace. By the start of my daughter's life there were less than a million.

How can we help reverse this decline? Well, as ever, engage with conservation at every level! We made a donation to a sanctuary; we also signed an open letter to government from several conservation charities reminding them that this sort of thing is their jurisdiction.

Such acts make an almost intangible difference, but little differences add up to change. We have also taken a good look at our garden. Prior to her arrival on the drive, our new friend would have either been trapped in or excluded from our property. I took the bottom 5 inches off of the back gate, because I preferred how that looked. You can simply make a hole of about 5x5 inches. If you are redesigning, avoid the recent trend for fences that come all the way to the ground. Intruders don't come in 5 inch packages, but some really marvellous creatures do!

Once they have made it over the threshold, we can help still further. Firstly, be careful moving things around in winter, and check that bonfire carefully. If you see one out during the day, something is probably wrong. Seek help from a local charity.

Like humans, hedgehogs thrive on variety. Think woodpiles, messy corners, shade and shelter. Look up how to build a hedgehog house and maybe add a miniature pond. Then sit back and enjoy. You may not see them all that often, but since adapting our garden in this way, we have heard several. They have a very distinct way of moving around. We have also seen a big uplift in other species visiting us since we made these changes. Outdoor space that feels wild is a tonic, outdoor space that is wild is magical.

**Marc Bramham**

*This column is a conversation starter for our whole community. If you have comments on the subject, ideas of your own or suggestions for future content, please do get in touch at [sustainable.saltash@protonmail.com](mailto:sustainable.saltash@protonmail.com)*

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## Tamar Reflections

**Part 2 – Saltash Waterside Boys' Club/Livewire 1945-2025 – 80th Anniversary Mission Hall**

The Mission Hall was situated in the heart of the Waterside and had not been used for regular worship since 1941 - it was a Chapel under the control of the Parish Church. It was eventually sold (1950's) to the management committee of the Club because of the location of the premises and moreover, that the majority of the 37 original members came from the immediate area, it was agreed that the Club should be known as the Saltash Waterside Boys' Club, and subscriptions were set at 3d (threepence) per week.

The affairs of the Club were vested in an adult Management Committee elected annually at a public meeting. The person eventually appointed as the Club leader was Liverpoolian, John Henry Taylor (affectionately known as Harry) - who had served in the area during WW2 with the National Fire Service. Harry Taylor was to play such a significant role in the care, training and character building of the future of the young lads who were to pass through the club and Harry is still remembered with great affection. (Harry sadly died untimely in 1971).

### Harry Taylor

Harry Taylor was originally employed by the Management Committee who at first had to find his salary, but after a while was able to receive grant aid from Cornwall County Council; in this respect he was given the responsibility for everyday running of the club and for the activities within the policies as laid down by the Management Committee.

Although holding no professional qualification in youth work, he endeared himself, not only to the members but more amazingly to the close-knit community of the Waterside where strangers were not always given a ready welcome. His natural friendliness and sympathetic ear more than compensated for his lack of early experience and allowed him to exercise the influence that was so necessary in those



early days to train young lads in the purposeful use of their leisure time. It was also a priority of his, that all members should be aware of their commitment to the community in which they lived. These commitments set by Harry, was also testament of his understanding and foresight of the needs of young people, and by the end of the first year, juvenile crime in Saltash had lessened considerably.

Volunteers and helpers with the actual running of the club were very few in the early months of 1945 - although the leader was able to recruit instructors for specialised activity; this body would give valued and essential service to the club. Eventually, Harry with the organisation of much needed fund-raising events and with the day-to-day needs, all manner of people served upon the various committees of the Club; some of whom did not have sons who were Club members.

### Indoor and outdoor pursuits

Indoor and outdoor competitions and team sports

played an important part of the facility programme and Boy's Club members were soon to earn a reputation for not only abilities in a wide range of sport and skills - but also the fair manner in which they took part; rowing became a feature situated up on the banks of the Tamar and indoor specialities of table tennis, snooker, darts draughts, chess, poster drawing, physical training (held in the old Dwelley Hall) and drama in the Church rooms, boxing, cricket and summer camps, canoeing and sailing; the range was endless. Harry and the Boys' Club members also carried the name of the Club further afield and achieved considerable success in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, 10 tours competition trekking across the Pennine Way and canoeing expeditions on the River Wye. By 1950 the membership had increased to 100 the maximum number that Harry felt could be accommodated, moreover, the building was structurally becoming increasingly unsuitable and dangerous. Alternative premises were inspected, including the former Working Men's Club building in Saltash Fore Street - and the former slaughterhouse in Elwell Lane - but both were considered as unsuitable -

added to the fact, that the Club's finances were meagre, therefore the Club's situation remained static until 1960, when in a report commissioned by the Government, Lord Alberman highlighted the problems encountered by Local Authorities and persons working with young people and in the service of youth, which could be directly associated with a lack of proper accommodation and facilities.

### New Premises funding

As a direct result of that report, it was in 1962 that the Saltash Waterside Boys' Club was invited to apply for financial grant aid from the Ministry of Education towards the cost of building new premises. Alternative sites on the Waterside were considered, but finally it was resolved that the new building should form a part of the redevelopment of the Waterside by the Saltash Borough Council. (The Club purchased their land site from the SBC) just metres from where the Mission Hall was situated.

A massive fund-raising appeal was launched supported by all sections of the community and in 1964 the old Mission Hall, which the Club had purchased from the Church authorities was finally demolished, with much regret, to make way for the present building (now Livewire) which was opened in 1965 by Frankie Vaughan the entertainer and lifelong supporter of the Boys Clubs' movement.

### Reflecting on the earlier Name Change (1957)

In 1957 after much discussion

and deliberation, and two unsuccessful attempts, it was decided to rename the Saltash Waterside Boys' Club to the Saltash Boys' Club. It was considered at that time, that the Club no longer recruited members from just the Waterside and Lower Town areas, but from Saltash generally - this re-naming decision gained the support of the whole Saltash community. Later the name - Saltash Waterside Boys' Club was re-introduced for practical reasons (this name will eventually change again to Livewire). Furthermore, young ladies were gradually being integrated into the Club - especially as the girls wished to row in the newly revived Cornish Rowing. The decision to integrate girls into the Boys' Club movement initially had a lukewarm reception from the National Association of Boys' Clubs, but due to national pressure the Association eventually relented and accepted their inclusion (what a great day that was!!).

*Sue Hooper MBE*

*Former Mayor of Saltash and Freeman of the Town*

*Email: suehcf@msn.com*

## Pride Promenade Through Town & Country

Saltash celebrated Diversity when, as a part of Cornwall pride events, a walk was led around the town and its' countryside.

The walk was led by town mayor Rachel Bullock. Some of the more quirky elements of local history were pointed out to walkers including "Corpse Castle" the murderer's plot by St Stephens Churchyard and the house on the site of which sailors from Napoleon's fleet were buried. Walkers were taken around Churchtown Farm where as well as admiring spectacular views they discovered rusted remnants from the pride of the French fleet in World War II and a rare fruit that can only be enjoyed when it is rotted down.

Back in Fore Street walkers repaired to the Brunel Inn where drag artist Roxie Moran put on a special performance for them.

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A Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year*

## Just Thinking Aloud ...

It was Martin Luther back in the 16th century, a key figure in the Protestant Reformation, who said: "Even if I knew that the world would end tomorrow, I would still plant my apple tree". Dear old Martin - I'm with him. We need optimism like his to counter all the gloomy scenarios served up to us by too many (and I include myself on a bad day) at all levels - from the bus stop

outside Saltash Co-op up to international media.

Monthly rant over. But it's given me an idea or two.

Dear reader, you have no idea how much I worry about trying to find 500 words among which you will find at least a few to give you food for thought. Hard work - almost as difficult as successfully clipping my toenails! That said, I recall being asked what my recent reading has consisted of. I did intend to respond, but I forgot. Well, it's been mostly politics, constitutional

history, archaeology, theology, crime and spy fiction and the occasional autobiography. Recently read authors include Rory Stewart, Peter Hennessy, Robert Peston, Andrew Rawnsley, Jess Phillips, Alice Roberts, Richard Holloway, Thomas Merton, Mick Herron, Alan Bennett and Miriam Margolyes. The Saltash Bookshelf folk tell me that Clare Balding seems to be jumping off their shelves, but I think I have run out of enthusiasm, and I wasn't too keen on the Margolyes

offering - a bit over the top for me...

However, some of the stuff among my recent reading had me making a note or two. I quote without attribution and out of context: "Is it time for alliances that build bridges and construct the mosaic of political, social and religious co-existence?". In today's world, that has had me thinking, albeit not aloud as yet. And what about "... keeping alive the flame of democracy amidst the growing darkness"? I fear that at least one of our world's

leaders is incapable of even beginning to understand or accept such philosophies, though I hope and pray that I am wrong.

I was pleased with the paragraph with which I had decided to finish this month's offering. It was punchy, to the point and totally unambiguous. I wanted to be certain of capturing your interest - and hopefully your total agreement. It was a plea to you to use your vote in next May's local elections. The penny didn't drop until after I had sent it to editor/owner Mary... Cornwall's different - years to go before we vote locally again, so if I'm still around and they haven't changed the voting system by then, I'll give you another prod four years after the last one.

In the meantime, early Christmas wishes to you all. As a small boy in the nineteen forties I hated Christmas. All that nonsense about gentle Jesus meek and mild, having just one present instead of two because birthday and Christmas were only separated by five days. Yah boo. More grumpiness late December.

Bob Munro

## Saltash Catholic Church Events

Sunday 14th December : from 3pm

### The Burraton Boys

Christmas Concert will be held in the church & followed by Afternoon Tea  
Donation - £5.00 per person

### Christmas Services

Information about Masses at Christmas will be on the Parish website and on display on the notice board in the Church porch.

Please check the notice board at church or website of the Liskeard Catholic Church or

Telephone: 01579 344906

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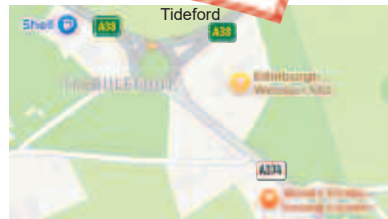
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