

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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October 2020 - Issue 343

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HMS TAMAR Britain's Newest Warship

HMS Tamar, Britain's newest warship, has been in Falmouth for a 7-week maintenance period. An Offshore Patrol Vessel, she will now be deployed on

lengthy missions around the globe, operating out of overseas ports and bases as part of the Royal Navy's Forward Presence programme. Her remit is to

protect UK interests at sea, work and support our allies, assist British citizens, and provide aid in the aftermath of natural disasters. Weighing in at 2,000

Royal Navy as the first vessel to conform to new MARPOL emissions regulations. Her diesel exhausts are fitted with catalytic converters which reduce nitrogen-based emissions by up to 95%.

Her crew affectionately call her the 'Swiss Army Knife' of Royal Navy vessels, and Lieutenant-Commander Michael Hutchinson, Commanding Officer of HMS Tamar, was proud to share the innovation and technology with a range of visitors while the ship was in Falmouth. The Chairman of Cornwall Council, Councillor Hilary Frank, joined the High Sheriff of Cornwall, Kate Holborow, on one of the visits. "We were hugely impressed by the skills, professionalism, humour and



Observer Waterside Clean-up Day

Wow, Saltash! What a success! Our September Saturday shoreline clean-up shifted masses of unsightly rubbish, almost beyond belief!

On the day, I abandoned my head-count as 25 to 30 grinning volunteers turned up at the parking area... it seemed as if everyone was just waiting to be asked. Two Observer articles and a few posted pathway placards did the trick. And the weather co-operated too!

At 10am the garbage-gatherers' invasion, suitably clad, was met by my hastily scribbled plan-of-action notice-board, and a cooler of drinks and cookies, plus plastic litter bags and gloves from Cornwall Council... and a reminder about social distancing. In anticipation, chainsaw-wielding Rotarian Brian Stoyel helpfully demolished two boat skeletons a few days before, and fellow Rotarian Eddie arrived with a car boot full of litter picks and bag hoops... we were on our way. With a receding tide, in front of the Union, and from Saltash Pier to Saltmill Park no seaweed clump was left unturned; worst was beneath the

two bridges. Everyone laboured tirelessly, retrieving two rusty supermarket trollies, a car bumper, several old tyres, a pram, dumped garden clearance prunings, endless coils of steel hawser, a child's car seat, redundant dinghy duckboards, an aluminium chop-saw, sundry sizeable lumps of timber, plastic and metal, swathes of discarded carpet and enough domestic litter to fill 15-20 bags.

Three muddy hours later, cut to the parking area in Old Ferry Road, and we'd created a junk mountain, plus significant hazardous driftwood and tree-trimmings, with more above Jubilee Green, and my trailer, filled from a creek at upriver Saltmill Park, where a splinter group toiled in tidal mud. Come Monday and Tuesday, enough assorted waste to fill two trucks was very efficiently removed from the esplanade by council workers.

As a Devonian only 4 years in town, my impression is of a reputed community spirit revealing itself magnificently when called upon. Everybody, but everybody, deserves a very special thank you, including Steve 'Whispers' with his

chainsaw and strimmer, who professionally trimmed and tidied the wooded foreshore area... and a very supportive anonymous employee (his choice) 'below the parapet' at Truro Harbour Office!

Hopefully, our efforts will be a lasting reminder of what a beautiful corner we have here, daily enjoyed by many.

Collectively, you're all a terrific antidote to Covid 19! Thank you again.

Ian Robinson.



Photo Ian Robinson

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tonnes, she has a 6,000 mile range and a flight deck capable of carrying a Merlin helicopter, meaning she can support a range of operations, from counter-piracy to anti-smuggling. Cabins for the crew are at the front of the ship, but below the flight deck there is additional accommodation that can hold more than 50 troops, Marines or other personnel, which will enable the ship to play a key role in evacuation operations. The 16-tonne crane and space for up to five shipping containers will be vital in disaster relief operations.

HMS Tamar is also the 'greenest' surface ship in the

enthusiasm of the entire ship's company," said Councillor Frank, "and we are making plans on how to support HMS Tamar and develop even stronger ties with Cornwall in the next few months and years."



Twelve Days on Victoria Road

Bluebell and Evony are sisters who live on Victoria Road. They talked excitedly about the Window Wanderland event and settled on Seven Swans a Swimming for the design they wanted to put in a window of their home. Then they thought it would be magical if they could invite other families on Victoria Road to join in, each making a scene of a gift from the Twelve Days of Christmas. So they went up and down the road delivering leaflets. Their father, John, said: "The girls are excited that many of our neighbours have got involved - it looks like scenes from all twelve days will be lighting up Victoria Road."

The Saltash Chamber of Commerce is urging all residents and businesses to join in this new community festival and help create an outdoor art gallery in the evenings of 5th, 6th and 7th December by sticking designs made of paper in a ground floor or upper floor window. Mary Poppins on skis will be in the window of The Bookshelf, and other places that have signed up to create a display include the Girlguiding Headquarters, Saltash Wesley Methodist Church, the Guildhall, Truly Scrumptious and the Baptist Church.

Volunteer organiser Sarah Martin said: "Taking part is absolutely free. The sign-up process is simple - just go to our website page and register your address. The design can be really simple, too! All you need is paper and a little bit of creativity."

Saltash Scrapstore has paper supplies and video tutorials are on the Saltash Christmas Festival Facebook page, but if you don't feel creative enough to make a display yourself use the Contact Event Organiser facility on the website to let the organisers know you'd like to

lend them your window and arrangements will be made to deliver a display to you.

In the dark evenings of that first weekend of December, residents will be able to wander around in a Covid-safe atmosphere and enjoy the creative community spirit.

www.windowwanderland.com/event/saltash-cornwall-2020

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Telephone: 0300 1234 101
educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk

Housing Department
Telephone: 0300 1234 161
Email: info@cornwallhousing.org.uk
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Telephone: 0300 1234 101
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children@cornwall.gov.uk

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refuseandrecycling@cornwall.gov.uk

*Town Messenger
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Your Cornwall Councillors

Saltash North
Sheila Lennox-Boyd
s.lennox-boyd@cornwallcouncillor.org.uk

Saltash South
Hilary Frank
hilary.frank@cornwallcouncillor.org.uk

Saltash East
Derek Holley
derek.holley@cornwallcouncillor.org.uk

Saltash West
Sam Tamlin
sam.tamlin@cornwallcouncillor.org.uk

**Cornwall Councillors –
Cover such services as:**
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Tamar Bridge

From the Mayor of Saltash

When writing this monthly column, it is very difficult to avoid mention of Covid-19 which is not only having a profound effect on the way in which we live our lives, but also consequential changes to the viability of businesses, both nationally and locally.

One change which we are likely to see in Fore Street is the closure of the existing Post Office, which I understand will take place in January. Rumours have abounded over this very subject over the last few months, during which time it has been difficult to separate fact from rumour, but the opportunity to take over the franchise is now being advertised on the website runapostoffice.co.uk

The Town Council will monitor this situation and do its utmost to try to keep a Post Office branch within the Town. Watch this space, as they say.

On a much more positive note, Saltash Town Council



recently gave approval for the much needed renovation and refurbishment work at the Library Hub. This will provide the residents of Saltash with a bright, modern and comfortable environment when using the facilities. Gone will be the misted 'blown' double glazing which currently detracts from the building and the views from within.

The Library will be closed for several weeks to allow the work to progress, but whilst the closure is in effect, there will be a slimmed down Library service offered elsewhere in the Town.

Ultimately there will be

cost savings and efficiencies when some Town Council staff are relocated to the building from currently rented or cramped accommodation elsewhere in the Town.

Some good news recently on the Leisure Centre, which at one time seemed destined to remain closed for the foreseeable future, but negotiations were taking place behind the scenes and the Leisure Centre should, at the time you read this, be open for most, but not all, of the facilities usually provided. My thanks to our Cornwall Councillors for their help and input with this.

With the constantly changing sands around Covid-19 regulations, the Town Council are working hard to ensure that Remembrance Sunday is commemorated as fully as possible, but it is a deep

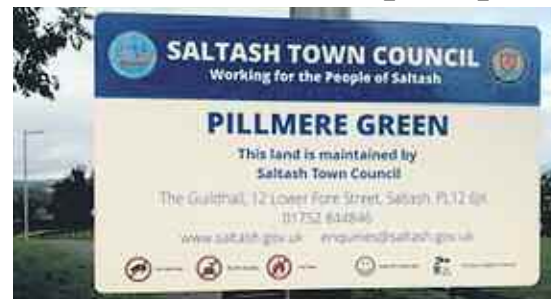
personal regret that we are simply unable to commemorate in the usual way.

From time to time we read in the press or see on TV stories about heroes saving lives. You too have a chance to be a hero and save lives, simply by employing the basics of wearing a face covering, social distancing, hand washing and following the rules. If you follow those basics, you will probably never know how many lives you helped to save, but I give my thanks to all those who are helping to fight this deadly virus, in whatever capacity they do so.

Please stay safe and follow the Covid-19 restrictions and regulations that are designed to protect us all.

*Kind Regards
Pete Samuels
Mayor of Saltash 2020-21*

Protected as Public Open Space



Following the meeting of the Services Committee it was agreed by Members that Saltash Town Council would be working with the residents of Pillmere to maintain land at Dartmoor View, Pillmere Meadow and Pillmere Green.

This land was recently acquired by Saltash Town Council from the developer. As a result conversations were held with local residents as to what they wished to do with the land, it was agreed that these areas would be protected as public open space.

Saltash Town Council have now clearly displayed our responsibility of the maintenance of these areas but will continue to work closing with those volunteers of Pillmere Community Association whose hard work in keeping the areas natural beauty is greatly appreciated

Your Town Council

Saltash North
Sarah Gillies
s.gillies@saltash.gov.uk

Brenda Samuels
b.samuels@saltash.gov.uk

Bill Phillips
b.phillips@saltash.gov.uk

Julia Peggs
j.peggs@saltash.gov.uk

Saltash South
Sheila Lennox-Boyd
s.lennox-boyd@saltash.gov.uk

Sarah Martin
s.martin@saltash.gov.uk

Averil Pinckney
a.pinckney@saltash.gov.uk

Mark Fox
m.fox@saltash.gov.uk

Saltash East
Richard Bickford
r.bickford@saltash.gov.uk

Mike Parker
m.parker@saltash.gov.uk

Julie Rance
j.rance@saltash.gov.uk

Pete Samuels
p.samuels@saltash.gov.uk

Saltash West
Gloria Challen
g.challen@saltash.gov.uk

Jean Dent
j.dent@saltash.gov.uk

Steve Miller
s.miller@saltash.gov.uk

David Yates
d.yates@saltash.gov.uk

Mayor:
Pete Samuels

Deputy Mayor:
Julie Rance

Town Clerk:
Ray Lane
T: 844846

E: enquiries@saltash.gov.uk

**Councillors
telephone
numbers can
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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**

Phone Box Purchase For A Pound



While the refurbished railway station building has attracted almost universal praise from rail users and other observers, many have commented adversely on the state of the telephone box alongside. The traditional 1930's style red box has been disconnected for some years and is in a sorry state, in contrast to the adjacent station.

The Town Council has now agreed to purchase the box for the nominal sum of £1 and to adopt it. As we have reported previously Saltash Rotary Club have already agreed to renovate it, taking out and replacing each glass panel and repainting it in its original colour. It should then complement the period building alongside and the intention is to instal a defibrillator.

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Meet Your Councillor

Councillor David Yates West Ward Saltash

David has lived in Saltash since 1983, moving here while in the Royal Navy.

After retiring from the Royal Navy in 1998 he joined Babcock Marine (then DML) and worked for them as an engineer before retiring.

David joined Saltash Town Council in 2007 and has served as Mayor and Deputy Mayor as well as Chairman of the Services Committee (and its predecessor the Industry Commerce and Transportation and Tourism Committee).

Over the course of the current council his main activity has been involvement, as Chairman, in the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group which is taking the lead in preparing the Saltash Neighbourhood Development Plan for controlling future housing, industry and infrastructure development in Saltash up to 2030.

He said that one of the most important parts of preparing the Saltash Neighbourhood Plan is getting people's views of what they wanted for Saltash in the future. This has been done by sending out questionnaires and having a variety of consultation meetings including weekly face to face discussions on Saturday mornings in the Library and taking part in "Meet your Councillors" events in Fore Street.

He said that the results of the questionnaires and the Neighbourhood Plan consultations have confirmed the importance of the planning and management of the proposed improvements in Saltash including taking over and refurbishing the Library and Station Building and expanding Town Council responsibility for public spaces.

David can be contacted via the Saltash Town Council at www.saltash.gov.uk



Chamber Chairman Peter Ryland - Keeping us Updated...

At the Chamber's AGM on the 5th October I was, at long last, able to stand down as Chairman, so this will be my last article before I pass on the chain of office to my successor, Sarah Martin. Sarah has been my Vice Chair for the last 12 months and becomes the first female Chairman of the Chamber since its inception in the 1950s.

I have been Chairman for five years in total, and over that time have encouraged many new members to join. I am particularly pleased that we now have a more even split between male and female members. I have also been able to bring the Chamber out of the doldrums that the previous Chairman had to endure. We are now an active member of many of the forums in the town, including Safer Saltash, the Section 106 Panel and the Town Team. This involvement enables the Chamber to bring a commercial opinion to the town's debates and activities, and has resulted in an improved relationship with both Saltash Town Council and Cornwall Council. All the stakeholders in these forums represent different sectors of people and businesses within PL12, and by working together we can benefit all those who live in and around Saltash.

Other activities in the last five years have included taking on the organisation of the Christmas Festival and Lantern Parade at the request of Saltash Town Council, giving opinion on planning applications of significance such as the retail development at Gilston Road, and organising schemes aimed at boosting footfall in to the town centre, such as the Two Hours for the Price of One scheme in the town centre's car parks which ran through to March this year. I have been well supported by an Events Committee, and I would like to thank them along with the Chamber Secretary and the Treasurer. I would also thank

my Vice Chairman for her determination.

My last act as Chairman was to persuade the members to agree that there will be no membership fee for either new or existing members for 2020/2021, as an acknowledgement of the difficult times we are in due to Covid 19. I am hopeful that this will encourage new members to join! I am also hopeful that, in the not too distant future, we will be able to hold our monthly meetings at the China Fleet Club again; although technology has meant we can continue to meet throughout the pandemic I do find that there are limitations. I particularly miss the informal banter over a drink after meetings.

Can I remind readers about the Window Wanderland - the outdoor art gallery that the Chamber is organising as a Covid-safe alternative to the 2020 Christmas Festival, and ask as many businesses and residents as possible to sign up and decorate their window.

Finally, I would point out that I will still be around as a Chamber member and fulfilling my other roles as CIC Director and Scrapstore Trustee. I look forward to maintaining the strong relationships I've built up as we continue to support each other in these financially difficult times. *Peter*

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Urgent Appeal for Volunteers

Citizens advice launches urgent appeal for volunteers in saltash as revamped office re-opens

Following the completion of a major refurbishment project at the Citizens Advice Saltash office, the charity is launching an urgent appeal for new volunteers in the town.

The offices in Belle Vue Road, were officially re-opening by Saltash Mayor, Cllr Pete Samuels, at a ceremony on Monday (28 September). Community Enterprises PL12, which runs the building, has revamped the ground floor to create a Covid-safe environment for volunteer advisers and public using Citizens Advice Cornwall.

The ground floor refurbishment has been mainly funded by a generous grant of £9,700 from Saltash Town Council and was planned and supervised by CEPL12 Director, Peter Ryland.

"We have been managing this building under a lease from Cornwall Council for more than five years" said CEPL12 Chair, Jo Baskott. "We want to be a good landlord, supportive of CA Cornwall, who will gradually be able to start five-day a week opening using the new facilities. This will be a boost for ourselves, Citizens Advice and the Foodbank working together at the building to help local people with whatever problems life is putting their way".

Citizens Advice Cornwall Chief Executive, Gill Pipkin, appealed for volunteers to



Photo Ian Robinson

come forward to help services expand in the town.

"We can offer full training to people who wish to become advisers in the service", said Gill. "It is not only interesting and varied work which can be done flexibly to suit individual volunteers, but the work will give excellent experience for people who wish to improve their own job prospects," she said.

CEPL12 also needs volunteers, particularly to help local people who lack confidence and opportunity to use online services or computers generally - this

need became very apparent at the start of the Covid crisis. Jo said: "This is an urgent situation. If you think you have the knowledge to help people learn, please come forward now".

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact CEPL12 at 4 Fore Street, Saltash (tel 01752 848648, hub@cepl12.co.uk) or to go to the Citizens Advice Cornwall website www.citizensadvicecornwall.org.uk and click on Volunteer with Us or email volunteer@citizensadvicecornwall.org.uk

Forster's Ferryman Restored



Photo Ian Robinson

Waterside walkers will see that our Ferryman has his brass plates back, commemorating a 900-year river crossing enterprise that established Saltash. Seaside corrosion was making the etchings shabby and unrecognisable.... some are the drawings of Jim Thompson, modelmaker in our September issue, who is now weatherproofing the wooden seat. Civil engineering company Taziker, who oversee both our bridges, agreed when approached by the Ashtorres Lynn Marsh

(whose father drove the last public ferry!) to completely restore the brasswork. They used Owatrol oil to bind the surfaces, an effective penetrating rust inhibitor. Tony Marsh, seen here with sculpture designer and creator John Forster, recounted how a lady once asked him to take her picture beside the statue, subsequently revealing that she was the Carol in the etching, born in an ambulance on the ferry!

I found, while studying the artwork, that I could almost imagine those heavy chains clanking as the outgoing ferry battled an incoming tidal chop. My thoughts even whisked me to the far north, as he's cut from the same protective Corten steelwork as Sir Antony Gormley's Angel of the North. Long may he grace our promenade.

Finally, look hard to discover the secret, hidden plate!

Ian Robinson.

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Medium Alert

The Prime Minister has announced a three-tier system of Coronavirus restrictions, with each area classified as being on either Medium, High, or Very High Alert. Cornwall is rated as Medium, which means that at the moment there are no additional local rules, but our pubs and restaurants must close by 10pm and we need to observe the Rule of Six.

We are seeing rising numbers of Covid cases in Cornwall: in the week leading to 2nd September there were 5 new cases; this has risen consistently, and stood at 91 new cases in the week leading to 13th October. But thanks to the way people in Cornwall have been following public health guidance we are still one of the lowest-risk areas in the country.

Cornwall Council's Public Health has been allocated a ring-fenced Outbreak Management Grant of £2.3 million, and one of the ways we are helping keep on top of the pandemic is through our enhanced contact tracing, which we undertake to complement the government's contract tracing. This was established in August, ahead of most other local authority areas.

Under the national programme, anyone with a positive test result is contacted by email within 48 hours. However, latest figures suggest more than a third are not responding. Our Cornwall Council team will call the person by phone and ask a more detailed set of questions that has been developed by Cornwall Council, and we are getting a good response.

The questions focus on the places the person has visited in the 48 hours before feeling unwell, and around the start of being symptomatic. This work helps the team understand the bigger picture of data in Cornwall, see any potential areas for concern, identify any clusters, and will help keep Cornwall at Medium Alert.

Homes in Cornwall

Providing safe homes for people in emergency need during these unprecedented times continues to be a priority for Cornwall Council. As part of the response to the pandemic we set up, for example, temporary self-contained homes on Council-owned sites in Truro and Penzance.

But with around 12,000 families in Cornwall on the Homechoice register Cornwall Council is also working to improve the provision of permanent affordable housing, and our capital programme includes £440 million to be spent on new and improved housing. 50 new homes will be built at Maudlin Farm in Liskeard, for example. The homes that Cornwall Council is building are helping to offset the fall in our housing stock resulting from the Right to Buy scheme that started in the 1980s. Back then, as many as 3,500 Cornish homes were going in to private ownership every year, but even now around 50 to 60 homes a year are sold under the Right to Buy scheme.

Another big challenge is making sure the homes go to local people and those who need them most, which is one reason we now require applicants to prove a three-year connection. There are always rumours that homes built in Cornwall are being sold off to local councils elsewhere. This is a myth. Please contact one of your Cornwall Councillors if you hear one of these rumours and we will be glad to look in to it.

Our efforts have been recognised nationally, and for the past two years Cornwall Council has been named as the best authority in the country for delivering affordable homes. Our housing policy is underpinned by strong connections with the housing associations, and we are working closely together to deliver affordable, high-quality homes for people in Cornwall.

Budget Challenges

With a gross expenditure of nearly £1.2 billion and the equivalent of 5,357 full time employees, setting Cornwall Council's budget is always a challenge. This year, though, Covid has thrown us extra challenges as we have sustained income losses in areas such as car parking as well as incurred extra expenditure. At a time of crisis, Cornwall Council moved at pace, using innovative approaches and working flexibly to set up completely new services to support the most vulnerable. We redesigned services such as waste collection to keep them going virtually unaffected. We built a temporary mortuary and purchased PPE. All of this cost us £74 million. Despite assurances from Government that they would cover this expenditure, Cornwall Council has so far received less than £40 million from Whitehall.

Added to this is the uncertainty about the funding reforms that had been promised by Government such as the reform of Adult Social Care funding and the Fair Funding Review, which Government seems to have pushed in to future years. And, along with all local authorities across the UK, we are still waiting for details about Government's Shared Prosperity Fund that will replace EU funding. All this uncertainty makes it even harder to formulate a budget.

Over the last ten years, we have already made nearly £380m of cuts, while protecting the services that people have told us are most important. Our plans already included measures to make a further £30m in savings over the next four-year period, but the additional budget gap from Covid will require us to reduce our spending over the next four-year period by a total of £58m to ensure our budget remains balanced.

Our highest priority will always be our residents, especially those who are most vulnerable and have been most affected by the pandemic. We also want to support our businesses through this time of unprecedented financial challenge as well as tackle climate change. So the draft budget we have published includes some really hard choices. Here are some of the main headlines:

- **Increasing council tax** by 1.99%
- **Further reducing the size of our organisation** through strategies including voluntary redundancy
- **Reducing the number of offices and buildings** through changing the way we work and better enabling staff to work from home

This is a budget for the residents of Cornwall so it's important that we now hear from as many people as possible. Please give us your views by visiting the Council's engagement website 'Let's Talk Cornwall' or talking to one of your Cornwall Councillors. You can also request a survey through the post by phoning 0300 1234 100.

Saltash Leisure Centre

GLL is a social enterprise that is contracted to run 13 leisure facilities in Cornwall on behalf of Cornwall Council. After lockdown was lifted, GLL opened eight of its Cornish leisure centres but couldn't afford to open all of them following substantial losses during the four months of lockdown. Saltash Leisure Centre remained closed.

Recognising the importance of keeping active, fit and healthy, Cornwall Council provided GLL with an emergency funding package of £6m at the end of September that has enabled GLL to reopen all its centres and swimming pools, including Saltash. The funding package is complex, but the majority is in the form of loans of up to £4.4m. It also includes grants, as well as loan and contract payment holidays totalling about £1.7m. This will be funded from our Cornwall Council reserves.

Government has given funding to leisure centres where they are directly operated by local authorities, but there has been no government funding for leisure centres in Cornwall or places like Cornwall where they are operated by a contractor. Cornwall Council has received £39m from Government to cover our expenditure in response to the pandemic, which is just over half the amount we have spent to keep Cornish residents safe in recent months. Anyone suggesting that we could give some of this money to GLL or any other contractor fails to understand the situation, and fails to understand the severity of the impact the pandemic has had on the finances of Cornwall Council.

While the financial help from Cornwall Council will bring short-term relief, the long-term future of leisure provision in Cornwall still remains uncertain. Cornwall Council and GLL, together with local authorities across the South West, are continuing to lobby Government for a financial rescue package to safeguard the future of leisure provision. In the meantime, we urge people to continue to show their support for Saltash Leisure Centre. Refurbished in July 2017, the gym now holds 45 top of the range Technogym™ equipment stations. Make sure you pre-book your sessions online at www.better.org.uk

Outstanding

Data from the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government shows that Cornwall has the second highest levels of multiple deprivation of all English counties. At any one time our Early Help Services are providing help to approximately 2,000 families, a number that has doubled over the past three years.

Cornwall Council's Children's Services were inspected by Ofsted last October under the framework of the Inspection of Local Authority Children's Service (ILACS). The inspection is focused on the full range of the Council's children's social care services and the quality of social work practice.

We were thrilled that despite lower levels of funding and higher levels of deprivation than most other authorities, Cornwall Council's children's social care service was rated as Outstanding, one of only 17 authorities to achieve this, placing us in the top 10% nationally.

Determined to 'build on outstanding', we are already addressing the three areas that were highlighted in the ILACS inspection as needing improvement: we have increased the number of specialist-supported, self-contained temporary accommodation units for 16/17 year-olds; successfully recruited specialist life-story coordinators; and simplified the format for recording plans.

Despite intense financial pressures, we remain committed to continuously improving practice and enabling new opportunities to make integration a reality and support Cornwall's children and families.



Cllr Hilary Frank:
hilary.frank@cornwallcouncillors.org.uk



Cllr Derek Holley:
derek.holley@cornwallcouncillors.org.uk



Cllr Sam Tamlin:
sam.tamlin@cornwallcouncillors.org.uk



Cllr Sheila Lennox-Boyd:
sheila.lennox-boyd@cornwallcouncillors.org.uk

Useful Contacts

- Cornwall Council's COVID-19 information page: www.cornwall.gov.uk/coronavirus
- Queries relating to Coronavirus: covid19@cornwall.gov.uk
- Cornwall Council's Helpline for advice on employment: 0333 0150699
- To book a Coronavirus test: www.nhs.uk/coronavirus
- For guidance for businesses www.ciosgrowthhub.com
- For community safety: www.safercornwall.co.uk
- For people affected by domestic abuse: www.saferfutures.org.uk or 01872 225629
- Worried about a child? Ring 0300 123 1116
- Worried about an adult? Ring 0300 1234 131
- For mental and emotional distress: www.valuedlives.co.uk or 01209 438 option 1
- If you see someone sleeping rough: www.streelink.org.uk or 0300 500 0914
- For help with alcohol or drug issues www.wearewithyou.org.uk or 0333 2000 325
- To report a scam, ring Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040
- If you smell gas, ring Wales and West: 0800 111 999
- To report a water leak, ring South West Water: 0800 230 0561
- To report a power cut, ring Western Power: 105 or 0800 6783 105



CORNWALL COUNCIL



Green Red Buses

More new low-emission buses will be taking to Cornwall's streets over the next few weeks as part of a £16.5m investment into public transport. Part of the Transport for Cornwall fleet, the Euro 6 vehicles are the latest generation of cleaner diesel buses, producing 75% less nitrogen dioxide than earlier models.

Go Cornwall Bus won the tender earlier this year to run the Transport for Cornwall network of bus routes supported by Cornwall Council, which includes the number 71 bus route to Derriford Hospital. To deliver the new service, the company ordered 92 new buses of varying lengths and heights to cope with Cornwall's varied road network and narrow streets.

Half of the new buses were delivered before the Coronavirus lockdown put a temporary halt on production. Now the remaining buses, which can take contactless payments, are on their way.

Richard Stevens, Managing Director for Go Cornwall Bus, said: "We are hugely excited that the Transport for Cornwall vision is coming to life on the road. Forward thinking by Cornwall Council during the tender required buses to be Euro 6 by 2024. This meant a big investment in the fleet from the outset, bringing ambitions forward."

Have
your
say...



Draft budget
2021/22

<https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk>

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LIBRARY PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESULTS AND SALTASH COUNCIL TAX PRECEPT INCREASE

Back in the summer Saltash Town Council consulted with the community of Saltash on the exciting project of the library refurbishment works and the Town Council's vision to provide a multiuse facility to serve its community now and in the future.

The Town Council received positive responses and in the meantime costed the project to enable the Town Council to move forward with the second stage of the public consultation. The results of the public consultation and images of the Town Council's vision can be viewed here: <https://www.saltash.gov.uk/library-public-consultation.php>

At Full Town Council held on 1st October 2020 it was **RESOLVED** to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to apply for the PWLB loan:

1. Loan of £200,000 for the refurbishment works and replacement of windows to the library building.
2. Fixed interest rate of around 1.95% over a loan period of 10-years.
3. The annual loan repayment will come to around £21,156.50 and total repayment will come to around £222,143.25.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

1. The shortfall of £5,105.21 for the completion of the works be included in the Precept for the year 2021/2022.

It is intended to increase the council tax precept for the purpose of the loan repayments by 2% which is the equivalent of an additional £4.00 per year for a band D equivalent dwelling.

It is important that Saltash Town Council demonstrates public support for this exciting project for the community and future of Saltash.

Watch out for the leaflet drop for further details and make sure you have your say.

Closing date Monday 21st December 2020

SALTASH LIBRARY HUB

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CORNWALL COUNCIL

In a time of uncertainty and worry, when things feel they are once again changing for the worst,

it's nice to be able to affect change in a positive way, a way that feels that the norm may be returning, however incremental.

Saltash Town Council took the positive step to bring the Library Hub out of its forced Covid slumber and open its doors to the public to browse once again. While its click and collect service is extremely popular and has allowed the public to order their favourite books online and collect from the doorway, the opportunity to return to some kind of normality was an option keenly supported and taken by the Council in re-opening its doors to the public.

Having made that decision, the Library is now open again for the public to safely browse a selected number of books across genres such as adult fiction, crime, new books and children's fiction and learning. Our team is also on hand to help if the requirement is for books not on display and will happily guide our customers through other books available from our

shelves. Genres such as biographies, auto-biographies, sci-fi, adult non-fiction and young adult reading are but a short walk away. Not forgetting of course our Cornish selection.

The Library also has made available the use of one of its public computers, alongside a scanning and printing service. Whilst it has to be booked in advance to follow Government safety guidelines it is another step in a positive direction.

Not only has the Library Hub taken the next step to open its doors across the week, it's also returning to a Saturday morning opening too. This is of course a day of the week that was popular

for families and working professionals who were unable to pop in weekdays, again it is a welcome return to a little bit of normality.

The need for books to help us through these difficult times has never been greater, the need to transcend reality and escape into literature is one of life's great joys. Saltash library also has the whole of Cornwall's library inventory at its fingertips. So if the library hasn't got it, we probably know someone who has and can order it for collection.

Updated day to day, the Saltash Library Hub Facebook page has become an important information portal supporting library

services and our community in the face of constant change. It is becoming an important digital tool in the development of the Councils on-line relationship with its followers.

Against a background of uncertainty, this is only the beginning of what the Council has in store moving forward for our Library services. For now it is a welcome return to some kind of normality.

To quote Groucho Marx, 'Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read.' Says it all really.

Follow Saltash Library Hub @SaltashTownCouncilOffice or @SaltashTC or www.saltash.gov.uk



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CIC - Every Cloud Has a Silver Lining

We've just had our AGM, & it's made me realise just how busy our fantastic Volunteers have been during this difficult year, working hard to support their community. During lockdown, we helped senior & vulnerable residents with shopping, prescription runs & errands, and the volunteers are ready to continue again should the winter bring another lockdown. We realised during lockdown that so many people in our community are unable to access digital technology, so we've set up a Digital Inclusion project, to teach basic digital skills that many of us take for granted; such as online shopping, FaceTiming friends & family, or using Apps. (We need a couple more Volunteers to help, if you can spare a few hours a week...)

With generous support from Saltash Town Council, we have helped Citizen's Advice to re-purpose their offices at Belle Vue Road to provide covid-safe interview rooms and offices. They're now open for business again; anyone who needs help or advice can contact Citizen's Advice by texting the word ADVICE to 78866 and they'll call you back within 48 hours (excluding weekends). You can also call them on 03444-11144 Mon-Fri from 10am to 4pm - calls are charged at your normal rate.

We've also created a comfortable meeting/ training

room at Belle Vue, which is now available for FREE use by any club, organisation or group from Saltash. Call our Hub on 848348 for further details.

Several of our Volunteers and Directors are passionate about environmental issues, and we're excited to be in talks with Saltash Town Council to take on the Maurice Huggins Room and use it as an Environmental Hub. We aim to have a Library of Things based here (we think it will be the first in Cornwall), along with a Community Fridge, Swap Shops, Repair Café, and environmental talks, amongst other things. We're hoping to get this up and running in December, reducing waste and helping residents save money. We're looking for some environmentally-aware volunteers to help run the environmental hub, so please contact us if you'd like to help!

We're putting plans in place to re-start our Community Hoppers, with Covid-safe systems in place. We've been fortunate to receive funding from Resonance/ the National Lottery, so we can organise free or subsidised trips to PL12 clubs, groups and organisations; we want the Community Hoppers to benefit as many people in PL12 as possible, to bring a bit of joy to these difficult times.

We have a fantastic team of volunteer Directors, including 6 who have joined our board this year, and we're all looking

A38 Safety Report Due This Year

Improvements to make the A38 between Carkeel and Bodmin safer, were discussed in the House of Commons. The road has one of the highest accident rates in England, and Prime Minister Boris Johnson stated his hope that Highways England, which is currently undertaking a safety study of the road, would be able to accelerate its work. He was replying to a question from South East Cornwall MP Sheryll Murray relating in particular to the dangerous junction at Menheniot.

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps subsequently confirmed to Sheryll Murray that the safety study was due to be completed this year and that any safety measures recommended might be funded through the current safety and congestion fund.

forward to bringing a silver lining to the cloud that's hanging over us. We've never needed our Volunteers more than we do now, so if you'd like to join our dynamic team, and help make a difference to your community, we'd love to hear from you. Email us on hub@cepl12.co.uk or phone 01752 848348. Jo Baskott, Chair, Community Enterprises P112

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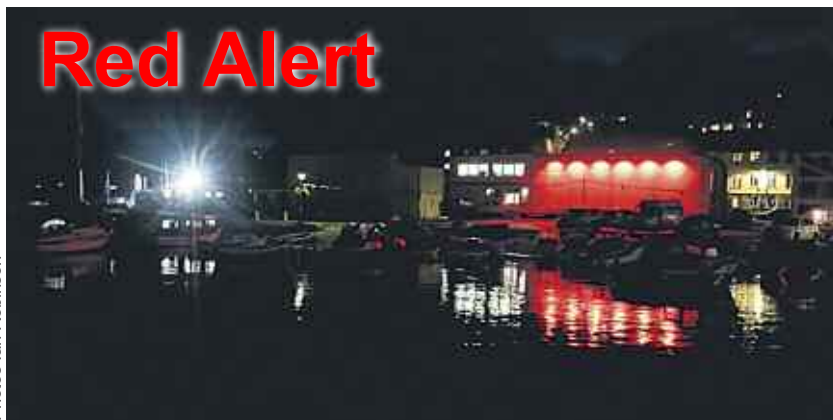


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Photos Ian Robinson

Saltash's waterside *Livewire* went red, demonstrating solidarity with hundreds of national venues, in raising awareness of music industry job losses and business closures in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

Youth Facilities Return to New Normal

The town's young people whose lives have been torn apart from normal since March and now mostly back at school or college and are gradually able to enjoy the social facilities upon which their lives were largely based.

Livewire youth facility on the Waterside is gradually re-opening, though at greatly reduced capacity. The many teenagers and other young people who enjoyed the superb music making facilities afforded at Livewire can return. Though at a 'new normal'. The main venue has been rearranged with spaced out pods so that a full band may practice or jam together while distanced from each other. Sessions are on Monday, Thursday and Saturday and must be pre-booked.

Immediately before lockdown Josie, a professional musician, had been employed to encourage young female singers and musicians. She has continued doing so online but can now meet with groups of up to five on each Wednesday, again through pre-booking.

Youth co-ordinator Andy Rance has been waiting to see how matters progress following

the return to school but is hoping that in October he may be able to accommodate small pre-booked groups of up to 15. He also hopes to organise physically distanced gigs, though with audience capacity reduced from 250 to thirty all seated.

Though the venue has been closed since March and is only starting to re-open Andy, his wife Julie and their team have been busier than ever through spring and summer. Over the years Livewire has been building on helping with youth mental health issues and during lockdown there has been a build up of on-line support, with telephone, text, messaging and zoom calls still on-going. Now once more from Monday to Friday Livewire can offer counselling and support sessions for young people aged from around ten to twenty-five. Two rooms have been made available for pre-booked live sessions which Andy is pleased to see back as he considers 'face to face is really important - one cannot gauge

moods so well online'.

While some young people, especially the more individualistic, have thrived from the long spell out of school and are less pleased to be back, many have suffered stress away from their peer group, their normal activities, and with the family worries that lockdown has brought.

Andy believes that the government and the media should stop talking about 'social distancing' and reframe this as 'physical distancing'. 'Human beings, young and old, are social creatures' he states. 'For many young people socialising is already their problem, and they should now be helped to socialise at a physical distance if necessary'.

On a more positive note he sees it as wonderful how the town has come together through this crisis. 'It fills me with hope how so many have been organising themselves individually and in groups to help out especially delivering essentials to those in need. I hope we do not lose sight of this'.

And another positive piece of news - those returning to Livewire may admire a classic 1960's Hammond organ donated by Pete Townshend of 'The Who'. It was with such an instrument that Procol Harum recorded their 1960's pop classic 'A Whiter Shade of Pale' and your Observer reporter could relive his own teens to the notes of this acquisition to the Livewire collection of classic instruments and recording equipment.

Conundrum Corner

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

- 1 In which fictional town is Coronation Street set? (12)
- 2 What name is given to the cultivation of plants without soil? (12)
- 3 What musical instruction means to produce a rapid repetition of the same note? (7)
- 4 What name is given to the intestines of a pig or other animals prepared as food? (12)
- 5 Who was the mother of John the Baptist? (9)
- 6 Which mythical bird, featured in the Arabian Nights, is said to have been able to lift a man and a horse or elephant in its claws? (3)
- 7 Which Castle stands near the England/Wales border above the River Wye and is the first recorded Norman Castle in Britain? (8)
- 8 Who was the King of the Huns from 406 to 453? (6)
- 9 Which British poet had the Christian names Wystan Hugh? (5)
- 10 Which National Park in Florida is home to an extensive wetland system? (10)

Answers on Page 7

SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...

Last month I welcomed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Sport, Tourism and Heritage, Nigel Huddleston MP, to the constituency. I was pleased that GLL, who operate the Leisure Centres in Saltash and Liskeard, were able to join us to emphasise the importance of these facilities to Sports Clubs in the Constituency, including Caradon Swimming Club. Whilst the Minister does not have the budget for Leisure Centres within his Portfolio, I wanted to be able to work with him to ensure that people are able to promote sport and fitness for my constituents and ensure that there are as many opportunities as possible available for access to a variety of fitness regimes.

It was interesting to hear that different Local Authorities place different priorities on leisure and sport and there are some examples where Local Authorities had used the additional Government emergency funding made available to them to ensure that Leisure Centres were able to open when they could regardless as to who was managing them. Constituents may also wish to know that Cornwall Council received an additional £35million for emergency purposes from the Conservative Government. Since Nigel's visit I am pleased that the Council has agreed to resume swimming in both Saltash and Liskeard and I am scheduled to have a further meeting with GLL regarding further issues.

I was pleased to hear that Saltash United F.C. Benefited from the Premier League's Matchday Support Fund. The Matchday Support Fund is being delivered by the Football Stadia Improvement Fund (FSIF) - the grant-giving body that provides Premier League funding to support ground improvements for clubs in the professional, women's and non-league games. They have awarded some other funding across South East Cornwall namely, Liskeard Athletic F.C., Millbrook F.C.,

Torpoint Athletic F.C., Callington Town F.C. and Dobwalls F.C..

This month saw Conservative Party Conference. Instead of all the delegates descending on a city as would normally be the case this year it was held virtually due to Covid 19. Whilst there were a few technical issues it did allow people to attend from the safety of their homes. The Prime Minister, in an upbeat speech, outlined how we would Build Back Better. After outlining his own personal battle with Covid he said how we would invest in nurses, police and teachers. He said he wanted to massively grow offshore wind to make us one of the greenest countries on earth. He also said that he wanted to help first time buyers are able to own their own homes. He ended his speech by saying, "I know that it seems tough now, when we are tackling the indignities and cruelty and absurdity of the disease, but I believe it is a measure of the greatness of this country that we are simply not going to let it hold us back or slow us down, and we are certainly not going to let it get us down, not for a moment, because even in the darkest moments we can see the bright future ahead, and we can see how to build it, and we are going to build it together."

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Tamar Reflections

The gold coins and rampant red lion on the crest of HMS Tamar, Britain's newest and greenest warship, are symbolic of her affiliation to Cornwall. But the connection to Cornwall shines through even more strongly in the One and All spirit of the ship's company.

HMS Tamar sailed from BAE Systems yard in Glasgow ahead of schedule as the yard was going into lockdown. Her crew remained in a COVID-secure 'bubble', putting in extended working hours and spending 13 out of 17 weeks at sea, achieving what is believed to be the fastest generation of a warship in peacetime.

At 60 one of the oldest sailors still at sea, and also one of the few Falklands veterans still serving, Warrant Officer 1st Class Trevor Ross witnessed the decommissioning of the previous Tamar - the base in Hong Kong which closed in 1997 when the territory was returned to China. "We have lived together in a 'Tamar bubble' throughout the pandemic. Eighteen-hour days. It's been hard work and very tiring, but the spirit is really, really good - one of the best ships I've been on for morale," said the ship's deputy head of marine engineering.

He is more than twice the average age of the ship's

company; far more sailors are in their 20s, like Able Seaman Mollie Sunshine Stokes, who joined Tamar from Britain's biggest warship, HMS Queen Elizabeth. The average age of the ship's officers is younger than a typical wardroom, too, and she is something of a 'millennial ship' which has developed a very proactive and independent approach to problem-solving. "We're like a massive family on board Tamar. Everyone has been in the same situation with getting the ship ready through lockdown, so it's been easier to get through the past few months. There's always someone around to pick you back up," said the 22-year-old seaman specialist.

HMS Tamar has now left Falmouth, and the craft, kit and people are being put through their paces so they perform to the highest standards.

Long may she patrol and protect us, One and All, and carry the maritime spirit of Cornwall across the globe. Tamar bys vykken!

Cornwall Council, like a barn door, is a huge target and is therefore easy to hit, but I honestly do not mind when residents have a pop at it. Why? Because it has been a rare occasion when I haven't learnt something useful from this sort of exchange. That does not mean I always defend it; nor that I am always proud of what the Council does or how it reacts. One good example is that until recently and until the advent of Tim Dwelly, the new and good Cabinet member for Town Centre economies, I have been dead critical and not proud at all of how Cornwall Council has used car park charges to boost the county's economy, and put that far above the need to keep our Fore Streets viable and sustainable. That attitude is slowly changing, but I will continue to push for it to be reversed.

However this article is about what I am proud of, apart from being proud of the generally excellent organisation of Cornwall's Covid-19 response. Cornwall Council has for example, quickly put in place an enhanced Test and Trace system with a dedicated 24-hour team on the job, proven in action by the quick and successful response to the Pool meat factory incident.

So what is it I am especially proud of? It is how, without being pressurised, Cornwall Council is leading the way in making our society in Cornwall inclusive in all sorts of ways: race, colour, age, sex, sexual preferences, disabilities, abilities, religions and the others - please forgive me for not mentioning all the groups.



CORNWALL COUNCIL

and our PL12 community

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

This is not just as a response to increased hate crimes in Cornwall, as in the rest of the UK, though that is part of it. Instead, it is as a genuine wish to make our Cornwall a better place for everybody.

The idea is to make policies that will enable this fairer society, and at the moment the vital first step is up and running with an easy-to-find website asking for your comments, complaints and suggestions. Just go to Google and type in "Let's Talk Cornwall inclusive", then click on one of those sites when it opens (when I did it the top seven sites took me there). Please do so, giving positive or negative views on any aspect of inclusion. If you don't want to do that or don't have the computer equipment please contact me, let me know what you want to say and I will do it for you (so will the other Cornwall councillors - I have checked).

Want some proof of how Cornwall Council is putting its money where its mouth is and being inclusive? You must have heard of the "glass ceiling" which surreptitiously stops women progressing up the career ladder in some occupations. Well, at the moment nearly all the top jobs in Cornwall Council are held by women, including the Chief Executive, Kate Kennally. Jolly good lot they are too!

For those who are worried or feel threatened by residents who are a different nationality, different colour, different sexual preference etc. then simply: don't be! Immigration,

for example, of different races and cultures ends up by strengthening a nation and it will strengthen Cornwall, making us more tolerant, kinder, fairer, richer in culture, richer in money, you name it. I'm proud of what the county is doing and you should be, too. Do have a look at this website!

I can't finish without thanking the Cornwall Council team who persisted in negotiations with the independent trust, GLL, who run our leisure centres. Saltash Leisure Centre has been closed but is now open with both sides making reasonable compromises to keep it running. So go along and use ours, have a swim, use the gym, and press some weights whatever that means. Use it or lose it!

Talking about losing it: I have always struggled with growing sweet peas outside, maybe it's our cold, north facing garden or our soil. This year, however, they have gone mad. I can't control them! They're seven feet tall, have stopped flowering and are still growing.

They have swamped my asparagus, leaning all over the row. I'm not being inclusive tomorrow - the sickle is coming out!

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A Success Story Despite Covid 19 for Roper James

Having become a part of the Saltash scene earlier this year, Roper James have been delighted at the welcome that the town has given them and the appreciation shown to their friendly but professional approach to offering legal services. As a result of the amount of business that has been generated the firm has been pleased to welcome to Saltash Tammi Hingston, the latest to join the team in order to help with the burgeoning amount of residential conveyancing. She is now working alongside John Northey who himself has many years of local experience in the conveyancing field. Directors Tim Roper and David James are especially pleased to welcome Tammi, with over twenty years of experience in some of the largest solicitors' firms in the South West.



DAVID JAMES
LLB (HONS) DIRECTOR



TIM ROPER
LLB (HONS) DIRECTOR

Tammi is equally pleased to be returning to her roots having been locally born and educated, taking a degree at Plymouth University and her Legal Practice Course diploma at Bristol University before qualifying as a Solicitor in 2000. She previously worked for 16 years in a large Plymouth practice where she was described as a "senior and well-regarded member of the team". While specialising in residential conveyancing she has also been involved in business development and was an early pioneer in establishing a social media presence for her previous law firm. In more recent years, Tammi - who is married with three children - has been working as a locum solicitor as this enabled her to have more flexibility whilst her children were young but now that her children are older, Tammi has welcomed a return to full time work. She had

previously worked with Tim Roper and David James and is enjoying being back with them, as well as benefitting from John Northey's local experience.

While dealing with the full range of conveyancing issues Tammi, described as "enthusiastic, conscientious and personable" specialises in particular in unregistered property, new builds, leaseholds, shared ownership, help to buy, shared equity and remortgages.

She is delighted that Roper James have recently been acknowledged by the Law Society for their expertise in the conveyancing field being awarded certified status in CQS, the quality standard of conveyancing. The Directors explain: "The application is arduous and involves examination of all of the firm's operations. There is also full examination of the firm's

financial health, ensuring that clients are treated fairly and also that systems are in place to safeguard clients' money and their personal information".

Following further vetting Roper James have been accepted onto the lending panel of most major banks and building societies. They are currently working to gain membership of the remainder in order that Roper James is able to offer a comprehensive conveyancing service both to the local community and further afield into Cornwall.

Meanwhile Tammi is eager to become involved in the local Saltash community professionally and otherwise. Outside the office, when not busy with her children, she enjoys travel and sport, in particular cycling, long distance walking and tennis.

Now keen to help the Saltash office continue to develop, Tammi is happy to



Spacious Office for Social Distancing

call in and see agents and advisors as well as clients. She will always be pleased to take full instructions and give a free no obligation quotation before proceeding, while following the firm's policy of being friendly and approachable and using

jargon - free language. Potential clients can call her, visit by appointment at the convenient open-plan town centre offices, or if preferred Tammi will make home visits equipped with full PPE.

After a challenging Spring

and Summer of lockdown the conveyancing work is seeing a marked expansion and Tammi is pleased and proud to be a part of the growing Roper James team while and offering her own friendly enthusiasm to each potential client.

As Roper James Expand their Business in Saltash They Welcome Tammi Hingston to the Team

Within a few months of expanding their Plymouth based business into the heart of Saltash's Fore Street, Directors Tim Roper and David James have already seen the volume of business lead to them expanding their local services. "We are delighted with Saltash and delighted that our lovely local clients are evidently appreciating the friendly but professional services that we offer," enthuses David James of Roper James, Solicitors.

After a challenging few months of lockdown, the residential conveyancing work has already encouraged them to welcome Tammi Hingston to the Saltash based team alongside local stalwart John Northey. John who joined the firm when they opened in Saltash this Spring after many years practice in Saltash told us that he is especially pleased to welcome a new colleague with considerable experience in various firms throughout the wider South West. He described how "an early trickle has developed into a constant stream of fresh instructions." This followed the end of full lockdown, boosted in particular by the stamp duty "holiday" extended until the end of March 2021 and which makes this a particularly favourable time to invest in a new property.

Alongside John and Tammi is a long-established commercial conveyancing service presided over by Andy Luggier. Andy deals in all manner of business conveyance and leaseholds but in particular in licensed premises and agricultural properties, in which he is a specialist.

A welcome new member of the Roper James team is Alex Passman, a barrister highly experienced in employment law who has joined Roper James as a consultant. In difficult times Alex is able to provide comprehensive and sympathetic

professional advice on employment rights especially regarding redundancy and dismissal.

The uncertain times which we have recently undergone, have caused many of us to be especially concerned to have all of our personal affairs in order. Melanie Cotterill, a specialist in wills and probate issues and who is an accredited Solicitor for the Elderly has, she has found, bedded in really well to the Saltash offices, welcoming many walk-in enquiries. She prides herself in making herself accessible to clients, in the Fore Street office or at their own homes, and giving full, sympathetic and jargon free advice on all aspects of lifetime planning.

This covers the vital issue of wills, without which one's estate may be distributed wholly contrary to one's wishes. It also includes power of attorney, a subject that one should seriously consider in order to ensure that one's affairs, financial and otherwise, may continue to run smoothly when one can no longer handle them oneself.

As other members of the firm Melanie will be happy to arrange a free first interview to ascertain the client's needs and then to advise generally and give a quotation for costs.

Family matters involving matrimonial and other relationship breakdowns, including all resulting issues from property and finance to children's residence and contact are expertly handled by Teresa Cussen, who is accredited by the Law Society as a family specialist as well as being a member of Resolution, the leading family law association. Teresa offers a free interview before tendering an estimate of costs. She will always advise proceeding with a minimum of confrontation.

Meanwhile Directors Tim and David



TAMMI HINGSTON

SOLICITOR - RESIDENTIAL CONVEYANCING

who set up the business in Plymouth in 2010 continue to offer their own specialised services in personal injury and medical negligence issues with a no-win no fee service when appropriate. They conduct this from their Plymouth based offices, while welcoming Saltash clients, and while overseeing the expansion of the Saltash base that they opened up only this year. Despite the challenges of Covid Tim and David are now sure that they were right in believing that Saltash could benefit from their own friendly approach to legal services and wish to express their thanks to the lovely and loyal people of Saltash and surroundings who have joined the Roper James clientele this year. They look forward to demonstrating to yet more local residents in these uncertain times, of how the law can be applied to their advantage.



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