

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

October 2021 - Issue 355

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Councillors and Public Unite to Oppose Loss of Leisure Centre

The degree of concern and anger in the town at the potential closure of the Saltash Leisure Centre was reflected at a lively meeting of the town council, attended by around fifty vociferous members of the public. The Mayor, Councillor Peter Samuels, firstly invited questions and comments from the public. First to speak was Chris Elliott, who has been involved in the Leisure Centre since its inception, and called for figures relating to income and outgoings pre and post pandemic. He noted that the centre is not yet under threat but a consultative document put out by Cornwall Council is, he stated, heavily biased towards this conclusion.

On behalf of local schoolchildren Teresa Lindeyer, Chair of Governors of Bishop Cornish School, reminded all that it is a government target that all children can swim 25 metres by the time they leave primary school and indeed free lessons are to be offered to year 6 children who cannot swim. If the pool were to be closed Saltash schools would be faced with increased costs in travelling to Plymouth or Liskeard, increased time away from classrooms, and indeed she queried whether other pools with currently busy schedules could take on an additional twelve schools. Childhood obesity is a current concern and removal of

exercise facilities would be detrimental to government policies to alleviate this.

All town councillors made clear that they shared this public concern and Deputy Mayor Richard Bickford emphasised that he looked on the centre not as Saltash Leisure Centre but as a Health and Fitness centre for wellbeing. 'We will do all that we possibly can to keep it going', he proclaimed.

A Statement of Opposition to its closure will be submitted by Saltash Town Council and the Mayor read out some bullet points to be included.

Firstly, Cornwall Council is promoting public health and wellbeing through exercise,

indeed its website promotes swimming in particular. In 2019 Cornwall Council declared a climate emergency and is now anticipating compelling residents to travel up to 30 miles to utilise leisure facilities.

The Mayor also expressed concern that this could be a first step to selling off the land to help plug the gap in Cornwall Council's finances.

There was a lack of information disclosed as to financial losses and the financial requirements of any body taking over the facility. Moreover, there was no explanation as to how GLL, the current management, can be allowed to walk away from a contract in which they are

locked until 2042.

Financial information disclosed to date relates to the period of the pandemic and gives no information as to how this might be likely to vary post pandemic.

Finally, there has been no account taken of the Treledan development which will create around a thousand new homes with increased demand for leisure facilities. Planning permission was agreed on the assumption that such facilities would be available.

Town Councillors agreed unanimously to the submission to Cornwall Council of a Statement of Opposition to include these points.

It's Sounding Good for Fore Street

Saltash will be the first town in Cornwall, and perhaps in the whole of the country, to have a permanent set of loudspeakers on its main shopping street after Cornwall Council gave permission for their installation earlier this month. The speakers will become an asset of Saltash Town Council, who will undertake responsibility for maintenance and other aspects. If the installation goes according to schedule, the loudspeakers will be installed in time to play Christmas music along the length of Fore Street at the Thursday late-night Christmas shopping events, including the switching on of the Christmas lights on 18th November and the launch of Window Wanderland on 2nd December.

The installation of loudspeakers is a project being driven by the Town Team, a strategic group comprising town councillors and local Cornwall councillors together with representatives from the Saltash Chamber of Commerce and Community Enterprises PL12, working together to improve the economic, social and environmental resilience of the town.

The Town Team has just been successful in a funding bid to Cornwall Council's Town Vitality Fund, winning

£84,000 to progress with feasibility studies for a new green realm in the retail heart of the town. It is envisaged that the site would enable Saltash to host regular markets and act as a stage for community events while increasing the town's tree canopy cover.

With the resurfacing works on the Tamar Bridge, Fore Street has often looked more like a car park over recent months. Now that all the lanes on the bridge are open again, footfall is returning to the town's retail centre. The 'Covid humps' will be removed from the Fore Street bus bays in the week beginning 8th November, helping to improve the overall look.

The Town Teams hopes that its projects will encourage people to shop in Saltash, reducing the number of car trips into Plymouth and keeping the retail heart of Saltash beating soundly.

Shop Local this Christmas!

Saltash Town Council and the Chamber of Commerce are encouraging residents to shop local this Christmas and help support local businesses who supported us so valiantly through Covid and have been hit so hard by the pandemic.

The Town Council will have the River of Lights turned on from 4th November.

Then the whole panoply of festive lights will be officially switched on at a ceremony around the Christmas tree in Victoria Gardens on Thursday 18th November. Late night shopping that evening will help you find those perfect Christmas gifts!

Two weeks later, on Thursday 2nd December, town centre shops will again be open in the evening as the Chamber of Commerce launches Window Wanderland 2021 and paper mosaics made in Saltash primary schools will be proudly on display in shop windows and the windows of the Guildhall.

Then, on Saturday 4th December, which is the day of the town's annual Christmas Festival as well as Small Business Saturday, Cornwall Council is offering free parking in Cornwall Council car parks.

So, please shop local this Christmas. And remember that if every adult in Saltash spent £5 per week in a local, independent shop or business it would generate £3.2 million per year in to our local economy.

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**Ferry 60
Celebrations**

Due to the incredible popularity and demand for Bruce Hunt's sell out talk about the Saltash Ferry, as part of our Ferry 60 celebrations, we are delighted that Bruce has kindly agreed to repeat it on **Friday, 12th November** at 7.30 pm at **Ashtor Rock** Waterside Saltash
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Please contact Lynn Marsh on **01752 844255**, email - lynmarsh@aol.com, for tickets or further information.

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hub@cep12.co.uk 01752 848348 www.cep12.co.uk
Community Enterprises PL12 | 4 Fore Street | Saltash | PL12 6JL

Town Messenger

Working for the People of Saltash

News from Saltash Town Council
Konsel an dre Essa



Education Department
Telephone: 0300 1234 101
Email:
schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk

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

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

Social Services Department
Telephone: 0300 1234 131
adultcare@cornwall.gov.uk

Highways Department
Telephone: 0300 1234 222
Email:
customerrelations@cornwallimited.co.uk

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*Town Messenger
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Council*

Cornwall Councillors/ Wards

Saltash Essa ED

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

Saltash Tamar ED

Cllr Sheila Lennox-Boyd
cldr.sheila.lennox-boyd@cornwall.gov.uk

Saltash Trematon & Landrake ED

Cllr Martin Worth
cldr.martin.worth@cornwall.gov.uk

Cornwall Councillors Cover such services as:
Housing – Education
Social Services
Highways
Waste & Recycling
Tamar Bridge

From the Mayor of Saltash

Social media can be a wonderful thing, it keeps us informed of what is going on around us, even if sometimes a little inaccurate, or sometimes a little misleading.

On this occasion, though, there is a strong sense of purpose and unity on social media, across Saltash, with residents and Town Councillors opposing the potential closure of the Leisure Centre, as proposed by Cornwall Council. Rest assured that your Town Councillors are working hard behind the scenes in an effort to achieve the best outcome.

I will not get involved in political debate about who did or said what at any stage



leading up to the current situation, but it is good to know that we have support from all three of our elected Cornwall Councillors and our local MP in opposing closure of this asset that is vital to the

health and wellbeing to many of our residents and also is important to the vitality of our Town, bringing in visitors from outside the area.

As I write, there are several organisations coming forward to investigate ways in which the Leisure Centre can be saved, which is encouraging, but as yet there is no 'done deal' that guarantees the future of the centre.

The pandemic has undoubtedly contributed heavily to the current situation, with enforced

closure of the centre over a great many weeks, leading many to not renew their subscriptions, but I would urge all that value this wonderful asset to now renew their subscriptions, as increased membership reduces the argument for closure.

It is also worth bearing in mind that the Leisure Centre is available to book for single events, from birthday parties to single session swimming, just get in touch with the helpful staff at the centre, they

will be delighted to hear from you.

If you can help with the campaign to save the Leisure Centre, please do come forward, even if it is just to shout from the rooftops that this much loved and valuable asset to the Town must be saved. Cornwall Council are due to make a final decision in mid-December, so there is still time, albeit short, for us to make our feelings known and to make a difference.

Have your say by completing the online survey

by 31 October 2021
<https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/leisure> or if you miss the deadline email
leisureconsultation@cornwall.gov.uk or call 0300 1234 100.

I'll be back next month with another column and perhaps an update on the Leisure Centre, but in the meantime, take care and stay safe.

*Kindest Regards,
Cllr Pete Samuels,
Mayor of Saltash 2021-22*

Your Town Council & Wards

Saltash Essa:

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

Cllr Pete Samuels

Deputy Mayor:

Cllr Richard Bickford

Town Clerk:

Ray Lane
T: 844846

E: enquiries@saltash.gov.uk

Councillors' Telephone Numbers can be obtained at The Guildhall.

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

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

Saltash Leisure Centre

Saltash Town Council are very concerned about the negative impact the potential closure of the leisure centre in Saltash will have and strongly oppose the closure. Sheryll Murray MP is also keen to see Saltash leisure centre remain open for the benefit of all constituents.

At the Saltash Town Council meeting held on 7th October members of the public raised the following questions which echo the concerns of the Town Councillors:

1. Can Cornwall Council provide income and expenditure of the Leisure Centre prior to the pandemic and current?
2. With one of the Government's targets to have all children able to swim 25 meters, unaided, by the time they leave primary school, and the recently announced incentive for any child unable to achieve the 25-metre unaided swim by the time they leave year 6, they and their family will be offered free swimming lessons. What would the benefits of closing the leisure centre?
3. Have Cornwall Council considered the increased burden of cost for schools and the increased time away from the classroom to achieve swimming as part of the curriculum?
4. Childhood obesity is another area of concern, especially in areas of deprivation, of which Cornwall is one. What message are we sending our children if we close a centre designed to promote health and fitness?
5. Increased traffic is at odds with Cornwall Council's own commitment to reducing climate change through, for example, achieving carbon neutrality. This extends further than just the schools using the pool: there are 16,000 residents in Saltash (compared to just 9,000 in Liskeard) Let's say, for the sake of it, 50% of these (8,000) have to drive a 26-mile round trip for a swim. Would this not be an unnecessary increase in pollution?
6. Why is the Government not supporting the health and wellbeing of the Cornish people, especially due to the pandemic and the financial impact it has had on the leisure centre?
7. Can clarification be given as to why Cornwall Council have stated that there is no additional funding available when other leisure centres in other parts of the country, such as the Northwest, are evidently being awarded funding from the Government?
8. Cornwall Council claim to promote public health and wellbeing through physical activity with a dedicated website called Healthy Cornwall which makes reference to swimming being recommended for wellbeing, both mentally and physically. How then can Cornwall Council justify the proposal to close the leisure centre?
9. In 2019 Cornwall Council declared a Climate Emergency but now seem to be suggesting that resident travel up to 30 miles or 30 minutes to reach leisure activities. How can this be justified and to what effect on the carbon footprint?
10. Many people are saying that the leisure centre consultation is skewed in the wording of questions, to allow for interpretation that residents and users can and would wish to travel further to alternative facilities.
11. Many have expressed a concern that closing the leisure centre is the first step towards selling off the land for private development, helping towards plugging the £18 million black hole in Cornwall Council finances.
12. Insufficient information given to establish the actual financial loss suffered during the pandemic and no financial

information forthcoming to enable proposals to be put together for the potential bid to continue.

13. No suitable explanation from Cornwall Council as to why they are prepared to allow GLL to walk away from a contract that is valid until 2042.
14. As it was Cornwall Council that awarded the failing contract, do they not feel moral, if not legal responsibility to take action that will enable the leisure centre to continue and to improve.
15. Why are the financial calculations of Cornwall Council and GLL based on usage and membership during the pandemic, whilst giving no consideration to how membership and viability may improve in the future?

Further concerns from Town Councillors are:

1. Cornwall Council has received government funding of £750k but this is not mentioned in the consultation?
2. Saltash has a new school in the town for children with learning difficulties all of whom will need somewhere to learn to swim (The Fountain Head House School)
3. In addition, Saltash has the new development, Treledan which will house approx. 3000 people many of whom might access the leisure centre.

Activities and Events for All at Library Hub

Saltash library was proclaimed a "Fun Palace" for two days as the town was invited there to 'celebrate and experience the wonderful variety of skills and activities our community has to offer'.

Visitors first encountered the 'Anne Glanville' pilot gig boat 'moored' outside before entering and, at times, being serenaded by town band members or by musicians from 'Livewire' youth centre. The town's other youth centre 'The Core' was also represented while older residents could discover more about the activities of such varied organisations as Saltash

Heritage and the Saltash Floral Art Club.

This is just one of the varied events being organised at our town's library hub. For several years now it has been run by Saltash Town Council and now, having kept a service going through the pandemic, it is going from strength to strength, as Councillor Mrs Jean Dent emphasised during a presentation at the recent Mayor Making Ceremony.

During the pandemic it retained a safe click and collect service and a protected book browsing area alongside its online information Hub Facebook page. These facilities Councillor Dent believes, helped to support the mental health of many during the days of lockdown.

Since re-opening more fully, the building interior now presents a more bright and inviting welcome and groups and exhibitions are returning. Over two hundred family members came along to meet Animal Encounters in early summer while over a hundred children participated in the Summer Reading Challenge. Music Man's Tuesday sessions are more popular than ever while Lego Club, rhyme time

Funding Support for Organisations in Saltash

Saltash Town Council is able to provide letters of support for organisations in Saltash who wish to apply for funding from external organisations.

The letter of support from the Mayor of Saltash will endorse the organisation and detail the work they undertake in the community. The letter can be a useful tool in order to secure vital external funding.

Please do get in contact:
Tel: 01752 844846

Email:
enquiries@saltash.gov.uk
Or visit us at The Guildhall, 12 Lower Fore Street, Monday to Friday 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm were a member of staff will be happy to help.

and computer workshops are all up and running. Meet the Author events have proved popular and future events include an Environmental Art Exhibition supporting UK Beach Cleans Week and a children's Meet the Author and activities day off the back of this

To discover the full range of upcoming events (as well as an excellent range of books to suit all ages and all reading tastes) visit Plougastel Drive and find what our Community Library Hub has to offer.

Chamber Chairman Sarah Martin Keeping us Updated...

It's that time of year again... time for our AGM. Our Annual general meeting went ahead as planned on 4th October at China Fleet - once again as a hybrid meeting which is a great option for people to join us from wherever they are.

I was unanimously voted in once again as Chair to serve for another year, and I'm really grateful to those who voted for me. There is still so much I'd like to do during my time as Chair - we are constantly looking at ways to reinvigorate our offering to businesses as they look to us for more support and advice.

Peter Ryland agreed to stay on as Vice Chair, and my thanks go to Hilary Frank and Steve Miller for standing for offices on our committee. Thanks have to also go to Ayesha Slader for her time as Secretary, Tracey Hayton of The Bookshelf for being Membership Secretary, and Doug Bond of Saphira Jewellers who has been the Chamber Treasurer for many years now - probably more than he cares to remember

The end is nigh!

I'm really hoping that this month will be the last time I will be reporting on the Bridge works. The specialist contractors Volkerlaser were due to finish on 15th October and the end date for all works is still set for 31st October. I know we will be glad to see a return to normal operation on the bridge. As Chair, I am very interested to hear from retailers and

businesses in Saltash to find out how the works have affected their revenue compared to last year. Any anecdotes or ballpark figures (%) you would be happy for me to know, please email chair@saltashchamber.co.uk.

Threat to Saltash Leisure Centre

When it comes to business, financial viability is paramount - who wants to work so hard to maintain something that isn't profitable at the end of the day? With our Leisure Centre in Saltash though, the picture I think is very different. For me, it's more of a community asset than a commercial opportunity because I know how many staff would be personally affected by its closure, and the detrimental impact it would have on the well-being of so many not just in Saltash but further away. For many, the presence of a Leisure Centre in the town was a good reason to move here in the first place. The economic loss to the area if it were to close cannot be underestimated - and the need then to travel elsewhere to get access to pool and leisure services is moving investment away from the town. I would urge everyone who reads this column to please feed back their views through the Cornwall Council public consultation at: <https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/leisure>.

Want your say on what our roads need?

National Highways, formerly Highways England use public

consultation to inform conversations on which roads around the country need investment. If you are a business that uses the roads to transport products and services and think that our roads in SE Cornwall are generally not fit for purpose, then now is your time to say so. The power of this tool cannot be underestimated - it will be used to influence road strategies in the next Road Improvement Scheme so please do make your views known

at: <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/our-route-strategies/>

Come along and see what we do

As a Chamber we look to encourage more members to join us - especially from our retail centre. In order to do that, we now plan to hold alternate meetings in Fore Street starting on Monday 1st November at 5.30pm at The Cockleshell Micropub where Paul has kindly agreed to open up and let us hold our monthly meeting. There will be chance to have a drink and network once the meeting is over.

For membership of just £25 a year, you get access to a whole host of Cornwall Chamber events and advice through our affiliate membership, as well as a listing on our new website at www.saltashchamber.co.uk which we think is a great new platform to showcase our work and yours, and so much more. If you are thinking you might like to get involved with Saltash Chamber then please drop me a line Chair@SaltashChamber.co.uk or just pop along to The Cockleshell on the 1st November and say Hi!

Community Enterprises PL12 News A Community Kitchen, for Cooking and Learning...

During the Covid-19 pandemic, our volunteers provided community help and support in partnership with other organisations and businesses. This resulted in several new projects, including a Community Fridge and Larder, and a Mobile Larder using our own community transport, which gather surplus food from various outlets (around 16 tonnes so far) and make it available free to the public (over 8,000 people so far).

We've been looking for premises to expand into, as we're bursting at the seams at no 4... so we're thrilled to say we've finally taken the keys to premises just 2 doors up from our Community Hub, a vacant former cafe at 8 Fore Street. What was "The Kitchen" for many years will become the new, permanent home for our Community Fridge & Larder, Mobile Larder, Dementia Voice café, and Digital Inclusion, and allow us to expand our current work into a sustainable community food share service.

The Community Kitchen will aim to give local residents access to surplus food, some of which will be cooked into healthy homemade soups, snacks, and meals. By avoiding food waste in this way, we want to remove the stigma associated with receiving free food. We also aim to teach people basic cooking, nutrition, and budgeting skills, and we will organise various social activities on the premises centred around food. Our own Dementia Voice group

will use it in this way.

The main elements of the Community Kitchen will be:

A Community Fridge and Larder, including a base for our Mobile Larder, reducing food waste. (Food waste is one of the major contributors to CO2 emissions)

A Community Kitchen, for cooking and learning

A Community area, which will be used by local groups for social activities, including our Dementia Voice PL12 groups, and support for "digital inclusion".

Digital learning, including CV writing skills, for jobseekers.

Jobseeker skills, including valuable volunteer experience helping in a retail or hospitality environment.

We will continue working in partnership with other organisations like Citizens Advice, Saltash Foodbank, and Link into Learning to fulfil community needs.

It's going to take a lot of volunteer time and elbow grease to bring the building up to scratch, but we can't wait to move in. We hope the Community Kitchen will be open by January 2022. Watch this space for updates!

Ever considered volunteering? If you have a few hours a month to spare, and you're looking for a rewarding role in your community, we would love to hear from you. We have a wide range of roles, including helping with the Community Fridge or Mobile Larder, in the Community Shop, driving the community buses, collecting surplus food, or helping with the Dementia Voice groups, not to mention roles in our new Community Kitchen.

For further details about any of the above, pop in to our Hub at no 4 Fore St, call us on 01753 848348 or email hub@cepl12.co.uk.

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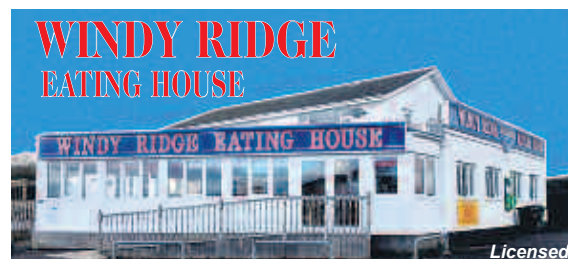
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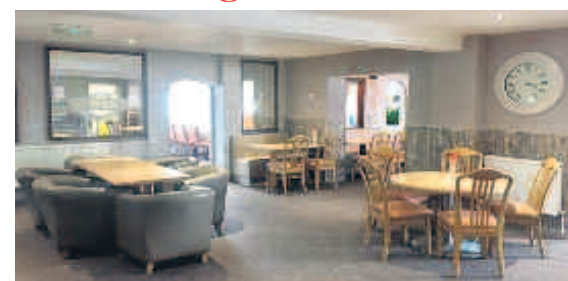
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Essa Voices

What Does Having a Leisure Centre Locally Mean to You?

An 11-year old answered this question in a survey run by the Core Youth and Community Centre after the news broke that our Leisure Centre is under threat of closure. She responded with one word: Everything.

Absolutely right, young lady. Having a leisure centre locally means everything to many, many people. Our Leisure Centre helps people of all ages stay socially connected and lead active lives, healthy in body and mind. In fact, there are many people saying we should stop calling them 'leisure' centres and start calling them Health and Wellbeing Centres. But whatever you want to call it, our Centre has long been a community hub where dedicated staff have worked incredibly hard to help us lead healthy lifestyles.

GLL, which manages all 13 of the public leisure centres in Cornwall on behalf of Cornwall Council, has faced unprecedented challenges throughout Covid, and figures released at an online event on 13th October show that membership of Saltash Leisure Centre has fallen to a level that makes the Centre unviable commercially.

It has emerged through a Freedom of Information request that it was way back on 8th June that GLL made their case for financial support to Cornwall Council's Cabinet. Coming out of the pandemic, at a time when we need a long-term strategy of financing leisure services to place them firmly within the health agenda, you'd have hoped that Cornwall Council's Cabinet would have first looked into ways to boost membership, but instead, in a move that seems more like levelling down than levelling up, and without talking with the local Cornwall Councillors, Cabinet took the decision to prioritise the financial impact over the social, health and environmental impacts, and recommended the closure of Saltash, Launceston, Wadebridge and Falmouth Leisure Centres.



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

Many other leisure centres around the UK are in a similar financial predicament, so you'd have hoped that Cornwall Council's Cabinet might have added its voice to the many local authorities nationwide calling for investment from central government. But Cornwall Council's Cabinet has remained silent on this.

We, though, cannot stay silent, and I urge you to fill in the consultation and write to the MP. Regrettably, the questions on Cornwall Council's survey about leisure centres are not as straightforward as the Core's questions. Actually, many residents have written to me expressing their concerns about how they feel the questions are skewed and the wording too complex. It doesn't help that the consultation has two sections - you have to get through questions about the 'refreshed' Leisure strategy before you find the questions around the proposed closures. In fact, I believe this 'consultation' fails the Gunning Principles. The Principles were defined in a court case in 1985, and established that a consultation is only legitimate if no final decision has been made in advance of the consultation being issued; if there is sufficient information to enable 'intelligent consideration'; and if adequate time is given for consideration, suggesting that 12 weeks is a widely accepted period. I believe that this consultation fails on all three of these counts, especially since it runs for less than six weeks.

As flawed as the consultation is, though, we must fill it in to make sure our voices are heard. Pick up a paper copy from the Leisure

New Church Launched in Saltash

Redeemer Church Saltash, a branch of the Redeemer Church Plymouth, celebrated their official launch weekend with a free family fun day at The Core followed by a celebration service on the Sunday morning.

Nearly 200 people from the local area came to join in the free fun which included bouncy castles, sumo wrestling and a coconut shy. The launch service was held on Sunday 26 September with lots of visitors and a warm welcome to the group by Saltash town councillor Sarah Martin.

Redeemer Church Saltash are really passionate about establishing another welcoming church community for everyone and anyone, whatever their story. Their services are designed to be inclusive for all members of the community with music, gospel and a very warm welcoming atmosphere.

Every fortnight young people have their own time together led by their youth team and there is also provision each week for children under the age of 11.

Redeemer Church currently meet every Sunday, 10am, at The Core, Church Road, Saltash, PL12 4AE. To find out more go to www.redeemersaltash.uk or find them on [facebook.com/redeemersaltash](https://www.facebook.com/redeemersaltash) uk

They look forward to seeing you soon!

Centre or go to Cornwall Council's home page and type 'Leisure Consultation' in the Search box. You are able to progress through the consultation and write comments in the boxes without having to tick the boxes if, like me, you find the questions confusing.

So, if you agree with the 11-year old Saltash student who thinks our local leisure centre means 'everything' please respond to the consultation by the deadline of 31st October. If you miss the deadline, please send me an email and I will make sure your voice is heard: cllr.hilary.frank@cornwall.gov.uk

Party to Thank Community Volunteers

The unsung heroes of our community who keep Community Enterprises PL12 serving the town, even during the hard times of pandemic, were given a mark of appreciation at a social event organised by management for all the volunteers.

All of those who help in any way were invited to a fun evening at Saltash Social Club where those who perhaps only knew those whom they worked alongside were encouraged to mix with fellow volunteers in a friendly social atmosphere. The evening opened with an 'ice breaker' in which all were split into teams for a challenge involving the wrapping of an egg prior to it plunging from a step ladder.

There were then quizzes involving Cornish food and drink and another in which we discovered a certain Methodist Minister's amazing wealth of knowledge on pop history. Everyone enjoyed an evening in good company, with a pasty & puds supper, quizzes music, dancing and socialising which continued into the night.

Thank You to Sarah & the Social Club staff who looked after us so well.

It was a well-deserved opportunity for everyone to let their hair down, & meet some fellow volunteers they've only met on WhatsApp or Zoom before!

Chamber Chair's Vision for Town's Future

Following a 'bizarre' year in which Saltash Chamber of Commerce and Industry 'achieved a lot despite lockdowns and restrictions' newly re-elected Chamber Chair Sarah Martin told the annual general meeting that she intended to make sure the Chamber builds on that in the coming year.

The meeting saw Hilary Frank elected as Secretary and Doug Bond agree to continue acting as treasurer.

In her vision for the coming year Ms Martin prioritised growing 'Totally Locally' from a national campaign just for independents to a town wide Shop Local campaign, in increasing of footfall not only for independent shops but all local businesses setting Saltash up as a destination rather than somewhere people pass through in the tunnel. 'This is a big ask but I'm positive Chamber has a role to play here', believes Ms. Martin.

Safe Route to Saltash

Residents who feel 'locked in' their village urged Saltash Town Council to support them in their objective of getting a safe route for pedestrians and cyclists between Hatt and Carkeel roundabout.

A report from Sustrans has included a proposed route but town councillors, considering whether this might be included in the Saltash Neighbourhood Plan, were concerned to note that the route conflicts with building development plans at Treledan.

A small but energetic group of Botus Fleming residents organised to help tackle climate change told the council that they find themselves locked into their parish which they cannot enter or leave safely except by vehicle. They have been seeking a way of reaching Saltash safely by cycle, foot or mobility scooter.

After listening to their concerns, the Town Council agreed to support in principle a safe route between Hatt and Carkeel, while Cornwall's Councillor Martin Worth offered to discuss this with the Treledan developers.

Brian Hodge 1944 - 2021



Photo: 1949/50 Front Row: Brian Hodge with cousin Terry Hodge Middle Row: 3rd from left Horace Hodge (Brian's Dad) other family members include Tony Hodge (Brian's Uncle), Reg Allen & Ken Hodge. Do you know anyone else?

Local Businessman and Sportsman

Brian Hodge, one of the well known Hodge family of Saltash, died after a short illness on 29th September 2021.

Brian was born in Pentillie Castle when it was used as a war time maternity hospital and lived in Saltash for all of his life. After attending Longlands School and Saltash Secondary School he completed his apprenticeship with A&N Cole and qualified as an electrician. In 1977 he set up his own electrical contracting business which later added plumbing services when his son joined the firm in 1995.

Although Brian's priorities were family and work he had a prominent and well respected profile within the South East Cornwall sports scene. He was chosen to play cricket for both his school team and county at schoolboy level and after leaving school went on to play for Landulph and Boconnoc Cricket Club and continued to represent Cornwall.

Brian also enjoyed playing golf at Looe Bin Down Gold Club where he was twice club captain, but his first sporting love was always football and from a young age played for school and county.

Brian went on to play football for Saltash & Liskeard at club level and also represented Cornwall. Following an early retirement from his playing career due to injury, he continued his involvement in the sport by using his knowledge and skills to manage local teams, namely Liskeard Athletic FC

(1973 - 1988), Saltash United FC (1988-1991) and the Cornwall County Team during which time his teams won: promotion from the South Western League to the Western League 1978/79, the Pratten Cup, League Cup, the South Western League title 1987/88 & 1988/89 and the Cornwall Senior Cup 1983/84,84/85,85/86 & 88/89 to name a few.

Brian was a quiet, thoughtful and unassuming

gentleman who thought and respected the best in people. His business and sporting leadership approach followed this and helped make his teams so successful.

He was undoubtedly one of the great all round sportsman to come out of Saltash and has contributed so much to the local sporting community. He will be much missed by his family, friends, colleagues and the Cornish football community.

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Saltash Santa Fun Run

You'd better watch out because plenty of Santa Clauses will be coming to Saltash town on Saturday 4th December, the day of the annual Christmas Festival.

The number of Santas on motorbikes raising money for Children's Hospice Southwest seems to swell every year, but after Santas on bikes have headed off up Fore Street, there will be Santas running down it in the opposite direction, across the iconic Tamar Bridge and back, then up Fore Street in the town's first ever Santa Fun Run.

"We're pleased to be collaborating with the Chamber of Commerce to introduce this new element of festive fun," said Colin Bunting of the Tamar Trotters. "The course is 3km, and is suitable for anyone who wants to run or walk – or amble



back up Fore Street!"

Entry fee will be £10, which will include a Santa suit with beard and a finisher's medal. For

more details visit the Saltash Christmas Festival Facebook page or send an email to admin@tamartrotters.co.uk

Social Events for Saltash's Seniors Resume

While many have suffered from isolation and loneliness during the unprecedented times that we have lived through it is our senior citizens who have probably felt this the most. Now at last opportunities to mix and socialise in convivial company are being made available again through the hard working volunteer organisers of Saltash Age Concern.

The Wednesday Afternoon Social Club are welcoming back old members and encouraging new members to join them at Burraton Community Centre on the last Wednesday of each month from 2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.

Door to door transport (at £1 per trip) is arranged for members to come together to chat and enjoy a cup of tea and cake in good company. Talks, music, sing-songs, quizzes and bingo are often arranged and a highlight of the year is the annual coach trip. Men and women aged around sixty plus are always welcome and facilities are disable friendly. For more information contact Yvonne on 417652.

The Thursday lunch club are already again enjoying Toni's excellent cuisine and though numbers are already at full capacity, a waiting list

fireworks, lanterns and smiles on faces.

Timings and details for both events will be published in next month's issue of the Observer, as well as on the Saltash Christmas Festival Facebook page.



The first ever Tincombe Tea Party, with live music from the Sunset Swing Band, was enjoyed by all, including Thomas Tingcombe, who travelled from the 17th century to present prizes to the winners of the 'Ugly Bug Ball'.

may soon be set up. What is needed is younger helpers to give up a couple of hours on Thursdays, again contact Yvonne.

Especially popular have been the Red Bus outings that range from the Tuesday shopper trips to a variety of retail outlets to the ever-popular Sunday luncheon visits to a range of cafés and inns within easy distance. Longer range trips include Fingle Bridge on Dartmoor, St. Ives and the Tiverton canal with a horse-drawn barge ride, while special events include Kingsbridge Show, Dartmouth Regatta and Mount Edgcumbe Summer Fair. And for those who wish to trip the light fantastic the Tuesday afternoon dancing club for those who enjoy – or would like to experience the joys of sequence dancing.

Burraton Centre Now A "21st Century Venue"

A popular hub for community activities since 1960, the Burraton Community Centre has emerged from Covid closure with completely refurbished facilities ready to welcome one and all to its main hall or three separate meeting rooms.

The number of ongoing activities had meant that there was previously little opportunity to work on the building. During enforced closure committee members decided to utilise the entire government grants received together with the centre's own bank balance, to create a "Twenty-First Century Venue". And by doing almost all the work themselves members Mike Nottage and John Thomas were able to ensure that work could be completed within their budget.

The main hall now has an enhanced kitchen and a stage almost doubled in size making it an ideal venue for concerts and other performances, as well as weddings and other celebrations with live music.

Down below (with separate level access) the refurbished Maurice Higgins Hall is just one

of three smaller venues available to hire for talks and meeting, again with refurbished kitchen and toilet facilities. Speakers and sound system have been donated by Rwindband, now CCTV together with internet access are being installed. Already local organisations and party organisers are keen to book at the centre. Meanwhile the centre at the heart of the town in Grenfell Avenue, hosts a choir, six different keep fit classes for all ages and abilities, including yoga and Pilates. Concert band, art classes, history, Cornish language, age concern, tea dance, ukulele and knitting are just some of the varied activities held here.

Anyone looking to join a group or form a new one is invited to contact burratoncc@gmail.com

A Time to Wander and Wonder

Last December's Window Wanderland, that magical outdoor art gallery where windows glowed with colourful designs, was born out of a wish to bring people together even though Covid was keeping us apart. It proved so successful that the Saltash Chamber of Commerce is bringing it back for a second year.

Over the coming weeks, the Chamber will be inviting residents to mark the location of the window they intend to decorate on an interactive map, and Window Wanderland 2021 will be launched in the evening of Thursday 2nd December to coincide with a late-night shopping event in the town centre. This is two days before the annual Christmas Festival on Saturday 4th December, when Fore Street comes alive with the hustle and bustle of a street market, and the dark, wintry evening is lit up with

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ADVANCE WARNING

Roads closed for: Saltash Christmas Festival 2021

A38 Sliproad (south lane)

Fore Street (full length)

Wesley Road (full length)

Victoria Road (King Edward Road TO Wesley Road) - Eastbound only

Belle Vue Road (Car Park junction TO Fore Street)

King Edward Road (Essa Road TO Victoria Road) - Northbound only

Callington Road (Fore Street TO Glebe Avenue) - 18.15pm (Fireworks)

St Stephens Road (Fore Street TO Essa Road) - 18.15pm (Fireworks)

North Road (Tavy Road TO Lower Fore Street) - 17.45pm (Parade)

SAT 4TH DECEMBER 2021 10:00 - 22:00

Parking Restrictions for: Saltash Christmas Festival 2021

St Stephens Road (Essa Road TO Fore Street)

King Edward Road (Wesley Lane TO Fore Street)

Callington Road (Fore Street TO Glebe Avenue)

Glebe Avenue (Callington Road TO North Road)

Longstone Car Park is the only carpark affected

SAT 4TH DECEMBER 2021 10:00 - 22:00

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AND CHEER ON SANTAS IN THE FUN RUN AT 2PM
DON'T MISS THE MAGICAL LANTERN PARADE AT 6PM
OR THE LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AND STILT WALKERS
AND REMEMBER TO SHOP LOCAL THIS CHRISTMAS

Save Energy, Save Cash, Save the Planet

Fuel prices are rising, colder nights are coming and climate change is at a critical point according to a recent UN report, so it's more important than ever to consider ways to cut down our energy use. Read on for some savvy tips to help you protect the environment and save money.

Are you on the best energy tariff for your needs?

Invest five minutes using a comparison site and you can make big savings! Getting a smart meter installed can also help you keep an eye on your energy usage, cut costs and cut emissions.

Does switching off and turning down really save money?

Yes! Research from the Energy Saving Trust shows you can make clear savings by switching off appliances at the plug rather than leaving them on standby – as much as £35 per year so think about things like mobile phone chargers, microwaves, TVs and laptops.

The same goes for turning down the temperature on your washing machine. If your load is only lightly soiled, set the wash to 30 degrees. You'll both save cash and cut down emissions.

If you're buying new big household items go for the highest energy rating appliances that you can afford, it's better for the environment and more cost effective in the long run. Sust-it.net is a great website for more information on energy efficient products.

Could you try a bit of low cost DIY to keep the draughts out?

How about have some fun and make your own draught excluder for windows, doors and skirting board gaps? More tips on DIY draught-proofing are at energysavingtrust.org.uk/advice/draught-proofing.

Use heat reflective panels behind radiators to prevent precious heat from escaping – a roll of radiator reflective foil is less than £10 from your local DIY shop.

Are you eligible for financial help with energy saving?

Check out the energysavingtrust.org.uk website for different schemes available.

Consider setting up a Direct Debit and paying the same amount each month to balance out your winter and summer bills,

Finally, if you are on a Prepayment meter and have a low credit balance, vouchers of £59 for families and £29 for individuals are available towards your energy costs from Community Energy Plus (CEP) with minimal effort - all you need to do is phone 0800 954 1956, verify your balance and evidence your ID.

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

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

Conundrum Corner

Taking the initial letter to the one-word answers to the following nine questions can you re-arrange them to make the name of a well-known celebrity? 3,7

1 What is the main ingredient of the Welsh dish Laver Bread? (7)

2 By what name is the Marine Snail better known? (5)

3 How many Quavers are there in a Crochet? (3)

4 In which City is the Trevi Fountain found? (4)

5 What is the only member of the Giraffe family other than the Giraffe itself? (5)

6 What name is given to the Lotion rubbed into the skin to ease sore muscles? (11)

7 Across which River did George Washington lead his Troops on Christmas night in 1776? (8)

8 What name is given to a River which flows into another River rather than into a Lake or the Sea? (9)

9 By tradition who first told the story of the Tortoise and the Hare? (5)

10 Which is England's smallest County? (7)

Answers on Page 7

E Bikes For Hire

A fleet of E bikes and electric scooters could be available for arriving rail passengers and others to hire for onward transport, hopes Cornwall Councillor Martin Worth.

The scheme would be a technology advanced version of London's 'Boris bikes'. Similar schemes are working successfully elsewhere in the country, Councillor Worth told your 'Observer'.

Prospective riders would insert a card, or apply an app to release a bike or scooter for an hour or two. A tracking device should help discourage their disappearance and it could help link the town centre with the station, Waterside and all parts of the town and villages around. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor have already shown interest, said Mr. Worth.

News and Views

*From the parish church of
St. Stephen-by-saltash...*

On Saturday 2nd October 2021 a 'Church Fair' was held at St. Stephens Parish Church. One of the first of its kind since the Covid pandemic prevented the usual socials and fairs from taking place. The fair was most successful; the Social Committee, under the leadership of Steve Hookway, wish to thank the people of Saltash for attending; enabling us to upkeep the beautiful building that is St. Stephen-by-Saltash Church.

The next event will be the 'November Fair' to be held on Saturday 13th November 2021, starting at 10am, finishing at 1pm. A variety of stalls, including the very popular book stall for children and adults, calendars, wrapping paper etc., and a variety of Christmas cards, plus refreshments of course will be available.

Letter to the Editor...

Dear Editor,

I want to commend PRIDE and JOY Home and Garden Maintenance Team, one of your advertisers. I have a large, diverse garden, rambling over 5-6 levels. The proliferation of trees and shrubs had recently taken over, threatening river views and footpath access. This well-equipped team of 5 friendly, enthusiastic workers hit the ground almost running, and skilfully transformed the place in half a day, trimming, tidying and producing 4 carloads of surplus vegetation. Friendly neighbours assisted with disposal to avoid extra tip costs... and I can enjoy the busy Tamar again.

*Ian Robinson
Saltash*

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Tamar Reflections

Wearde Farm - Part Two

In the August issue of the Saltash Observer, I wrote about Wearde Farm and its history; I promised readers that I would continue the story of the Wearde encampment in the next available issue.

What was open fields and farmland at Wearde changed focus from 1914; starting with the encampment being used for 5,000 troops being trained to take up their military posts on the Western front from 1914.

Indeed, there was an enormous toll of casualties on the Western Front which inevitably changed the role of Wearde encampment from a military base to a hospital for the wounded.

There were so many varying injuries from WW1; there were some who had suffered the gas attacks. A friend of John and I (the late Norman Ash) said that his father had a job at the camp and he would visit frequently and made friends with some of the men. One tragic case that Norman remembers was of a character called "Barney".

Barney had been gassed at Ypres in Belgium; it had affected his mind and he would become very violent and required restraining. Barney suffered fits which was rather frightening, however, he was a good artist and constructed things and adopted Norman as a special friend. Some of the Barney's end products were donated for various original and unusual toys.

They had a long friendship and Norman felt it helped Barney to rehabilitation. Norman recalls that from bits of scrap Barney produced a magic lantern complete with hand-painted slides, which triggered an interest for

Norman in photography which stayed with him for the rest of his life.

Whilst the troops were stationed at Wearde, they managed to socialise, and arranged trips into Saltash to visit the hostels and meet a few young ladies too!

However, there were frequent reports of drunkenness and disorderly behaviour in



Tamar Street, and them using the benches to lay on to sober up!

In the main however the people of Saltash were greatly supportive of the servicemen

during the war and later the hospital patients and events were organised for them.

The men also arranged their own entertainment using many of the facilities provided for them at the encampment, including a cinema and amateur theatre.

The men organised a concert at the camp to benefit St Stephens Church organ fund in 1920; which included the camp Male Voice Choir and Camp Orchestra.

Other amusements on site were football, boxing, boating, kinematograph performances and 5 hole golf (a course was laid out on the sports field).

Their annual sports day

one remained and was erected for the community at St Stephen's village and known as St Stephen's Hall.

In 1936 the Meccano Guild was set up in the St Stephen's Church hut, for boys with a great interest in Meccano. The boys built a model of the GWR which was under construction at Millbay Station in Plymouth; the station was sadly destroyed by enemy action during 1941.

I had many a happy time at that hall with the old Saltash Amateur Operatic Society, performing in concerts and concert parties.

The hut was removed some years ago, and a bungalow now sits on that site just down from St Stephen's Church.

Saltash businesses suffered great losses due to the closure of the hospital, and there were a lot of complaints from the business community.

In 1936 King George Jubilee Trust Fund and Plymouth Juvenile Council in association with Sir John Carew Pole set up a rest camp during WW2 at Wearde. Those that visited were the Rovers, Scouts, cubs, choristers from Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, together with a large party of unemployed youths from Plymouth.

In 1937 Wearde was used as a youth instruction centre.

And finally in 1938 for the Saltash Miniature Rifle Club, and partly used as a camp by Plymouth Juvenile Association to be considered as a site for Torpedo Training School.

The Wearde encampment eventually closed in 1938 after being used for various projects.

Where the camp once stood is now grass land, schools and houses, and nothing remains of the buildings which so many military personnel left to fight on the Western Front and to which some returned to recuperate from their traumatic experiences.

In 2019 the Saltash Great War Committee commissioned a musical play about the life at Wearde Camp from 1914 until 1920's called Lowena; it was a beautiful love story and reflected the life at the encampment and its strong community spirit.

The Saltash Great War Committee has erected a history board on the verge of Saltash Community School with much more information of the history of the Wearde encampment, please do pay a visit and look at the board, you will learn so much more of Wearde and its mystery!

Sue Hooper MBE

New Bishop of The Armed Forces



The Rt Revd Hugh Nelson, Bishop of St Germans has recently taken over the important role of Bishop to The Armed Forces in addition to his current role. His ministry will include working alongside military & naval chaplains and personnel, as well as representing the church in wider issues relating to the forces.

Bishop Hugh visited St Stephens Church on 22nd April this year, his first official event as Bishop of St Germans due to the covid lockdown. He participated in the Remembrance service for the six Saltash Auxilliary Firemen, who lost their lives in action in 1941, during the Plymouth Blitz.

Saltash resident, Barry Brooking, a royal navy and royal marine veteran and grandson of one of those firemen, who led the arrangements for the April event said, 'we were greatly honoured to have Bishop Hugh's support on the day and on behalf of all the families of those firemen, we wish him good fortune in his new role and are sure he will do well, especially as he shares a surname with our countries greatest naval hero'

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Floral Skills for All

An array of floral splendour was a much-admired feature at the Fun Palace recently held in Saltash Library Hub. The displays honoured the skills of Saltash Floral Art Club who are eager to encourage new members to discover the pleasures of floral design.

The club meets monthly and beginners are most welcome to enjoy refreshment before a guest qualified demonstrator shows what can be done in a variety of styles with florist and garden flowers. These frequently include items which can be gathered in the countryside or on the shoreline. Competitions are held and there is an annual visit to a local garden of interest.

Anyone interest is invited to attend a meeting held in Saltash Wesley Church on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 pm for 7.30 pm, or contact the Chair Jenny Jefferies on 01752 844138.

All Lanes on Tamar Bridge Open Again

All lanes on the Tamar Bridge have re-opened, two weeks ahead of schedule and one week ahead of the October half term break.

Specialist contractor VolkerLaser carried out a series of highly complex procedures in sequence. After removing 949 tonnes of surface material, the teams applied 1,920kg of paint primer to the deck. Two layers of waterproofing were followed by two thin layers of surfacing material before road markings were laid.

VolkerLaser site manager, Andy Smith, said "We are delighted to be completing works on the Tamar Bridge two weeks earlier than planned. The team has worked tirelessly to complete the resurfacing, and it's been a pleasure to work on such an iconic structure".

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Saltash Old Cornwall Society

The stirring wartime experiences of HMS Cornwall were a fitting subject for the first meeting of Saltash Old Cornwall Society in eighteen months. Society President Ernie Reynolds warmly welcomed back all members together with new members for a new season of talks and fellowship for all of those with an interest in Cornwall and its heritage.

The speakers, John and Janine Adams, who had long lived in South Africa, proved not only knowledgeable about HMS Cornwall which for much of the war was South Africa based, but had a personal connection with her.

The fifth ship of that name was built in Devonport and launched in 1926. At the outbreak of World War II she formed part of the East Indies Command. Following Japan's entry into the war she was a part of the fleet involved in what Churchill described as 'the most dangerous moment of the war', the repulsing of the Japanese from taking Ceylon and gaining supremacy in the Indian Ocean. During this action HMS Cornwall was bombed and swiftly sank. Surviving crew members, Mr. Adams said, were in the water for thirty hours before rescue.

Mrs Adams then took over the talk explaining that one such survivor was her father and she described his experiences.

In his vote of thanks society secretary Martin Lister commented on how Mr. Adams' historic knowledge and his wife's human-interest story well complemented each other.

Trematon Pound

Council Seeks Residents' help in collating more information on Trematon Pound

A resident of Saltash has submitted an application to Historic England for Trematon Pound in Saltash to be listed. Unfortunately, the evidence submitted was not significant enough to get the site included in the National Heritage List for England in any of the categories specified by Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

Now Saltash Town Council is asking the population of Saltash for their help in gathering more evidence to get this site listed through a renewed attempt by collating any bibliographic references that residents of the area know about.

Mayor of Saltash Pete Samuels said: "One of our residents has taken a considerable amount of time and effort into trying to attain a listed status for this small post medieval stone structure across from Trematon Manor but has only been able to do so online.

"We know how keen our residents are in the history of the town and area and are wondering if there are more bibliographical references out there to its past. As probably the oldest property asset the town council owns, we are keen to speak to anyone who may have information that could help."

Trematon Animal Pound is a post medieval stone structure which formally belonged to the Duchy before being passed to the parish. It was used to impound stray animals until their owners returned and paid a fee to have them released. A 'listing' with Historic England would provide it with some protection from destruction or further reduction safeguarding the site for the future.

Anyone who has more information about the site, or is willing to travel to Redruth to Cornwall's Archives at Kresen Kernow to investigate paper entries, please contact Saltash Town Council on 01752 844846 or email enquiries@saltash.gov.uk

A Model World by the Waterside

Those whose hobby is creating a world in miniature clearly occupied themselves fully during lockdown. The results of their skilled labours attracted admiration at the exhibition mounted by the Saltash Model Club at Ashtorre Rock over a weekend.

Visitors were greeted by a full model of Yelverton Station re-created by Alex Warren. It represented the station as it was in the 1950's, for many the golden age of the railway era.

Upstairs the exhibition was divided into themes of maritime, planes, tanks, automobiles, war games, science fiction, remote control and fantasy, reflecting the wide-ranging interests of model club members.

Under 'maritime' a model of the 'Titanic' in full glory sat alongside historic sailing ships, a fishing boat and an oil rig,



Saltash has been selected to pioneer in Cornwall a new health initiative focused upon those who have been impacted in any way by the Covid pandemic. 'Step into Wellness,' run jointly by Public Health Cornwall and Age UK Cornwall is aimed not only at those who have experienced covid but at the many others who may have lost family members, suffered mental health and anxiety issues, lost contact with their communities, become unfit

due to lack of activity, or who still fear going out.

'Step into Wellness' has been running successfully on line since March and a presentation at Ashtorre Rock was aimed at introducing the first 'face to face' series of sessions planned for Cornwall. The intention, it was explained, is that 'We take people on a journey from where they are now to where they want to be using five steps to wellbeing'. Locally based wellness

volunteer Roy Perkins outlined the five steps which include connect, be active, taking notice (mindfulness) learning and giving. There will be seven sessions over ten weeks beginning weekly and then fortnightly. Thereafter those who wish to continue can attend a 'digital café' via zoom.

The sessions will be daytime and for groups of up to six. All ages are welcome, and experience on line indicates that around 30% are aged under 50. Participants can discuss their personal experience as well as enjoy sharing in exercises, including breathing exercises. Stability Instructor Jan will give training on falls prevention including exercises to practice daily at home.

There are many success

stories recorded to date including those of neighbours who were introduced to each other and became friends, and of walking groups set up by past participants.

With its growing success Step into Wellness is in constant need of more volunteers to involve themselves by telephone, in person, or zoom sessions. No experience is required, full training is given as well as ongoing support at all times.

The timing of the sessions due to be held at Ashtorre, overlooking the River Tamar, has yet to be finalised but will depend upon demand. Anyone interested in participating or acting as wellness volunteer is invited to call 01872 266383 or contact stepintowellness@ageukcornwall.uk.org

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Saltash Town Council Community Funding

Saltash Town Council have two separate funds available to the local community – Community Chest and Festival Fund. Community Chest is used to support small scale community projects intended to improve the town environment, to strengthen the community fabric or the common economy of the town, for example equipment for local sports groups, uniforms for youth projects, bands and choirs.

The Festival Fund supports larger events that are free, 6-7 hour long and that are likely to attract hundreds or thousands of people to the area

Both funds have a "cap" on the amount which can be awarded – no more than £1,000 for the Community Chest and not exceeding £1,500 per day up to a maximum two days per event for Festival Fund.

● Examples of recent beneficiaries of the funds are Community Chest

● Saltash United Juniors Football Club has been a recent beneficiary of the Community Chest, receiving £1,000 to purchase new equipment including goals, bibs and footballs.

This has enabled the club to expand to over 200 young people accessing the sport on a regular basis including a new under-fives intake starting in September. In addition the grant allows the club to offset the membership fees, making the sport accessible to everyone in the community.

Festival Fund

£500 for Cornwall Pride whose bus visited Saltash in August and celebrated pride month. The event enabled people from the LGBTQ+ community to come together locally with other members of the community for support, engagement and fun!

If you wish to apply for funding for a community group or event taking place in Saltash please use the link below for the application forms and further guidance.
<https://www.saltash.gov.uk/forms.php>

Should you require assistance completing the application form please visit the Guildhall reception where a member of staff will be happy to assist.



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