

Saltash Christmas Festival Sat 3rd Dec

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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October/November 2022 - Issue 367

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Saltash Christmas Festival

SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER

DON'T MISS THE MAGICAL LANTERN PARADE AT 6PM OR THE LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AND STILT WALKERS AND REMEMBER TO SHOP LOCAL THIS CHRISTMAS

Photo Mike Pitches Photography



Mayor of Saltash Pays Tribute to the Debonair and Much Loved Saltash Figure

“Saltash will not be the same without Brian Whipp, who gave a welcome splash of colour and character to the town,” said Councillor Richard Bickford, Mayor of Saltash, paying tribute to the debonair and much-loved Saltash figure.

Brian was often seen flamboyantly

and dressed as the sea dog Sir Francis Drake sipping a coffee at a Fore Street café, leading plucky pirates at Saltash Regatta, or simply boarding a bus or a train. All his period costumes were meticulously hand-crafted by his late wife, Monica – his Lady Drake. Following Monica’s death in 2015, Brian donated her

Lady Drake dress to the Saltash Heritage museum, where it is now on permanent display.

A Londoner born in 1936, Brian moved with Monica to Saltash in the 1970s and soon became actively involved in the life of the town, serving a term as councillor. As well as appearing as Sir Francis and Lady Drake at events across the Westcountry, the couple spent 20 years working at Buckland Abbey, giving visitors an insight into life in Elizabethan times and teaching

children the intricacies of Elizabethan dancing. In 2007, Brian became the first person in 900 years to act as Saltash Town Crier after the Town Council decided to reinstate the post. He became an active member of the Town Criers’ Guild, and together with Monica travelled widely promoting Saltash at a diverse range of Town Crier contests.

Although retired, Brian was

honoured to be asked by the Town Council to reprise his role as Town Crier and give the official proclamation marking the start of the town’s celebrations for the late Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.

Brian often used to regale people with his memories of meeting Queen Elizabeth. She had, apparently, asked him why he dressed as Drake. “Well, your Majesty,” he had replied. “We cannot have a Queen Elizabeth on the throne without a Sir Francis Drake.” It is deeply saddening to think that we now have neither.

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Town Messenger

Working for the People of Saltash

News from Saltash Town Council
Konsel an dre Essa



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Email: schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk

Education Welfare:
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educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk

Housing Department
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Social Services Department
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adultcare@cornwall.gov.uk

Highways Department
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Tamar Bridge

From the Mayor of Saltash

I was sad to learn of the passing of Brian Whipp in the last few weeks. Brian was a real character, or many characters, and will be missed around our town and beyond. Brian was the Town Council's Town Crier for a number of years, and I was pleased that we asked him to reprise his role for the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations. He jumped at the chance and was perfect for the role of reading the proclamation.

The highlight of the past month was our revival of the traditional 'Beating the bounds', where we walked a section of the boundary of Saltash bumping people on the boundary stones as we went. I would like to thank all who joined us, with special thanks to Martin Lister for leading the walk, Barry Brooking for reading the proclamation, Reverend Tim Parkman and Reverend Richard Magrath for their blessings, Peter Clements for his guidance, Rotary members for their marshalling skills, as well as Councillor Rachel Bullock and her team for their organisational work. It was a great success, and I am sure we will do it again, do try to come, and keep your fingers crossed the weather is equally good.



In the Council Chamber of the Guildhall, we have had many meetings trying to catch up on a back log following the death of the Queen. It might not impress many, but I am always thankful that our town councillors volunteer their time to come to so many meetings and make decisions on your behalf, night after night. It is no easy feat, and often tough choices have to be made. You can catch up on all that happens by reviewing the minutes that are published on the Town Council's website.

Sarah and I hope to see some of you at the various Remembrance events around the town in November.

*Councillor Richard Bickford
Mayor of Saltash 2022-23*

Town Council Messenger News Update

Remembrance Day

The Annual Remembrance Day Service in Saltash will be held on Sunday 13th

November 2022 at 2pm at the Saltash Wesley Methodist Church. Members of the public are invited to attend the service and will be seated in order of arrival until the church is at full capacity. Please arrive between 1.20pm - 1.50pm in order to be seated.

The Remembrance parade will leave the church at approximately 3pm to march down Fore Street to the war memorial outside St Nicholas and St Faith Church where wreaths will be laid. Saltash Town Council encourage all residents and visitors to attend the parade and join Councillors, local guests and uniformed organisations in paying their respects.

Christmas Lights – Switch on

On Friday the 18th we will switch on our Christmas Lights, please see the poster elsewhere on this page. We do this a bit earlier than the main Christmas Festival event in order to give maximum benefit to the businesses and residents during the run up to Christmas. It is a fairly short event, but you are all welcome to come along.

No one likes Dog Poop

In a bid to try and encourage greater responsibility amongst a minority of dog owners, we are

launching a competition to raise awareness on the issues of dog fouling.

The Town Council are asking the youth of Saltash to assist by creating the artwork for the signs. The Town Council hope by raising awareness it will encourage all dog walkers to clean up after their pet.

Can you create something eye-catching and informative to spread awareness that dog fouling in our Saltash community is unacceptable?

The winners will be chosen from a variety of age ranges with a closing date of the 30th November. For more details please visit www.saltash.gov.uk/latestnews.php

Christmas Craft Fair

There are still a few spaces available for stalls at our Christmas Fair that will take place on Saturday 3rd December (the same date as the Christmas Festival event in the Town Centre).

Tables are £10. Contact enquiries@saltash.gov.uk for more details

Email your news to...
maryecrawford@hotmail.com
Tel: 01579 345699
Mob: 07971 484872

Community Chest Awards

Saltash Town Council have funding available for local community organisations to support community projects in the town that strengthen the community fabric or economy of the town. Organisers can apply for up to £1000. Saltash Sailing Club Cadets applied for £1000 to replace worn equipment. The grant was awarded and used to purchase two RS Feva Trolleys and 2 RS Vision Trolleys. Both pieces of equipment will be used to transport dinghies in and out of the water safely. The replacing of the equipment enabled more young people to access the sailing club and learn to sail in a safe environment at a local club.

For an application form, guidelines on how and when to apply and support to apply email enquiries@saltash.gov.uk or visit the Town Council website https://www.saltash.gov.uk/edit/stuploads/8193_435536206.pdf or call 01752 844846.

Saltash Town Pledge to Become Dementia Friendly

At the Full Town Council meeting held on 6th October 2022 Saltash Town Council resolved to formally adopt a proposal and plan to work towards being a dementia friendly Town Council. Research from the National Association of Local Councils shows that where local councils proactively engage in providing support, isolation, loneliness and despair experienced by people living with dementia reduces.

Saltash Town Council Supports Youth Organisations

At the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 28 September 2022 it was resolved to thank Livewire, The Core and Junkyard Skatepark for their ongoing commitment and support to the community. The three organisations have jointly received funding of over £50,000 from Saltash Town Council to enable them to deliver services in Saltash.

Each of the three organisations offer outstanding support to the youth of the town through various clubs and initiatives. Saltash Town Council is proud to be supporting them to offer these services through funding.

Saltash Library Transforms into a Warm Hub

From 31st October throughout the winter, Saltash Library will provide a welcoming venue for all to relax in the warmth. This will continue through normal library opening hours, with Saltash Wesley Church offering an alternative venue on Wednesdays when the library is closed.

Part of a range of initiatives to support Saltash residents in keeping well over the winter months, the mezzanine floor is being converted to include a games table as well a comfortable seating area with hot drinks on offer, courtesy of Saltash Foodbank. There are also plans for an afternoon Film Friday event from November onwards.

The library will continue to be the hub of events for all ages throughout November. Children's Book Week will be celebrated between 7th and 13th November, followed by Nursery Rhymes Week from 14th to 18th of the month. For adults, there will be an International Games Week based on the format of television's popular 'House of Games.'

For further information on the wider variety of activities in Saltash Library, call in or visit the website on saltash.gov.uk/library or facebook.com/saltashlibraryhub



Your Town Council & Wards

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Deputy Mayor:

Cllr Julia Peggs

Town Clerk:

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Councillors' Telephone Numbers can be obtained at The Guildhall.

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Essa Voices



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

You may not have heard of the Local Government Chronicle. A weekly magazine for local government officers, its readership is pretty darned niche. But it has been going since 1855, and has managed to foster some great 'sources' within the world of local government over that time. In the middle of October it ran a story that the 'Devolution Deal' that is currently being negotiated by the leadership of Cornwall Council with the government will amount to control of £12m a year of investment funding over 30 years.

I'm impressed with the LGC's investigative journalism as the administration within

Cornwall Council has been utterly uncommunicative about the details of the Deal. So uncommunicative that for the overwhelming majority of councillors the LGC article is the first clue we have had of the content of the Deal, even though we are all expected to vote on it at our November meeting of Cornwall Council.

I'm not impressed with a figure of £12 million, though. It is less than 1% of Cornwall Council's annual budget. It does not feel like it is enough to justify the sort of additional spending power implied by the word 'devolution'. What's more: it apparently comes with conditions attached that Cornwall Council will not be allowed to spend the money on services, such as adult social care.

From Prime Ministerial to Presidential

The 'Devolution Deal' also comes with the condition that Cornwall must change the way the council is governed away from the current 'Prime Ministerial' model, where elected councillors choose a Leader from among their fellow councillors, to a 'Presidential' model, where one person who is not a councillor will be elected directly by the general public to the position of Mayor. The Presidential model will mean less influence for local councillors, while the 'first past the post' voting system used in the mayoral election seems to give an advantage to bigger political parties, increasing the opportunity that national parties could gain

control of Cornwall irrespective of the outcome of elections for Cornwall Council.

A Devolution Deal without a Mayor?

All this debate comes at a time of spiralling costs and tempestuous political upheaval at the heart of central government. In my personal view, it feels like it isn't the right time to introduce such a major change in the governance of Cornwall, so together with fellow councillors I have been pressing for a devolution package without the upheaval of change to a directly elected Mayor.

Councillors were pleased to hear at September's meeting of Full Council that the 6 Cornish MPs and Cornwall Council had requested a pause in the negotiations with central government and would be lobbying to secure a Devolution Deal without the requirement to change to a directly elected Mayor. We have repeatedly asked the Leader for updates, but we have not been told of any developments, although Cornwall Council apparently received a letter from Liz Truss saying that a Devolution Deal without a directly elected Mayor was not an option.

Will there be a referendum?

Under the current proposals, the decision on the Devolution Deal will be made in a vote by 87 councillors of Cornwall Council. But as we stand at this 'trouser-leg' of choice between the current model of

governance and a directly elected Mayor, there are many who feel it would be better to have a referendum so the whole of the Cornish electorate can have the chance to directly give their say. So far, almost 6,000 people have signed a petition calling for a referendum, and 34 of Cornwall's 212 town and parish councils have voted in favour of allowing all voters in Cornwall to have their say directly.

Ironic timing

The timing of this swirling debate around a directly elected Mayor is sublimely ironic as it comes at a time when, in this Parliamentary democracy of ours, the Conservatives are insisting there is no need for a general election. This is not a presidential democracy, they say, and the nation elects a party, not an individual. And yet that same government is adamant that it wants Cornwall to be ruled in presidential style.

As things currently stand, it seems that before the next issue of the Observer comes out 87 Cornwall Councillors will be asked to vote on the Devolution Deal, and on a Presidential-style shift. At the moment, I don't have enough information on the Deal to help me make an informed decision on the package. And at the moment, my feeling is that powers should be devolved to Cornwall without the need for a change in governance. If you have strong feelings either way please contact me so I can at least vote confident in the knowledge that I will be reflecting the views of Saltash residents.

Tamar Toll Action Group Update

The Tamar Toll Action Group has had an eventful time since our last update in the Observer. We have much to report, including the launch of our new website (as below) and the milestone of 2000 members joining our Facebook group: welcome to you all. Both Chair and Vice-chair of the group, Mel Preston and Scott Slavin, have been interviewed for local radio and newspaper, and some of you may have seen our new banner on the A38 – watch out for more of these in coming weeks as we are hoping to be displaying these in various locations, including manned banner sessions close to the Tamar Bridge. Please stop and say hello if you see us!

We have started public meet-up sessions for anyone wanting to become more involved with the group or wishing to find out more about what we are doing. These will be held monthly - details to be given on our website and Facebook page. All are welcome, and we hope to meet some more of you soon.

We have also been meeting with Cornwall and Plymouth councillors to ask for their support and investigate how we can work together towards our aim of abolishing the tolls. We have continued to question the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee on transparency, public communication and their plans for future funding, including green initiative subsidies. The 30% cash toll increase due from January 1st 2023 has once again highlighted the huge financial burden the toll is to local businesses and users who have cross the bridge and ferry both ways, often multiple times per day, as there is no other viable route. The message from our 2000 members is that something needs to change – the burden on regular users is too great. Please join us – we need to show our Councillors and MPs how much public support there is for this campaign. Contact us via our Facebook page or via our website: www.tamartollactiongroup.org.

Congratulations

"I would like to congratulate Rishi Sunak on becoming the Leader of the Conservative Party and Prime Minister. Its no secret that he was not my first choice but I do wish him well in his new role and will work with him to get the best for South East Cornwall and will continue to push the government for improvements to the area."
Sheryll Murray MP

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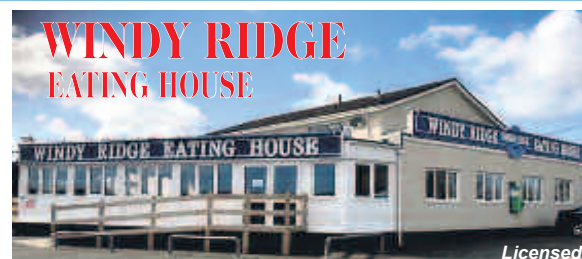
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Talking Money Debt and Poverty

With Talk Money Week 2022 in November, there's opportunity to talk openly about all things financial. From pensions to ISAs, there's a lot of jargon that comes with talking about money – as well as plenty of hesitation. Despite this, there are some good reasons to talk about finances.

Stay informed

At a time when news sources are filled with talk about interest rates and inflation, it can all begin to sound like another language. If you don't understand, have a conversation about it. Talking with others is the beginning of learning some

really useful financial skills and tools – like where your money works best and how to get the most out of your accounts. At worst, you'll have a laugh when you realise your friends might not fully understand what inflation is either!

Build relationships

The strongest relationships are built on a solid foundation of trust. If money is getting tight or you're contemplating a risky financial decision, speak to a loved one who you can trust to be fair and honest and they will likely keep you grounded. There might be solutions you haven't explored yet. Visit moneysavingexpert.com for some really helpful resources on managing your money.

Lead the way

It's one thing to receive good advice, but talking about money can also put you in the driver's

seat. Particularly with children, giving a transparent look at money can pave the way to financial independence in the future. A really useful, practical skill to give a child is how to budget. Talk to them and show them how it works. What money comes in? Where does it go?

Put your mind at ease

Whether you talk to a friend, a loved one or an accredited organisation, you can reduce anxiety and worry by sharing financial difficulties you might have. Having financial worries can be a driver of loneliness and isolation, negatively impacting mental and physical health. It doesn't have to be that way.

You're not alone

Helpful resources for Talk Money Week and beyond are at maps.org.uk/talk-money-week. If things are proving difficult for you, please talk to someone. If you want to talk confidentially to me, you're welcome.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a UK charity working with over 800 affiliated churches to deliver debt help, budgeting guidance, support to find work, 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

Inaugural Literary Festival is a Spellbinding Success

Writers of national renown from throughout the South West region spoke, entertained and informed at the inaugural Saltash Literary Festival.

As the town's contribution to national Library Week, Saltash librarian David Orton decided to invite some acclaimed writers, and was delighted at the number who agreed to attend, including Patrick Gale, who spoke with great authority of 'Mother's Boy,' his fictionalised tale of Cornish poet Charles Causley.

American-born Liz Fenwick gave a fascinating account of her powerful romantic novels, set in Cornwall, and Saltash-based author Annalisa Crawford spoke of her locally influenced writings. She hopes to launch her book of short stories in Saltash Library next year.

Children's author Tom McLaughlin held his young audience spellbound as he told an enthralled group of Year 4 and 5 children about how he draws characters and 'thinks' stories, while Simon James, also well loved by youngsters, held fun workshops with the aid of a flip chart showing how works such as 'Mr Scruff' came into being.

It is hoped to build on the success of these author-led workshops and hold further 'meet the author' sessions this winter, with plans already well progressed for the second Saltash Literary Festival next autumn.

Sustainable Saltash

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

We are incredibly fortunate here in Saltash. We have a well provisioned and varied high street, with numerous small businesses dotted around the town. Many of them are independent.

Our family uses these wherever possible, with out of town trips only when needed. There are many reasons why this is worthwhile. Smaller food shops pride themselves on supporting local producers, many of whom would have no outlet otherwise. Their produce will always have a smaller supply chain and be less resource intensive. Many of our independent shops sell without packaging, or with much less than a supermarket. Other outlets specialise in second hand items. I can just buy what I need without waste or excess spending. Our bills haven't gone down, but they are unchanged and goods never go unused.

The benefits don't stop there. Money spent locally acts locally. Spend £10 in Fore Street and more than half that value will remain in the local economy, benefitting Saltash and its people. Our shops flourishing and meeting our needs builds community, provides us with fulfilling jobs, connects us to nearby resources and make us resilient if national and international chains are disrupted by extreme weather, conflict or global market pressures. In a changing world, this gives us greater security.

Many of our independent retailers worked hard in the lockdowns to ensure the town's people had their needs met in a way that online and national chains just couldn't. Many will do so again as the cost of living crisis bites. Global heating will bring similar shocks and we

must be able to face them. Shopkeepers and business owners are first responders to the needs of those they serve. Just look what has been achieved by our flourishing Community Kitchen and Community Larder.

Until two generations ago, local living was a day to day reality. Research shows that to reduce our impact on climate and environment, we must once more be able to meet our basic needs within a walkable distance. For many of us this is fast becoming a necessity due to cost. We are fortunate in Saltash that our community assets are still so intact. We must ensure that remains the case and help grow them.

Returning home with supplies, spares, something repaired or a present for a loved one I am nearly always smiling. Frequently I will have a piece of news or information about a local event I was unaware of. I look forward to seeing the shopkeepers I have got to know over the last few years and meeting friends. Our town centre is a flourishing neighbourhood hub, part of what gives our town its resilience for the future.

Marc Bramham

This column is a conversation starter for our whole

community.

If you have comments on the subject, ideas of your own or suggestions for future content, please do get in touch at sustainable.saltash@protonmail.com

Conundrum Corner

- 1 To which Country does the holiday island of Ibiza belong? (5)
 - 2 Which ancient Calculator used a Frame and Beads? (6)
 - 3 Which word describes someone in the age group 90-99? (12)
 - 4 What part of the Body is affected by Cirrhosis? (5)
 - 5 What is the name of the fictional island that is home to Thomas the Tank Engine? (5)
 - 6 The Great Orme is a Mountain overlooking which Welsh resort? (9)
 - 7 What is the title of the opening song in the Musical Hair? (7)
 - 8 Through which European capital does the River Tagus reach the Sea? (6)
 - 9 In which sport did Welshman Iwan Thomas make his name? (9)
- Answers on Page 7*

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Tamar Reflections

*Saltash Victoria Gardens
Now In Its 125th Year
Since the Opening In 1897*

Sometimes sit and ponder a while in the beautiful and well established Victoria Gardens situated at the top of Saltash Fore Street, and give thanks for such a wonderful community facility. Over the past 125 years, Victoria Gardens has been used for so many community events, Jubilees and Festivities and moreover, it is the 'Jewel in Saltash's Crown'. In addition it is a place that folks can meet and talk and rest within.

In celebration

Victoria Gardens was built to celebrate the 60th anniversary of our late and beloved Queen Victoria's long reign; and was officially opened 21st June 1897. Hundreds of people attended and crowded the gardens, marking this momentous occasion of Saltash's history and



indeed, the jubilant celebrations, acknowledging Queen Victoria's dedication to her subjects for six long decades.

Initiation

In accordance with historic periodicals and books that I have read, and in places refer to; it all began with a public meeting to consider numerous suggestions. A Committee was formed, and when all the public

ideas were discussed the preferred site was a piece of waste land at the top of the Town. The Mayor at that time Mr. Wm Dusting headed the project, together with a distinguished Committee to include - P.E.B. Porter and W.H. Mathew.

Fund raising

The Committee went about raising the much needed funds from many sources, to include the locals of the fast growing Borough of Saltash. Donations were also received from around the District and overseas - and in a considerably short time a huge £300 was raised for the project. Thus, plans were drawn up and approved. The very grand opening was on June 21st 1897.

Grand Opening and celebrations

Accordingly, the weather was kind and fine, and the Town was gloriously bedecked in all its finery with flags, evergreen, banners, Chinese lanterns and other celebratory decorations fittingly; also, paintings, and displays of the Corporation's Arms and Seals. Arches were

erected throughout the High Street, streets and also at the Waterside in recognition of its fishing industry. Tamar Street looked grand.

There were boats and nets and crossed oars on display. The residents of the Waterside were also praised for all their efforts of the celebrations.

Procession and dignified guests

The opening started with a peal of St Nicholas bells at 2.30, a procession was formed at Port View of Yeomanry, 100's of School children from the

Churches, the Volunteer Band, Volunteers, Band of I.T.S. (Mount Edgcombe Training ship), School Board Members and the Mayor and Corporation, together with town officials and ministers, they all marched to the park. When the Procession arrived in the park, and all were properly assembled - "God Save the Queen" was enthusiastically sung with gusto!

Other principal guests were, Surgeon-Captain R.T. Meadows and Lieutenant G.S. Meadows. The children led by Mr. D.E. Hawke, sang a special Jubilee hymn, followed by "Three Cheers" for the Queen led by the Mayor, who then preceded by the Volunteer Band and Yeomanry, proceeded to officially open the Victoria Gardens acquired as a memorial of the Jubilee. Celebrations continued for the rest of the day within the Borough, including festivities on the Waterside with a carnival, bands and a closing display of fireworks and a bonfire attended by thousands of people with ships in the harbour all taking part in the overall celebrations of the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria and the celebrations which brought about the attractive gardens named in her honour; indeed the gardens that Saltash still values immensely 125 years on!

Penn Symons Monument

During the 125 years, other outstanding memorable structures have been added to Victoria Gardens. On the 18th September 1901, there was the unveiling of the granite monument in memory of Major-General Sir William Penn Symons K.C.B. of Hatt, unveiled by Lord Mount Edgcombe. The Major-General, whose late father had been a recorder in Saltash, was tragically killed in the Boer War on October 20th 1899. The monument was erected in memory of this gallant soldier, whose family had long been connected to Saltash. The project received National and Global recognition and support. The funding appeal letter penned by the Mayor F.A. Rawlings and Committee to the Nation featured in the 'Times' reiterated how Sir William had given his life for Queen and Country, and that his body lay, like other heroes, far away from home and kindred; therefore, such a monument to his memory would be most fitting, within Victoria Gardens. Money came in locally, Nationally and from Natal, Australia, Asia, Alaska, Canada, India, Siam, Burma, and from almost every English speaking community in the World. This stunning monument stands as majestically within Victoria Gardens now as it did when it was erected 121 years ago.

Maurice Huggins Room
Also within Victoria Gardens is the Maurice Huggins building. It was built using public funds, as a rest room and opened in 1967, and was the original brainchild of former Saltash Mayor, the late Alderman Maurice Huggins, whose vision was for the room to be used as a resting place for older people making their way to the top of the town with their shopping, and taking a rest and to have a cup of tea and a chat. Over the years, the room has seen many improvements and refurbish-

ments. Sadly, however, the wonderful volunteers that ran the building became diminished, moreover, people visiting the room became less and less. In July 2012 the building closed and is now owned and run by our local authorities and only opens on special occasions; and can be hired out.

"Tired" Phone Box Given New Life

The station building, restored to its former Great Western glory, is at last offset with a handsome, period-style red telephone box, also lovingly restored and making an additional attractive feature in a heritage area.

The restoration, painstakingly carried out using the original shade of red paint, has been carried out by Saltash Rotary Club, who have also installed a potentially life-saving defibrillator in the box.

The restored phone box was unveiled by Mayor Richard Bickford, who thanked Rotarians for ensuring that it "looks the part" as well as providing a useful facility at this Saltash transport interchange. Rotary President Peter Samuels thanked Saltash Town Council for the vast amount of work carried out in overcoming bureaucracy to acquire the square metres of land on which the box stands, as



well as for funding the work.

Among Rotarians present at the opening was Phil Shannon, from Takapuna North Rotary Club, near Auckland in New Zealand. He and Peter Samuels exchanged Rotary banners in recognition of the worldwide brotherhood of service that Rotarians are proud to offer their local communities.

Conundrum Answers:

1 Spain 2 Abacus 3 Nonagenarian 4 Liver 5 Sodor 6 Landudno 7 Aquarius 8 Lisbon 9 Athletics. Re-arranged the letters spell Lansillas.

Marathon Mike Helps Improve Cancer Survival Rates

As Saltash resident Mike Wilton ran up the Mall towards Buckingham Palace, with Mr. Blobby to his left, he met his first target of completing the London Marathon. But he needs your support to meet his second target: raising £2500 to help improve cancer survival rates in the UK.

"I only started running in 2017, and this was my first ever Marathon," said Mike. "But cancer is happening right now, and I was determined to finish the course in memory of Grandma Edie, Auntie Eileen and all my dear friends who I have sadly lost to cancer."

Mike was running for Cancer Research UK, a charity that funds the work of over 4,000 researchers, doctors and nurses throughout the UK, studying cancer and cancer risk in over a million people. Ground-breaking research like theirs has meant that cancer survival rates have doubled over the past 40 years. Every step Mike took along the 26.2 miles helped to raise funds that will be invested into researching new ways to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer, and improve

survival rates even further. "I had my name on my running vest in glitter letters, and the shouts of support from the crowds for 'Disco Mike' and even 'Magic Mike' made the world of difference. Being a proud Cornishman, seeing all the Cornish flags along the route past places like the Tower of London and Big Ben made a world of difference, too. I'm thrilled that I've managed to raise over £1,500 so far. Please make a donation and help me reach my target of £2,500. Together, we can help Cancer Research UK make the world of difference to people living with cancer."



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This is a New Experience for Me

Just Thinking Aloud

Never before have I sat in my study, staring incredulously at my computer screen, shouting and swearing at a politician. Unbelievably for me not at just one politician and not from just one party. Indeed, such was the noise I made on one occasion recently that my beloved rushed in and wondered (innocently?) whether or not she should send for an ambulance....

(Don't worry, I shan't continue this rant for long – I just need to get it off my chest before getting back to what passes for normal service in this column.)

If I hear one politician just once more trotting out the phrase "I want to be clear about this" or variations on that theme, I shall lose my will to carry on living. What they actually mean is that they are not answering the question they have been asked and want to lead you down

some irrelevant pathway. This has always been the case, but I fear that there is currently much more of it.

Occasionally though, whoever writes their speeches for them produces an accidental rib-tickler that tells us more about the speaker than they would wish us to know. For example: "I want to be honest. This is difficult". Tears of laughter rolled down my cheeks at this point in the middle of a certain well-reported recent and brief press conference.

On occasion, if I find sleep hard to come by in the middle of the night, I switch on the BBC World Service. It is usually thoughtful and searching, which means that it does not help you return to the land of nod. For example, one night not so long ago, a group of economics experts were going on about growth, which seems to be a topic exercising governments worldwide just now. The trouble is, it seems to me, that growth is not certain to benefit folk from all sections of society. If they left it to me, I would be focussing

on health, wellbeing and safeguarding the natural world, including growth only if it predominantly features these three issues.

I wonder to what extent the opinions and actions of Saltash's county and town councillors coincide with mine. Leaving things to Westminster, Europe and the United Nations is a copout. Ordinary folk such as you and I have responsibilities too!

Yes, such responsibilities start locally here in fair Esse. We expect those we elect hereabouts to represent us – but what percentage of us actually do the local electing? Rarely does that percentage go much above thirty. Shameful.

Are you one of the many in Saltash who complain (just for example) about the dangerous surface of Alexandra Square Carpark for pedestrians? Spoken to a councillor? I guess not.

If you have a problem that is more likely to fall within the area of responsibility of your MP, have you contacted her? It's not right to have a go at Mrs Murray if you haven't even given her a chance.

Nearly finished now, if you haven't given up on me yet. Do you support Saltash Foodbank in any way? My firm conviction is that food banks are an obscene necessity. No democratic country worth the name should need such organisations, hence my previous sentence. But we are where we are. I do hope that nobody reading this believes that foodbanks are taken advantage of by idlers and scroungers. Those of us who spend much of our lives supporting those whose lives would be impossible without foodbanks and the like know how essential they are. Yes, it is especially difficult just now to offer help, when even those who used to offer it now need it themselves, but it is all the more important that those who can, do. Have another look at your charitable giving. See what more you can squeeze out of your diminishing savings. You will feel so much better for doing so!

Bob Munro

New EV Charging Points in Saltash

Road traffic generates 875,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases per year in Cornwall, representing 23% of Cornwall's total carbon emissions. Changing the car dependency culture and encouraging more people to use public transport will be key in tackling the climate emergency, but making the switch to an electric vehicle is another way to make a difference.

To help Cornish residents transition to electric vehicles, funding from the European Regional Development Fund is paying for 150 new charging points in car parks owned by Cornwall Council. It has been confirmed that seven of these will be in Saltash car parks. The three in Belle Vue West car park will be installed by the end of December this year, with another four in the car park behind the Co-op to be installed by the end of March 2023. Two of these will be 50kW while the remaining five will be 7kW.

Cornwall Council's public charging points are available via the GeniePoint application, and a detailed map of public and private charging points is available at ZapMap.co.uk.



Previously 'Inadequate' School Now 'Good' with 'Outstanding' Areas

Brunel Primary and Nursery Academy has recently received a glowing Ofsted report, with judgements of 'Good' in all areas, and 'Outstanding' in Early Years provision and Personal Development.

The school is part of 'Bridge Schools' multi academy trust and the support of the trust has been recognised as a key factor in the significant improvements to the quality of provision for all pupils. The report states that; 'With the support of the trust, school leaders and staff have worked hard to transform the quality of education. They have a shared

vision of excellence. Together, leaders and staff have raised the aspirations and expectations of all pupils.'

"I am thoroughly delighted that the hard work of the staff at Brunel has been recognised," said Suzanne Cooper, headteacher. "It is an exceptionally positive report and refers not only to the high expectations, high-quality curriculum and high standards of work achieved, but also acknowledges the emphasis and importance we place on developing and nurturing the whole child including their character development and mental and physical wellbeing. The strong foundations for successful academic and personal development are built in the Early Years and it is gratifying that the outstanding start we provide for children in our nursery and reception classes has been recognised. The report also acknowledges the invaluable support we receive from Bridge Schools Trust and I sincerely thank the trust, our own Brunel teachers, TAs, local governing body, parents and carers for their support, commitment and hard work over the past few years. This is a huge achievement particularly following two years of Covid disruption - well done everyone!"

Finding the Early Years provision to be 'Outstanding', inspectors spoke of the way in which the curriculum has been 'expertly planned ... to ignite learning' and how it nurtures

curiosity 'exceptionally well'. 'Children in Nursery and Reception thrive.'

Also 'Outstanding' is the 'very strong personal, social and health education curriculum. The development of pupils' characters is exemplary.' In addition, 'Staff have high expectations of pupils' behaviour. There is a calm orderly atmosphere in lessons and around the school.'

When Ofsted spoke to pupils, the strengths of the school were reinforced through their individual voices and as the report details; 'One pupil's comments reflected those of many, 'I would 'double yes' recommend this school.'

Adrian Massey, Chief Executive of Bridge Schools said; "Everyone in Bridge Schools is delighted that the hard work of staff at Brunel has been recognised in this inspection. It has been a long journey, but it has been worthwhile to achieve such a fantastic result. We are thrilled that the personal development of children, and the Early Years in Preschool, Nursery and Reception Classes is seen as providing outstanding educational provision. The care and attention that all staff put into the children at Brunel goes above and beyond. Brunel also had another great year of results, with children making extraordinarily good progress, particularly our highfliers! Great news for the staff and the wider trust in Bridge Schools."

Comments on Political Crisis

The Observer invited comment from the three major parties on the political turmoil facing the country. We received responses from Labour & Liberal Democrat.

Kate Ewert, Cornwall Councillor for Rame & St Germans (Labour)

By the time this goes to press, we will have yet another Conservative Prime Minister, again not voted in by the people of this country but by a select few. We will have more chaos at the heart of our government and more pain and struggle for the people of Cornwall.

I sincerely hope that our new PM does the right thing and makes sure that their first order of business is a visit to the King to seek permission

for the General Election that we desperately need. The damage we have faced has been 12 years in the making and we need change. My Party Leader, Keir Starmer, has clearly set out an alternative to the chaos: a Labour Government of stability and security. We are ready and willing for a general election, and to fight for the people of Cornwall and the wider country.

Colin Martin, Cornwall Councillor for Lostwithiel & Lanreath (Liberal Democrat)

'Stability' is the promise from every politician, but who could actually deliver it? The Conservative party is split four ways:

Truss followers believe in trickle-down economics: borrow money to give tax cuts to the rich and they'll be inspired to expand their businesses, making everyone richer. Braverman and the ERG believe in 'economic nationalism': reduce immigration and buy British, stop wasting money on benefits and foreign aid and we'll all have everything we need.

Johnson practiced economic populism: solve every problem by throwing money at it but don't have a plan to pay for it so end up running up massive debts.

And finally Jeremy Hunt wants to take us back to austerity: reduce the debt by cutting spending and increasing taxes.

By the time you read this, we'll have a new Prime Minister and a new "Medium Term Financial Plan", but whatever that plan contains, three factions of the Conservative party will hate it. Whatever twisted, battered version of that plan actually gets voted through Parliament, it will be torn up by whoever wins the next general election. So the only way we can really achieve stability is to call a general election now. Let the parties present their plans to the voters, and let the public decide which plan should be given five years to be put into practice.

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