



# SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

May 2009 - Issue 201

Incessant trumpet of trade; armoury of fearless truth without fear or favour ...

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## BRUNEL BRIDGE COULD LAST ANOTHER 150 YEARS

The Royal Albert Bridge has a proud past and a promising future. If properly maintained there is no reason why it should not carry on for another hundred and fifty years and it could well outlast the Tamar Road Bridge built alongside it in 1961.

Plans for the next three years include a complete stripping of a hundred and fifty years' worth of paint and a repaint using the best quality modern paint which should last twenty-five years. Major work planned on the structure includes the removal of 1970's additions to restore the bridge more to Brunel's original design.

This was the message given by Network Rail's territory Engineer, Ian Frostrick, while discussing the future of the bridge at a public meeting held immediately underneath it in the Ashtorre Centre.

The Bridge has traditionally been inspected annually with a more detailed inspection every six years. Since the 1950's there has generally been a rolling programme of adding layers of paint so that a total repaint is completed every six years. In 1963 an examination identified thirty coats of paint a total of 2.5mm. thick. Paint flakes indicate the original 1859 colour of the bridge to have been brown with the first

grey coating dating from 1911. For the first time since its construction it is now intended to completely blast clean the paint back to the original ironwork and then repaint using glass flake epoxy paint as now used on the

forth Bridge which no longer has to be continually repainted. In addition it is intended to carry out a complete replacement of the upper hanger/tube connections and repair or remove the lower diagonals put in by British Rail in the 1970's leaving the structure more as Brunel designed it.

Scaffolding is likely to be placed over part of the bridge this May or June so that a full examination can confirm what work is needed. This was postponed from early May so that there would be no scaffolding up during the 150 Year Anniversary Celebrations. Tenders will go out later this year or in early 2010 so that work might commence in Summer 2010 and it is aimed to be completed in early 2012.

Workers will use an encapsulated system which should avoid delays due to weather and also avoid spillages into the river or on residences under the bridge. The total area to be painted is estimated as twenty thousand square metres. There should be no need for major closures of the rail service during the work.

The colour of the bridge is to be considered in consultation with English Heritage and Plymouth and Cornwall Councils. While the traditional grey might be the easiest option the original brown or else blue are other possibilities. A poll at the public meeting in the Ashtorre Centre indicated that grey was preferred by those present. Saltash Town Council has also been asked as to its views on the colour scheme.

'The aim is for a continuation of service and the ensuring of a bridge for the twenty-first century, keeping an iconic structure maintained from a heritage point of view,' concluded Mr Frostrick.

## THE SUN SHONE AND THE CROWDS TURNED OUT FOR MAY FAIR AND BRIDGE'S BIRTHDAY



We look forward to reporting in full, together with pictures of this weekend for Saltash to remember, in our next edition.

'Last year's May Fair was the best ever but this year was better still'.

'Saltash has never seen any firework display like it'. These were among the many favourable comments heard about Saltash May Fair 2009 and the weekend celebrations to mark the hundred and fiftieth birthday of the Royal Albert Bridge. The crowds turned out as the sun shone and the stalls along Fore Street reported excellent business. The amazing variety of entertainments that enlivened the whole town from the Waterside up and through Fore Street to Victoria Gardens and Longstone Park drew in one and all from toddlers through teenagers to seniors. There was something, it seemed, for everyone and the families in particular turned out in their thousands.

## Crying out for Saltash

Our Town Crier, Brian Whip has become a familiar figure in Saltash since his appointment just over a year ago.

He is also now to be seen promoting Saltash beyond its bounds accompanied by his wife Monica. 'A town crier is judged not just for himself but also by his escort,' Mr Whip told the town annual meeting whilst accompanied by his wife in a fetching costume to match his own. He had also acquired a fine scroll carrier and the town council gave him

willing permission for the town crest to be placed upon it.

The Saltash Town Crier will be making himself heard on behalf of the town later this year at Liskeard's St Matthew's Fair and at Tavistock Goosie Fair.

He also intends to enter Town Crier contests at Yeovil, Warwick and Paignton. 'I have been told by more experienced colleagues that no new town crier ever wins anything', Mr Whip admitted. 'But I will certainly try to do so'.

## LISTEN HEAR

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### About Regional Hearing Services

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# MIKE SHARES WITH US THE BENEFITS..... OF HIS MANY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN THESE FINANCIALLY CHALLENGING TIMES

Regular readers of the Saltash Observer will need no introduction to Mike LeGassick who has been sharing with them for the last six financially challenging months, the benefits of his many years experience in the financial world as an independent financial advisor. While the financial situation remains so fluid, Mike is ever eager to assist our readers and indeed all of those who have financial issues to make the most of the ever changing opportunities that remain available for those anxious to safeguard their financial future.

A financial advisor should be approachable and able to explain complex issues in layman's terms, Mike strongly believes, and his personal background helps to ensure that he is well able to assist and advise one and all with their individual issues. A 'local lad' and the youngest of five brothers all of whom live in and around the area, he went to school in Plymouth before entering into a career in retail. While he enjoyed the contact with people he was also seeking a greater challenge and was persuaded by a friend to take a position with Pearl Assurance. His career progressed through various insurance companies and banks during which time he acquired a wide range of

financial experience. Eventually, he decided to utilise this expertise by setting himself up as an independent financial advisor. Having spent the last ten years offering independent advice he is now well placed to offer personal help to each and every client while having access to the entire market.

### Price is what you pay..... Value is what you get

While he continues to be fully independent with no ties to any individual financial provider Mike is also aligned to Positive Solutions, now believed to be the largest independent financial services company in the U.K.

He is thus able to avail himself of fully updated and informed advice from all appropriate sources and providers. In offering such advice Mike firmly believes that 'Price is what you pay and value is what you get'.

Throughout his career, and in particular during the last ten years of independent consultancy, Mike has worked closely with a number of fellow professionals including solicitors, accountants and will-writers. He had been delighted to see his range of satisfied clients grow over the years, largely through word of mouth. As he says, 'I gain clients through personal referral so please do not keep me a secret!'.

Away from his work Mike relaxes by enjoying a wide variety of sports, in particular snooker - he has played competitive snooker since aged 13 and represented Devon at 15 and was Plymouth under 21 champion. He also has a wide range of musical interests and his many outside interests and keen sense of humour ensure that he and Mary, his wife of ten years, enjoy a highly active social life. Quite simply, I would not be where I am today without her constant support and backing. She is my rock.

They also enjoy getting away to travel when business permits and indeed often mix

business interests with pleasure. Recent travels have taken them to Rome, New York and Las Vegas.

Travel has also enabled him to add to his portfolio in the international property market and has brought a

bonus to many of his longstanding clients. While enjoying the balmy beaches of the Aegean, Mike and Mary chose to invest in a property which is now available for long or short term lets as described elsewhere on this page



## A GENERAL PRACTITIONER OF THE FINANCIAL WORLD

Fully versed in all aspects of financial planning Mike describes himself as a 'general practitioner' of the financial world offering a wide variety of services from investment planning and pensions through to mortgages and equity release.

He is especially keen to assist clients in making the most of their assets in order to secure the best possible financial future dependant upon the individual personal circumstances within these challenging financial times.



Mike and Mary taking time out to relax

### A Specialists in Retirement Planning

Now more than ever, Mike believes, it is vital to keep a constant eye on pension policies, insurances and other investments to ensure that they offer the best possible return and best value. All too often he discovers clients who have such investments which have been over charged, underperformed and lying dormant over the years and which need to be properly examined and often varied to reflect changing financial circumstances. Mike will be delighted to offer a free independent overview of such investments. Once he has full financial details he is in a position to offer totally impartial advice, without obligation, on the various options best suited to individual client needs, short term or long term. This provides his clients with all the information they need to make an informed choice.

### A sound guide through a minefield of mortgages

As a specialist in retirement planning Mike is especially keen on 'thinking outside the box'. Creative planning, he has frequently proved, can often find an unconventional means of securing a sound financial future with no discernable effect on current lifestyle. 'The least that I can do is make the best of what you have got', he will often say to an existing client, sometimes while helping to boost a currently weak existing pension fund.

As an expert in residential and 'buy to let' financing Mike is, after his many years of experience, a sound guide through the minefield of mortgages, ensuring that the one secured is best suited to client needs. Buying to let in particular can well be a sound investment but it is vital to obtain fully considered advice and information such as Mike can offer on the complex tax implications and benefits that can be derived from smart planning. There are a number of industry secrets and little known rules that can make a huge difference to a client's property portfolio. From taking a tax free income from your property to getting tax relief on a non property associated purchase such as a new car.

Mike has in particular acquired wide experience in the field of foreign property investment where due to the differing financial and taxation regulations of each country sound professional advice is especially essential. Investment in overseas properties can provide a secure source of income with great potential for capital growth and also provide a home for holidays and future retirement in sunnier climes, or it can, as sadly some have recently discovered, be a financial disaster. An experienced advisor such as Mike ensures peace of mind while making such an investment.

Increasing numbers of property owners are now enhancing their lifestyles by realising additional capital, while they are able to enjoy it, through equity release. Here again there are an ever increasing range of options available and Mike will use his expertise to ensure best value for each individual homeowner. He can explain how these modern schemes work and offer reassurances over the common concerns that are often raised.

Alternatively, move conventional investments may be better suited to the careful and security minded investor. Again the wide range of ISAs, unit trusts and bonds can be bewildering at first glance. Mike will be happy to outline the advantages as well as the possible pitfalls of each and every investment opportunity before selecting that which best benefits the needs of the individual customer and financial security is ensured with any inherent risk involved made fully clear before the investment is chosen. Among the comprehensive suite of

financial calculators and tools that Mike uses, he is able to show a client the past performance of any investment or pension fund over the last 20 years. This then shows the client whether their funds have been good, bad or indifferent against their peer groups during the time that they have been invested and is useful in coming to a decision on whether to move your investment or not. Experience has taught Mike that people believe 90% of what they see and 10% of what they hear. This is why this tool in particular is so useful in a client meeting. Seeing is believing.

Having dedicated most of his working life to helping others to attain financial security he looks forward to each new opportunity to assist and advise clients in selecting the financial solutions best suited to all of their individual circumstances. Something that Mike firmly believes in is regular reviews. 'Many clients have had plans for 5, 10 or 15 years, but have not reviewed them in a long while. This is all too common. They may have been right when they took them out, however, their circumstances have probably changed since then and they may not be appropriate now. Make sure that your financial plans are still right and on track for you.'

While most clients enjoy relaxing in Mike's comfortable offices while their wide range of financial opportunities is explored he can, if requested, make a personal home visit. The fact that virtually all of his work comes through personal recommendations or by repeat business says much for the standard of service that he continues to provide.

## A PLACE IN THE SUN

An ever increasing number of clients aspire to owning a property abroad. It used to be a bit of a pipe dream for a few, but now it is a distinct possibility for many.

Recently Mike has been busy working with Global Property Select (GPS) an international property sourcing company who specialise in finding overseas property for clients to suit all budgets. Indeed, Mike and Mary purchased their own property in Turkey through GPS 2 years ago. He has recently brought together Positive Solutions who he is aligned to with Global Property Select and forged a relationship between the two companies. This is a unique and exciting collaboration as experts predict that more and more people are looking to purchase overseas with the slowing UK housing market, concerns with the UK banking system, greater interest in overseas property as a realistic investment alternative or addition to UK options and a desire for a better lifestyle. In fact experts are forecasting that the UK market will grow dramatically in the next 2 years with a further 3 million looking to purchase overseas. There are already over 2 million British citizens that own a property overseas and the factors above all indicate that demand will continue to grow particularly as a realistic investment option

### Purchasing with Confidence

GPS are partnered with the International Law Partnership that were voted the Best International Property Lawyers in 2004 and will be working closely with John Howell who is widely known as the overseas property guru in the industry. GPS adhere to a professional code of conduct and will be putting together international property deals on a 'best of breed' basis. All properties will only be recommended once they pass a strict due diligence vetting process. As Positive Solutions are one of the largest IFA's in the country, they have been able to secure the biggest discounts on all properties in conjunction with GPS because of their strength in numbers and size. This bodes well for potential purchasers because



they will be safe in the knowledge that they will be purchasing with the confidence at buying at the lowest negotiated prices. They can also have their hand held through the legal process by a team of UK based property law experts.

GPS operate a restricted panel of developments and qualification will be through a strict independent due diligence process. An independent panel will make the final decision on developments in the GPS portfolio and will include an industry expert, overseas

property lawyer and representatives from GPS. We propose that all developments are signed off through an IDIP - International Developer Information Pack. This will be provided at the developer's expense through their International Law partners.

With many clients having huge equity in their property even taking into consideration the recent downturn in property values, this gives them the opportunity of putting down a large deposit on a place in the sun. Having said that there are a number of

property deals where little or no deposit at all is required such is the flexibility and nature of overseas property purchase. Allied to low interest rates in Europe, guaranteed rental opportunities with generous personal usage, the choices, flexibility and options are huge and can be catered for whatever the client wants. An increasing number of clients are using equity release to completely fund a place in the sun overseas property purchase and effectively split their living between the UK and abroad and who can blame them.



Mike LeGassick  
Independent Financial Adviser  
& Property Investment Specialist

**By referral, so please don't keep me a secret!**

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**For more information  
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## FROM THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR...

What a fantastic Mayfair Weekend and 150th Anniversary of the Bridge! It was just what I had hoped for – fun, interesting, exciting, dramatic, something for everyone, good weather, a real family time – all in all a terrific community event which summarises what I have always said about Saltash – it is a town full of nice people and with lots of folk willing to help and organise!

On behalf of the town may I thank Peter Stephens and all his Mayfair team for the great street fair, the music and park events and all the other daytime activities – and the young Saltash musicians who played were great. May I thank, too Lynn Marsh, Sheila, Richard, Ken, Malcolm-alias-Brunel, the Ashtorpe Team, the Sailing Club and all the other hard workers who arranged the 150 celebrations. Absolutely wonderful waterfront and bridge activities and the best fireworks I have ever seen in Saltash – if you missed the display then take my word – it was marvellous. Our own Tamar Trotters excelled with the Sunday road races – well done and thanks. Network Rail and the Highways Agency for helping us with the rail and road closures deserve our grateful appreciation. And what about our local Air Training Corp, St Johns Ambulance Brigade and our Police – always helpful, smart and polite. Thanks to you all. A last thanks to all the youth groups and community organisations who took part and put on over 80 stalls and displays – Saltash would not be the same place without you.

One piece of news that is less bright is that the Lions are finishing as a group this month. For sixty years they have worked hard just to raise money and provide all sorts of things for others in need. It is a record they can be proud of, and again, on

behalf of the town, I thank you. It is probable that in the future the Lions will start again as nationwide it is a strong organisation, but for the while we will be without their help. Not goodbye, I hope, but au revoir

Half way through my Mayoral Year I described what Margaret and I felt were the highlights so far. Don't worry, I am not doing that again as there are now just too many of them now. Being Mayor really gives you an insight into what makes a town tick and there are just too many gears, wheels and springs to list them all! One of the continuing embarrassments for us is the constant stream of our pictures in the paper and I apologise for this – our local reporters are just too good! To be fair to them they do try to get as many people in as possible, but if you ever wonder why all of a group is not in it is because newsprint makes small faces unrecognisable unless the photo is huge. However I have tried to give the oxygen of publicity to as many groups as possible but inevitably many people and small groups do their work week after week knowing that their reward is chiefly the knowledge that they have helped others. Perhaps a society should not have to rely on people like you, but it does and we are all the richer for it. Thank you.

Councillor Sue Hooper is taking the reins in a few days when my year as Mayor comes to an end. Sue is a safe and reliable pair of hands and will have a very able Deputy in Councillor Adam Killeya. I know the town will prosper under their guidance. Thank you also to Margaret for being a very supportive wife. It has been a privilege to be Mayor and Mayoress of such a town.

Derek Holley  
Saltash Town Mayor 2008 -2009

## HAIL AND FAREWELL AT ROWAN HOUSE



Residents, staff and guests came together to party in order to mark a milestone in the life of Rowan House Residential Home.

The event marked the retirement of Matron Pearl Corden after twenty years of service to the home and its residents. During that time she has become a firm friend of all of the long term residents as well as the many who have enjoyed short term respite care at Rowan House.

"I have mixed emotions at retirement. I am of course sorry to be going in many ways, after twenty years this marks the end of an era", Pearl told the Observer. "Hopefully I will be continuing to call in and visit the residents who have been a part of my life for so many years". She looks forward to spending at least a part of her retirement continuing to help others through her work in

local charity shops.

Meanwhile residents were relieved to discover that the new incoming Matron was a familiar face. Sharon Smith, who took over the role, has been at Rowan House for ten years and has most recently been running the domiciliary care at the home. Accordingly

she already knows all of the residents well and will find it relatively easy to step into Pearl's shoes.

"We will all miss Pearl but I am excited at the opportunity and challenge ahead", Sharon told the Observer at the celebrations which marked the changeover.

## TIDY STATION BUILDING ENFORCEMENT SOUGHT

The Station buildings, sold by the town Council to a private developer after plans for a Brunel Heritage Centre there fell through, continue to deteriorate.

There is growing concern that as passenger usage of Saltash Station increases, the building gives a most unimpressive impression to rail passengers of the 'Gateway to Cornwall'. In order to seek to enforce some improvement the town council's Civic Amenities Committee has agreed to as Cornwall Council to serve an Untidy Site Notice on the owners. The County will also be sent a copy of the Town

Council's initial conditions, upon which they sold the building to the present owners.

Such a notice can order an owner to bring a building up to an acceptable standard. If this is not done within a set period, the local authority can then carry out the work itself and charge the owners for it.

Meanwhile, the station itself continues to be improved for the benefit of the increasing number of passengers using it. The approach road has recently been resurfaced with new pavements and drainage. The station should shortly be provided with security CCTV, security lighting and improved signage.

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## SALTASH HAS MORE SAY ON LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

Saltash Town Council, which so far has only been able to make recommendations to the now abolished Caradon Council on planning issues, may now send a representative to the County Planning Committees to argue the Town's case.

A change in planning rules means that parish and town councils can now speak for or against any plan affecting their area.

However, other changes in planning regulations mean that increasing number of planning applications will now be 'delegated' and considered only by a Council Officer that than full committee. This will include such minor applications as extensions and garages.

Major issues such as supermarkets and new housing estates, as well as some lesser issues such as change of use of premises or single dwellings will continue to go before a full Cornwall County planning committee which will have the town council's recommendations to consider. Saltash town Council has agreed to use its new powers to make personal representations to such committees whenever appropriate and seek to ensure that such powers are not lost through lack of usage.

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PICTURES, MIRRORS, ACCESSORIES

# Codfathers.... leading the way forward for your No1 British favourite meal of Fish & Chips

The newly re-opened Codfathers aims to re-introduce to Saltash the finest traditions of a fish restaurant where customers can enjoy the comfortable and attractive surroundings of the 30 seated restaurant or, if preferred, take back to the comfort of their own homes, the finest of fish and chips traditionally cooked and served.

## Freshness and quality are paramount

The long established fish and chip business in the heart of Saltash's lively shopping centre has recently been taken over, and renamed, by business partners Finlay Linford and Terry Pratt. Both have local roots, Terry being a 'Saltash boy' and Finlay being married to a 'Saltash girl'. It was Finlay's daughter Hannah, a former Saltash school student and now a professional designer in London who suggested the name 'Codfathers' and who is responsible for the design of the bright and welcoming surroundings in the fully refurbished dining area.

This dining area has been decorated with historic pictures of old Saltash, once itself fishing port renowned for its local seafood, in order to create the traditional ambience of a real fish restaurant where freshness and quality are paramount.

To minimise delays at busy times the most popular meals are prepared in advance and now with two services positions the takeaway service is now quite quick. Telephone orders are welcomed and can

served is sourced from Plymouth providers well experienced in selecting only the freshest of food from the sea.

All is guaranteed as

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
**Nations Favourite**  
There are twelve fish and chip shops in Britain for every one MacDonald's - around 8,500 overall. Their position as the nation's favourite takeaway is unchallenged by the invasion of the American burger.

selected from sustainable sources whether it be the traditional cod, haddock and plaice or the more exotic and unusual fish that will appear from time to time- watch the 'specials' for further details. These are perfectly complemented with chips prepared fresh daily from Maris Piper potatoes, these were selected after an extensive trial of all suitable potatoes. Most chef's from top UK restaurants generally accept that Maris Pipers are the best potatoes for frying offering a good taste with a firm texture for both takeaway or plated meals.

As an alternative to fish the restaurant and takeaway menus include a variety of chicken, burger and assorted savoury dishes.

## The 'Fisherman's Feast'

With its all day opening Codfathers also welcome those who wish to call by for just a tea or coffee, perhaps with a tasty toasted teacake.

Codfathers are also already building a reputation for outside catering for local societies who are welcome to ask for a quotation. Keen to become part of the local community Codfathers is also offering special discounts to local organisations such as the emergency services or community organisations, as well as providing a notice board in the takeaway area to promote local events and organisations.

Among the dishes available in the restaurant from 10am the 'Fisherman's Feast' is a challenge to all true trenchermen the ultimate in big breakfasts available throughout the day. Those with lesser appetites have a wide selection of satisfying family meals from which to choose, with senior citizens specials available to enjoy every lunchtime and evening.

Families are welcome and already local children are starting to discover their own menus, eat in and takeaway, including novelty box and free gift for all young diners.

It is well known among the experts that fish really is good for the brain as well as being amongst the most nutritious and healthy of meals. The balance of proteins, carbohydrates and vitamins prevalent in fish and chips is an excellent source of nutrition as proven in both world wars. The quantity of protein, fibre, iron and vitamins provide a third of the recommended daily allowance for men and



nearly a half for women.

So there is no reason not to indulge oneself and treat the

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family to enjoy the traditional English favourite takeaway, as cooked to perfection by Codfathers, or to relax and enjoy friendly waitress service in the attractively refurbished restaurant area and watch Saltash go by.



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## DID YOU KNOW?

### Sixpenny Suppers

The British fish and chip 'sixpenny suppers' were reported as helping in the World War I war effort. During World War II Minister of Food, Lord Woolton declared that fish and chips were among the few foods to stay off the ration.

### Hotly Disputed

A Mr Lees sold fish and chips in the market at Mossely near Oldham, Lancashire in around 1863. When he opened a permanent shop he advertised it as 'the first fish and chip shop in the world,' but this is hotly disputed.

### Cod & Chips

Britain's favourite fish to go with chips is cod, with haddock a close second. However, there are regional variations, in Northern Ireland and Scotland whiting is a popular choice as, in Southern England are skate and huss.

### Sugar not Salt

Our favourite food can be enjoyed overseas. There is a 'chippy' in the desert of Oman and another among the casinos of Las Vegas. Fish and chips are served in China, not with salt and vinegar but with sugar. In Belgium mayonnaise is the traditional accompaniment to a chippy takeaway.

## Town Council 'gravely concerned' at boundary errors

Saltash Town Council has expressed grave concerns about mistakes made by the Boundary Commission in producing Unitary Election Wards for Saltash. In addition to concerns about inconsistent maps and calculation errors, the proposals got the names of two Saltash Wards the wrong way around.

Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs Sue Hooper, said "The Town Council raised the point about Ward names the very day that the proposals first came out - getting the Ward names wrong may be an easy mistake to make, but it can prove very confusing for voters".

Town Councillors have taken these concerns to the responsible Government Minister, but he has declined to act on them. Councillor Mrs Hooper added "the Town Council has done everything that it can and this is a very unsatisfactory result. People may be confused about where they are voting, and for whom, and ultimately that is bad for democracy. I urge everyone to pay very close attention when their polling cards come in, because they may well be in a different Ward from what they expect."

For further information, please contact the Town Clerk at Saltash Town Council on 01752 844846.

## CHILDREN'S CHOIR BROUGHT SPRING CONCERT TO SALTASH

The rare delight of a choir of children filled with the joy of singing together in perfect harmony was enjoyed by an appreciative audience in Saltash Guildhall.

The Cornwall Junior Choir made a welcome visit from their Truro base to share with Saltash their evident pleasure in singing and verse recital. The singers whose ages ranged from six to 13 could not only sing songs in perfect harmony but were able to enunciate so that almost every word was crystal clear. Beginning with a "Wild West" theme their repertoire included musicals old and new from Gershwin to Lloyd-Webber and even a rousing traditional Zulu song in the original tongue.

They completed the concert aptly with the song "Tomorrow's Children" and "We Are The Young" before a grand finale of "Trelawney".

The concert was organised by Sue Hooper MBE with profits in aid of her own Foundation to assist young people eager to develop their talents in the arts.

Coming as it did on a fine Spring afternoon it was a concert that made one pleased to share the planet with such enthusiastic youngsters eager to put their musical talent and joy into providing such pleasure for others.

## ARE THESE PLANS STILL RIGHT FOR ME?

Having been in financial services for nearly 20 years now, there is one thing I don't ever see changing. What's that you ask? The answer is planning. People don't plan to fail, they fail to plan.

It always has been this way and probably always will be. If you are reading this now, ask yourself this question. When was the last time I reviewed my plans, policies, investments? Unless you are one of the minorities, I wouldn't mind betting it's been a while since you have. Well join the club because, trust me, you are not alone. Nowadays, we live busier lives than ever. Families, deadlines, work and busy social lives all contribute to putting things onto the back burner. 'I must call to find out about this, I must make sure I get up to date with that.' All of us at some stage have had policies or statements stuck in a drawer that haven't seen the light of day for years. Some of us can't even remember why we took certain policies out. Don't forget that you would have had a very good reason to invest at the time you took the plan out all those years ago, but is it still the right plan, policy for you now? Most people's personal and financial circumstances change considerably throughout their lifetime. It goes without saying then that you should review what you have regularly to make sure that it is still doing the job that it was set up to do initially. A common example of this is someone who took out an endowment mortgage 15 years ago. 7 years ago they decided to switch to a capital repayment mortgage and decided to keep their endowment as a savings plan. Don't get me wrong, this might have been the right thing to do, however, there are countless reasons why this might not have been the right course of action. The majority of endowments are not returning anything like what they thought they would at the beginning. If this is the case then you could be throwing away good money after bad. If you are in this position then you should be

reviewing your options. Another classic example is someone paying far too much for their life cover or worse, paying for cover that they no longer need. Insurance premiums and quality of contracts have changed dramatically over the last couple of years. Are you sure that there isn't a cheaper alternative out there for you? Something I always strive to do with my clients is to make sure they are never paying more than they need for any protection policies and mortgage. As I have access to every insurance and mortgage company in the country, it isn't difficult to find a cheaper alternative if it is out there. If I cannot find a cheaper alternative then the client can sleep easy knowing that they are never paying too much. If you would like an independent review of your plans, please let me know so that we can get together and talk things through. See you next month.

### SOUTH EAST CORNWALL CRIME FIGURES FALLEN

Overall crime in Cornwall fell by 5% over the last year, and these figures were reflected in the police area that covers Saltash, Torpoint and Callington.

Here too crime fell by around 5% with reported offences dropping from 2,331 to 2,221.

Violent crime, one of the major sources of public concern, fell by around 15%. Criminal damage offences too fell by around 12% from 736 to 656.

Set against this, burglary offences rose from 70 to 79 and vehicle crime offences rose slightly from 290 to 310 reported offences.

Just over 25% of crimes overall within the South East Cornwall police area were detected.

The other good news reported by Sergeant Andy Dunstan to the annual town meeting was that there are now 55 extra 'front line' police officers active in Cornwall and five of them are based in Saltash

## CHILDREN VOICE CONCERN AT NATURE RESERVE RUBBISH

A woodland and wetland nature reserve within the town has come in for criticism from pupils at St Stephens Primary School.

The untidy state of Tincombe Nature Reserve, managed by the Cornwall Wildlife Trust, has concerned thirty primary school students sufficiently for them to write individual letters to the Town Council.

They complain of the dangerous litter spread around the site which includes broken glass and syringes as well as evidence of alcohol consumption by young people who are seen to gather in the area.

Similar problems affect the much larger Churchtown Farm Reserve where Sergeant Any Dunstan reported vast amounts of alcohol related refuse left behind after the first Saturday of the Easter

holidays.

A Site Meeting at Tincombe has been called by the Town's Civic Amenities Committee with some of the children and their Head Teacher, invite to meet the representatives of the Cornwall Wildlife Trust, the Police and K2 Youth Club.

It was also agreed that the Mayor will respond individually to each child thanking them for their concern and promising that action will be taken.

**Press secretaries and correspondents please email your copy to [marye.crawford@virgin.net](mailto:marye.crawford@virgin.net)**

## BAND OF BARDS PROCLAIM SALTASH GORSEDD



Saltash showed off its Celtic heritage as a parade of Cornish Bards clad in their blue robes followed a lone piper up Fore Street to Victoria Gardens.

Here they formally proclaimed that this Eastern bastion of Cornwall would host this year's Gorsedd. In the procession which included around fifty of the four hundred or so who have been made bards in recognition of their contribution towards Cornish culture were several well known local figures including Wella Brown, Master of the Cornish Language, Mrs Sue Hooper MBE who will be Mayor when the full Gorsedd takes place in the town in September.

The current Mayor, Councillor Derek Holley, welcomed the Bards to the town and formally expressed Saltash's honour to be chosen as the host town for this year's Gorsedd.

The Grand Bard, Mrs Vanessa Beeman pronounced the formal proclamation in the Cornish and English

languages and a harp played softly in the background.

The Bards then dispersed to reassemble in Longstone Park on 5th September.

## LOCAL CHILDREN GAIN FROM FREEMASONS' FUNDRAISING



Local children with special needs have benefited from fundraising by Saltash Freemasons.

Freemasons have always put raising money for local good causes as a high priority, though traditionally this has been shrouded in secrecy.

'Nowadays this secrecy is considered out-dated,' Master of Saltash based Zetland Lodge explained to the Saltash Observer. 'When we received a request from the Trematon Unit at Saltash.net community school, we held a meeting and confirmed that we would make a contribution. 'While Cornish Freemasons' main fundraising is currently directed towards the Samaritan Fund 2013 for local, national and worldwide charities, it was decided that £150 could be diverted to the local school. 'Children with learning difficulties appealed to our sense of fairness and are in our local community,' the Lodge concluded.

A cheque for this sum was presented to Jocelyn Berger at the Trematon Unit and it was reported back to lodge members that the donation was clearly well appreciated.

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### ASHTORRE'S BRUNEL BRIDGE CELEBRATIONS

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Check the Dates for your Diary in your Observer every month

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Music & Mirth - Bronwen and Ken Speare and Company - £4.50

**TUESDAY 19TH MAY 7.30PM**  
HRH Prince Albert; the unacknowledged authority behind Brunel's Saltash bridge - Bill Myers - £3.00 Music & Mirth - Bronwen and Ken Speare and Company - £4.50

**SATURDAY 23RD MAY 7.30PM**  
Gift of Years - A musical journey of Remembrance (songs with kind permission of Eric Bogle) - £4.50. Proceeds to Poppy Appeal and UNICEF

**SATURDAY 30TH MAY EVE**  
Victorian Murder Mystery with CB Productions - £8 to include light supper

**SATURDAY 6TH JUNE 10.00AM-1.00PM**  
The Draw-Bridge Project. Have fun making exciting drawings that will be exhibited at Ashtorre Rock in August. Professional artists, Richard Allman & John Forster will help you. All ages welcome, under 16s in family groups. Book your place - email [john@fart.co.uk](mailto:john@fart.co.uk) or complete a form at Ashtorre Rock. Free - materials provided.

**SUNDAY 7TH JUNE 2.30PM**  
Saltash's very own - Ann Glanville (1796-1880) "The Heroine of the River Tamar & world champion oarswoman - Councillor Mrs S Hooper, MBE - £3.00 to include afternoon tea

**WED 10TH JUNE 7.30PM**  
"An Audience with A L Rowse" - a taped biography covering his life and times; presented by Mr Phil Hunt (Radio Cornwall) - £3.00

**FRIDAY 12TH JUNE 8.00PM**  
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**'Gone With Regret'**

Might I, through 'The Observer', express my sincere thanks to all of those people who turned up at Ashtorre Rock to listen to my talk.

The evening was a great success in more ways than one, not least for the Cheque which I have now sent to my stated Charity - St. Luke's Hospice.

Special thanks are also due to Lynn Marsh, the Chairman of Ashtorre, who, together with the Members of her Committee, gave me every assistance, and which contributed in no small way towards that success.

Philip Rundle.

**AWARD WINNING ACCOUNT OF WARTIME SALTASH**

Vivid recollections of "The War In Our Area" which had won a certificate in this year's Federation of Old Cornwall Society's competition was read to the Saltash Society at their annual general meeting.

Mrs. Diane Shann was visibly moved as she read out from a recording taken of her mother Mrs. Florence Harvey recalling the days from when, while "in service" at Saltram House she heard the announcement of war read out on the butler's radio. After leaving Saltram to take war work she found herself commuting from the

St. Stephens countryside to Keyham where she served as a Wren. While emphasising that "We were the lucky ones" living in the countryside and able to supplement the strict rationing she still recalled whitewash flaking off of the ceiling as the gun at Carkeel sounded, the explosion of an ammunition barge of Coombe Creek and the hush in Fore Street following bad news. Happier memories were of entertaining Wearde camp based soldiers to tea and of accumulating ration coupons for a wartime wedding.

The talk followed the 63rd Society annual general meeting at which President Ernie Reynolds was pleased to announce, for the second year running, a growing membership though still more would always be welcome. He was even more delighted as to the number of guest speakers who after talking on a variety of topics of local interest have then commented on the Society's warm and friendly atmosphere. Mr. Reynolds and the other officers and committee members were re-elected en bloc.

Following the annual general meeting it is traditional instead of the monthly guest speaker to have short talks given by members. Following that of Mrs. Shann, Society treasurer John Parsons gave members the benefit of his career in the medical field to talk on John Hunter, born in Glasgow in 1728, who went to London to seek fame and fortune. He became one of the most famous surgeons of the day and founder of the Hunterian museum. Cornishman William Cliff of Bodmin was in due course apprenticed to him and worked at copying his notes later winning the gratitude of Parliament for preserving Hunters records for prosperity and himself becoming a Fellow of the Royal Society. Some of these records are now held in the archives of the Plymouth Medical Society at Derriford.

"It's On The Cards" was the title of a talk by Martin Lister. He spoke of his collection of historic local postcards and in particular the messages on the back, some amusing, some poignant, some intriguing. They ranged from that of a World War I infantryman about to enjoy his Christmas goose in 1916 to a tale of how Polly of Cargreen lost a finger in 1908. He concluded with a postcard of girls dancing at Longstone Park, Saltash, in 1909.

A search through the local archives proved this to have been taken at that year's Empire Day celebrations and Mr. Lister read the contemporary account of that particular piece of local pomp and pageantry.

## REGISTER FOR EMERGENCY WARNING CALL

An immediate and personal warning can now be given to Saltash residents and others in the Plymouth area in the unlikely event of an emergency or accident at any of the various Naval Bases around the Tamar and the Plym.

These bases include the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency at Ernesettle, across the river from Saltash, and the ammunition buoy off Wearde at the mouth of the Lynher. They also include the dockyard itself, the Thanks Oil Depot by Torpoint and Coxsie Oil Depot. To date the only warning has been the audible one of the siren tested each Monday morning at 11.30, and intended mainly for those inside the Dockyard.

Now local households are being urged to register for a free, cutting edge warning service, which means that information will be sent automatically to their mobile or landline telephones. Such information could include potentially life-saving advice on how to keep safe during an emergency. The system is being introduced by Cornwall County and Plymouth City Councils with the backing of the site operators, the Fire Service and the Police.

Those living within the public information zones which includes some residents around the Saltash Waterside area, should be receiving letters regarding the new service. Other Saltash residents can register by mail, by calling Plymouth City Council on 01752 668000 or on-line via [www.cornwall.gov.uk](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk).

Those who register should note that the system will be tested annually and should therefore not be concerned at this yearly call. The audible siren will also continue in force, and be tested on Monday mornings.

## YOUTH CLUB OUTREACH PROSPERS DESPITE LOST WORKERS

**A** lively local youth club was reported as 'struggling' last year when due to financial cutbacks it effectively lost one and a half full time workers. However, the K2 Club continued to fill with young people daytime and evenings and the youth work tea, with the help of the members, organised a full and fully supported Summer programme of events.

Then from September last year another full time worker was appointed and the club could build on their previous work following the government's 'Every Child Matter' agenda and maintaining the club's own curriculum of 'Healthy Minds and Healthy Bodies'. A full report on the club's varied activities was recently presented to the annual town meeting.

The club has been increasingly busy through the Autumn and Winter months with members especially enjoying the added facilities of a Wii and an X Box, both with full accessories, and added computer equipment.

Most importantly to the club's management and to many townsfolk, the club has, as far as the limited staff permit, continued its Friday evening outreach work. Communication is made with groups of young people congregating in the town, issues of concern to them are talked over, and while their safety is ensured they are encouraged not to cause alarm and nuisance to residents as well as being kept informed of what activities and services are available for young people in Saltash.

The club continues to involve itself with Cornwall College, Saltash, where lunchtime drop in sessions and weekly enrichment activities are offered. The

club also works within Saltash.net Community School.

New activities introduced include non-contact boxing tuition organised by the police who also work with the club in the popular hip-hop street dancing sessions. These activities while aimed especially at those who may be potential anti-social behaviour offenders, are enjoyed by a wide range of the local youth.

A new daytime project run by the youth work team since last November, seeks to discover why certain young people disengage from education and encourages them in job-finding skills while also building self-motivation and self-confidence.

Although still half a full time youth worker down on last year, the club continues full involvement with all local youth as far as possible, those with problems and those who simply want to have fun with like minded peers.

**Observer Telephone Numbers**  
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## DOUBLE BRIDGE TOLLS CONCERN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Bridge toll increases of 50% together with provision for further increases of up to 100% as sought by the Tamar Bridge Committee are unacceptable to local drivers and businesses, the Saltash and District Chamber of Commerce and Industry considers.

The Chamber has agreed to make representations to the Department of Transport if it is in time to do so, in respect of the toll revision application submitted by the Bridge and Ferry Committee. In addition to the 50% increase in current cash and discounted 'tag' tolls which it is sought to implement from December 2009, the Bridge and Ferry Committee are also seeking open authority to allow further increases in cash and tagging tolls of up to 100% increase on current charges. Following public consultation which took place last year the Bridge and Ferry Joint committee unanimously agreed to seek government authority for the proposed increases earlier this year.

Representatives of business and industry in Saltash expressed grave concerns for local business as well as commuters and motorists in general were the swingeing increases allowed. The Chamber members present at the monthly meeting agreed that their opposition should be noted and their views considered by the Department of Transport if at all possible before permission for the increases was considered.

## STORES THANKED FOR AIDING CHARITY FUNDRAISING



Major stores and small business in and around Saltash are being officially recognised by Saltash Rotary for aiding Rotarians in collecting funds for local charities.

Waitrose, The Saltash Garden Centre Lidl's and the Hearing Room are among the Saltash businesses who have already received a certificate acknowledging their help by allowing collections for a number a locally based causes over the years. Tesco in Transit Way, Plymouth have

also been given recognition of their help to the town's Rotary fundraisers. The award giving is intended to continue with the Boots also marked out to be thanked for allowing their premises to be used yet again for Rotary's highly successful 'Save a Stroke' Scheme.

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## SALTASH SCHOOL STUDENTS RAISE CHARITY FUNDS

Students and staff at saltash.net community school have been busy recently supporting the school's chosen charities.

About twenty year 11 boys very bravely volunteered to undergo some serious leg waxing to raise money for Ellie's Haven. With Year 11 girls acting as beauticians

about £3000 was raised. The school is now well on its way to donating a forth £1,000 to this local charity. Just before the Easter break a non uniform day in support of Help for Heroes had an Easter theme. A highlight was the Easter Hat competition which attracted great interest. There was

also a draw for a special Easter raffle with funds raised through this going to support the Salvesson Ski Group charity. The raffle was organised by sixth form student Louise Jameson ably assisted by fellow sixth formers Ben O'Driscoll, Charlie Jacks, Hannah Carter and Joe Saunders.



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# SALTASH ROTARY 'SAVED MY SISTER'

As Saltash Rotary opened up in 'The Hearing Room' and 'Boots the Chemist' for their third annual Stroke Awareness Day one of their first visitors had not come simply to have her blood pressure tested. She wanted to thank Rotarians for the fact that, as a result of a test on their last year's Stroke Awareness Day, her sister had been persuaded upon her return to her home in Spain to visit her local doctor. Had she not done so she might not be alive today.

an ambulance to be called to take him straight to hospital. The queues forming soon after nine o'clock and from the venues opening at ten the teams of paramedics were working non stop with several hundred coming through to have their blood pressure tested and more still arriving at three o'clock closing time. Of those who attended 21% were encouraged to visit their doctor and six were classified as urgent.

The Mayor, Councillor Derek Holley who visited with the Mayoress commented later, 'I was very impressed with the nice bunch of people carrying out the testing. All thanks are due to Saltash Rotary.' This year the paramedics again gave their time willingly accompanied by final year student paramedics under professional supervision. All reported that they thoroughly enjoyed the day.

'A fantastic service well used and appreciated by the public has been remarkable in identifying 'at risk' patients and for preventing future illness,' said Simon, one of the students. 'I will be more than happy to help again next year.' Mary Crawford, Rotarian Organiser of the event and Editor of the Saltash Observer,



wishes to thank all of the professional and student paramedics who gave up their time so willingly and so cheerfully to share in such a useful service to the town.

## CAMERA CALLED FOR AS MAIN ROAD DEATHS MOUNT

After further carnage on the A38 including in particular the single carriageway section between the Saltash by-pass and Trerulefoot, local concerns have grown as to improving safety on this section.

In the 1989's various proposals were put forward for a dual carriageway to bypass Landrake and Tideford and link in the dualled sections of the Saltash by-pass and that between Trerulefoot and Dobwalls. A preferred route was selected including ambitious viaducts but this was later shelved and the plans were taken off the list of proposed road programmes in 2003. Following various recent serious crashes, including fatalities, Saltash Town Councillors, including the Mayor Derek Holley, who also serves on the town's Road Safety Committee, urged that the dual carriageway by-pass plans be resurrected.

Meanwhile it was suggested that the Highways Agency should be pressed into enforcing existing speed restrictions especially at the

# PAST PREISDENT COMMEMORATED AS BOWLING SEASON OPENS



Before the bowling season was officially opened in traditional fashion by the Mayor of Saltash rolling the first wood, there was a brief ceremony to commemorate one of the club's most dedicated members.

A seat, where members and visitors can enjoy watching the game at the corner of the green was dedicated to the late Jim Hopper, a long serving member. Jim had been a past secretary and president of the club and had acted as Chairman of the North and East Division of the Cornwall County Bowling Association.

The seat was given to the club and unveiled by his daughter and son-in-law Lynne and Colin Watts. Ciaran, their son, who used to play bowls with his grandfather, was unable to attend as he was playing his first cricket match of the season.

Rodney Nute, a club member and a very close friend to Jim, kindly built the base and surround for this seat with his son Stephen. Lynne commented that this would be a fitting tribute to her father as bowls had



played such a great part in his life and he was sadly missed by all club members.

Thereafter, Mayor Councillor Derek Holley, accompanied by the Mayoress Margaret Holley, as tradition demands rolled the first wood to officially open the club's season.

After the opening a traditional 'spider' was held. For this all of the club

members are placed in a circle around the green and bowl a single wood to a point in the centre of the green. This gives the impression of a spider's web and the nearest to the Jack is the winner. This is carried out as a fund raising event and as a result £80 will be given to the Children's Hospice South West, Precious Lives Appeal, a charity especially close to the hearts of club members.

## SUPERMARKET MONIES ARE THERE FOR SALTASH TO SPEND

Recent supermarket development in Saltash has added monies to the Town's coffers for general town improvements.

notoriously dangerous Stoketon Cross on the hill above Notter Bridge. Means of speed enforcement were temporarily in place and it was suggested that their return should be pressed for as a matter of urgency.

The dangers of pedestrians crossing the A38 at Carkeel were also mentioned by Councillor Peter Clements. It was noted that a 'roadshow' on a safe crossing at Carkeel is planned but probably will not now take place until September.

It was a condition for the granting of permission for Lidl's Supermarket that under the terms of a 'Section 106 Agreement' a lump sum be handed to the Town by the Supermarket chain.

The Town Clerk has confirmed that as a result £208,600 is now in a high interest earning account pending a decision as to its use. The money has to be spent within ten years or returned to Lidl's.

Monies are also due from Waitrose following a similar condition attached to permission for their extension currently under construction.

## BRIGHTEN OUR EMPTY SHOPS

Empty shops in Plymouth hit by the recession are being brightened by bucolic scenes of the countryside and other montages covering the otherwise empty windows.

Saltash Town Councillors asked of Mr Liam Bradley of the town's Gateway Community Interest Company as to whether similar work might be carried out on the empty shops, fortunately few to date, in Saltash.

It was agreed that the town council might carry out this work either through the consultants currently performing a study on Fore Street regeneration, or else might organise this directly.

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