



SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

October 2009 - Issue 207

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

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LOSS OF NHS IS KICK IN THE TEETH FOR PATIENTS

Saltash is losing its only dental surgery offering treatment under the National Health Scheme. The Saltash Dental Surgery in Fore Street is advising its former NHS patients that they will have to pay privately for future treatment and recommended the joining of a Denplan Scheme for a monthly premium.

Those who wish to continue receiving dental treatment under the National Health Service have been advised to travel to Torpoint, the nearest location where they may be taken on. The three practitioners at Saltash Dental Surgery will cease offering NHS treatment at the end of November.

The NHS contract offered to the Saltash Surgery was branded as "unfair" and practitioners were "asked to perform too many units of activity", they complained in a letter to Colin Breed MP, copied to and read out by the Town Council. Having decided to give the new 2006

contract a three year trial and "having worked as an NHS dentist for twenty years and intended continuing to carry on with the NHS for all of my working life" the senior practitioner is no longer willing to do so. He advised that he asked for a 'child only' NHS contract but this was declined. He asked for a contract allowing him to treat under the NHS patients who claim state benefit only but this too was refused.

Letters to all NHS patients went out in September warning them of the changes and recommending the 'Denplan Essentials' scheme at £7.41 per month. However, they were

warned that only a limited number of patients could be registered and they would be taken on a 'first come first served' basis.

The Town Council has agreed that pressure must be put upon the Primary Care Trust to get a NHS dentist back into Saltash. One councillor advised that he had to go to Truro to get registered with a NHS practice. "It is simply unacceptable that the sixth largest town in Cornwall is left with no NHS dentist," the Council decided.

"The targets that the Primary Care Trust were asking us to achieve were unrealistic and we also want to spend more time with each patient, discussing prevention of oral problems and how to look after one's mouth," said Anthony Coelho in his letter to Colin Breed MP, copied to the "Observer."

"At the Saltash Dental Surgery we have been committed to providing high quality preventative dentistry for 14 years," he added in a Press Statement. "Quality of patient care has always been our first priority. Under the terms of the new NHS dental contract

in 2006 we have found it increasingly challenging to provide our patients with the standards of clinical care that they deserve. After a lot of research we are inviting patients to join Denplan Essentials - a maintenance and prevention orientated dental payment plan that will enable them to budget for the cost of their annual treatment through a fixed monthly payment."

Anthony Coelho concluded, "We would like to thank our patients for their past support and loyalty and welcome the opportunity to continue providing quality dental care for them and their families.. We also understand that this may not suit all our patients at this time and have provided contact details for those preferring to source alternative NHS dental provision."

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust have indicated that they are seeking to have a new NHS dental clinic established in Saltash by next spring so that the Town should not have to go for more than around six months without state subsidised dental care.

WAITROSE SPONSORS NEW COAT FOR TOWN CRIER



Waitrose General Manager John Parker was approached by Town Crier Brian Whipp asking for help to sponsor him for a new summer coat, the fine uniform in which he has been seen over the last few years has proved uncomfortably hot during the infrequent warm weather that we have enjoyed, John told the Observer that he was delighted to be able to assist with the new coat because of the sterling work that the town crier does promoting Saltash.

Pictured above Brian Whipp and his wife with John Parker General Manager Waitrose

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REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

The annual Remembrance Day Parade and service will be held on Sunday 8th November 09 at St Stephens Church Saltash. The Parade will form at 2.30pm at St Stephens School and will lead off at 2.40pm for the 3.00pm service at St Stephens Church. The service will be followed by the wreath laying ceremony at the War Memorial. The salute will be taken in St Stephens Rd, near the Church and the Parade will fall out in Parkway.

REVIEW BRIDGE TOLLS AFTER RECESSION, SALTASH SUGGESTS

While deeply concerned at the proposed 50% increase in Tamar Bridge tolls, Saltash town Councillors, faced with the financial situation of the Bridge and Ferry Authority, were forced to accept that a rise in tolls was inevitable.

They did however, suggest that it might be subject to a review as the economic climate and traffic figure on the bridge improve.

New appointed member of the Bridge and Ferry committee Councillor Derek Holley advised his fellow town councillors that the unfortunate financial situation was worsening at an increasing rate. The reserve funds which had totalled £5 million were down to £3 million and would all be gone by 2011 if income and expenditure continued at present. A combination of wet summers and economic downturn had led to a decrease in traffic and accordingly in income.

The proposed rise in tolls is effectively a fait accompli, he advised.

"The Bridge and Ferry suffer a £300,000 per month shortfall," added Councillor Bob Austin, himself also a recently appointed member

of the Bridge and Ferry Committee. "This must be made up. It would be the first toll increase in 12 years and the Tamar remains among the cheapest estuarial crossings in Britain even after such an increase."

If a raise is to be recommended it should be on a temporary basis to be reviewed in the light of changing economic circumstances and bridge traffic, and in any event in not less that eighteen month should be their response to the toll increase proposals. They added to this that they deplored the anticipated increases in a time of economic hardship. This response was to be sent to the Secretary of State together with the petition, raised locally, which would be forwarded as reflecting views of many local residents.

The Bridge does still subsidise the Torpoint Ferry to a considerable extent, pointed out Councillor Holley. The two are linked by Act of Parliament and another act would have to be passed to separate them. This could be done but it would be a complex and lengthy procedure.

Alternatively, the Government could simply be asked to adopt the bridge into its trunk roads network and abolish tolls altogether. This, however, it was noted, could have its disadvantages. Saltash is currently a low crime area as the Plymouth criminal fraternity is reluctant to be identified crossing the toll bridge and having car licence plates recorded. Without the toll bridge Saltash might come to share the high crime rate of the area immediately the other side of the bridge.

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SWIMMING CLUB FEARS OVER FUTURE OF PARENTAL SUPPORT

Parents will shy away from involving themselves in their children's' local sporting activities, fear local sports clubs.

The anticipated demands for parents to undergo personal police checks before they are allowed to take their children's' friends to and from various sporting and other activities will lead to less adults being willing to help out, a member of Caradon Swimming Club told the Town Council. "The children whom we would like to see come to sports will instead go for television and computers." The town Council was urged to add its voice to those already objecting to the

increased checks on adults involved with children or vulnerable adults.

"It seems that the government has been overtaken by the information released and is now busy backtracking," was the reply on behalf of the Town Council who noted that the issue was still under review.

It was agreed that the Town's Policy and Resources Committee would consider appropriate action if the proposed vetting procedure does go ahead.

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Letter to the Editor.....

Dear Saltash Observer

We would like to comment on the claims by Mrs Sheryll Murray, the prospective Conservative MP that she has "secured an agreement" that will see the roads and services finished on the Pillmere estate. We are absolutely astounded at this claim. The work to secure this agreement has in fact been carried out by Saltash Town Council, by the Cornwall Councillors (and before that by the County Council members) and by the Pillmere Residents Association. This has been a long, hard slog for us all and Mrs Sheryll Murray has not played a significant part, nor has she been involved with the Residents Association. Cornwall Council officers have been extremely helpful to us since the major developers, Cofrans went into receivership at the beginning of the summer and it is really their action responding to pressure from the Councillors and from the Resident's Association that has secured the progress to date and which will be made in the coming months.

It is a complete travesty of justice for Mrs Murray to claim this progress when her involvement has been minimal.

Derek Holley
Brian Preston
Colin Riches
Bob Austin
Cornwall Councillors for Saltash

HOW CAN I PROTECT MY INCOME IF I BECOME ILL OR INJURED?

Income protection insurance is designed to replace a part of your lost earnings, helping to maintain important items of expenditure to help you to meet any additional cost of running your home when illness or accidental injury prevent you from working.

Under current legislation the sickness benefit you will be paid is tax free which means if you are a UK tax payer, the actual benefit you will receive at claim will represent a higher proportion of your after tax earnings than when you were working.

Imagine not being able to work because of illness or accidental injury. A couple of days off work, even a couple of weeks, might not make too much difference to your finances. But just think if your condition was more serious and you were absent for a prolonged period, money worries could soon add to your troubles.

For a lot of people, employer and State benefits simply aren't sufficient to keep them financially afloat when illness or accidental injury strike. Even more alarming is the thought that the growing financial burden on employers and the State could result in benefits falling in the future, creating an even bigger protection gap. Simply because you're off work and unable to earn a living won't mean that your mortgage or rent payments, food bills, utilities, credit card bills and all the other demands on your money will stop coming in. So with no income from work how are you going to pay them?

This is where Income Protection comes in and offers you an affordable and refreshingly new way in which to protect up to 60% of your lost earnings when illness or accidental injury

stop you from earning a living. No one can accurately predict the future when it comes to your health. Sometimes life can throw in a few surprises like feeling on top of the world one day and over the hill the next. Plans can differ with some specialist companies offering protection with no premium increases for occupation, smokers, gender or hazardous pursuits. So long as you are a UK tax payer you can be covered anywhere in the world regardless of your occupation and premiums are very competitive. Please contact me if you would like to find out ways of how you can protect your income and safeguard your family from financial hardship.

TAXI-BUS SERVICE - CUSTOMER DEMAND QUERIED

A proposed taxi-bus service for the Lean Way area of the Town is to be reconsidered later this year.

The question of whether there was sufficient demand for the route was put to the town's Industry, Commerce, Transport and Tourism Committee by local taxi and coach operator Mr William Cotton who had been asked to report on the feasibility of such a service. He advised that the route would have to be registered, and problems with concessionary bus passes would have to be overcome. It was agreed to wait and see if local residents re-lobby the Council for such a route before taking it further.



CORNWALL COUNCIL

& our PL12 community

For Observer readers

From Councillor Bryan Preston
Burraton Ward Saltash

Welcome to this my first report as a Councillor for the new Cornwall Council. Each month the 4 Cornwall Councillors for Saltash are taking it in turn to write this column, but don't forget you can contact us anytime by phone, email or letter. All our contact details are on the Council website

www.cornwall.gov.uk Or better still why not come and meet us at our regular Councillor surgery in Saltash Library. Every Saturday from 10 until 12 one of us will be there to deal with your enquiries and answer your questions.

I am writing this after finishing my turn at the surgery in the Library. Its days like this that makes you realise why you enjoy living in our town. Lots of enquiries but also the opportunity to chat to friends old and new and also see the Library staff dealing cheerfully with all kinds of requests not just about borrowing books. The One Stop Shop was always busy and I managed to remember to top up my recycling bag supply.

That was followed by a walk down Fore Street in the sun for some shopping in our excellent local shops and a stop to listen to the music in the street organised by the Saltash Environmental Action Group and supported by our Town Council. Judy Whitlock the ex Head of Music at the Community School was drawing a crowd with a variety of songs and instruments including a ukulele. Groups like SEAG do a great job in our Town and we would be a much poorer community without their support. Time for a chat with Richard Bickford the brains behind another community group the Saltash Rail Users. What a difference they have made, more trains stopping at the station and the opportunity to travel to and from London direct from Saltash.

The Town Councillors were out promoting the public consultation for the proposed pedestrian footbridge at Carkeel and there was time to chat with them and other old friends in the street. What a great place to live.

The people of Saltash are to be congratulated by again reaching record levels of recycling at the Civic Amenity site behind Focus. Saltash has some of the best

recycling rates in the County both at the site and from kerbside collection. By the time you read this you will possibly had a leaflet about changes to the day of your kerbside recycling collection. Now we are now no longer constrained by the old District Council boundaries the recycling in the old Caradon and North Cornwall areas are being reorganised. This will enable the crews to work more closely together and reduce the number of vehicle movements. Making the service more efficient, saving money and contributing to the green agenda

Remember recycling is not only about saving the planet its also about saving us all money. The costs of landfill tax are already high and set to rocket by £8 per tonne each year. So the more we all recycle the more money we can save.

Your general rubbish collection will not be affected. That will remain on the same day and be still once a week

One of my new responsibilities is Vice Chairman of the Devon and Cornwall Police Authority. I feel quite honoured to be appointed to this position as neither the post of Chairman or Vice Chairman has come this side of the Tamar for some considerable time. The Police Authority is a group of 19 local people who hold the police to account on behalf of communities. We work with the Home Office to appoint the Chief Constable and senior staff and set the budget to run the force. We publish an annual plan setting out the services your police force should deliver in the year ahead and the targets it should achieve. You can find out more by logging on to www.dcpa.police.uk

We are working with the Chief Constable and the Force to make Devon and Cornwall Police a top ten performing force by 2012. Our joint initiative to release 200 officers from back office functions and put them back on the beat has already meant the addition of 5 more officers at Saltash Police station. With Government cuts looming on the horizon we are working hard on budgetary proposals to maintain officer and PCSO levels for the future.

If any organisation in Saltash would like me to come and talk about the work of the Police Authority I am happy to do so.

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SALTASH CIVIC SERVICE

The Civic Service will be held on Sunday 25th October 2009 at St Nicholas and St Faith Church at 3.00pm.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR.....

Dear Residents of Saltash,
I hope you all have been enjoying the much better weather – it has been super of late hasn't it! – (change on the way though we are being told).

We have been as busy as ever with many Civic and Community events – and as ever I have much appreciated the marvellous help and support from our Deputy Mayor and Mayoress Councillors Adam and Merryn Killea.

We have continued with our very busy schedule and visited many worthy organisations and other celebrations; includingThe Cornish Gorsedd – this was a marvellous spectacular of between 200-300 Cornish Bards visiting Saltash for their annual ceremony.

We have many Bards who live in Saltash – and it was a very proud moment to see so many of our local residents acknowledged for their sterling work for Saltash. Mo Fuller was made Deputy Grand Bard – and well deserved too! – (Mo was also a great help to me preparing me for my speech in the Cornish Language, plus help, advice and support throughout the whole time that the Gorsedd was in Saltash). Other worthy awards for Saltash folk wereAndy Rance and Livewire (Treverna Shield), Phil Taylor (Whylen Cross), Kelly Pritchard (Frank Pascoe Cup) and Brunel Primary School children (awards for the arts).

We attended the Allied Forces Commemoration Ceremony on Plymouth Hoe – it was a very moving ceremony commemorating the outbreak of the WW2 – 3rd September 1939.

Navy Days, St Luke's Hospice new fund raising launch, Saltash Environment Action Group environmental awareness events, Saltash Camera Club presentations, Air Cadets open evening (with Adam and Merryn too), Business Exhibition plat forming local businesses/services, HMS Raleigh Freedom of Torpoint . The highlight of this month's visits were the 70th Wedding Anniversaries of John and Bunny Evans and Kathleen and Leonard Veale – what wonderful couples and what marvellous achievements to be married for 70 years!! – particularly bearing in mind that they were married on the outbreak of WW2 and had no idea what their futures would be during those war years!! – It was so obvious how so much in love they were with their respective partners – John said of Bunny: "She is as beautiful now as she was when I married her." – Bless!!!

Saltash and Cornwall Councillors are to meet with our local Police on Anti- Social issues following recent vandalism and unacceptable behaviour of some of our young people; We can't allow this to happen and jointly we will do all we can to help those that are so badly affected!!!

Having said that, may I pay tribute to all the wonderful

young people (the majority) – who are outstanding in all that they do – whether it be at school, at organisations or just being themselves – thank you very much all of you!!

Saltash Town Council's Civic Service will be on Sunday 25th October – 2.30 pm parade from Victoria Gardens for a 3.00 pm Service at St Nicholas & St Faith Church (all welcome)!

Finally!! – my Mayor's main Charity this year will benefit "Help For Heroes" – this is a very worthy cause – and I will be asking organisations and individuals if they would kindly fund raise for the Mayor's Charity – I would welcome any donations and from organised events (which I would help to promote).

That's it for now folks. See you around and about Saltash for sure – and don't forget we would welcome you at any of our Public Meetings and indeed at Fore- Street every third Saturday 10.00 am 'til 12.00 pm

Kindest regards

*Councillor Sue Hooper M.B.E.
Mayor of Saltash*

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY

"Happy 90th Birthday" to avid Observer fan Mrs Sheila King.

Sheila, who reads her Observer from cover to cover every month reaches her 90th birthday on Tuesday October 27th. However, she will be celebrating the weekend before with family members who are travelling from all over the country to visit her.

Happy Birthday Sheila from editor Mary and all at the Observer and to a wonderful

Mum, Nan and Great Grandmother - from everyone who loves you!"

GORSEDD AWARDS GIVEN TO SALTASH CITIZENS IN GRAND CELTIC CEREMONY



Awards for contributions to Cornish culture were given to several Saltash citizens during a spectacular ceremony of the Gorsedd of the Bards of Cornwall held this year in Saltash. Longstone Park, with its magnificent views over Cornwall and Devon, was transformed as a procession of around two hundred fully robed Cornish Bards, accompanied by representatives from the Celtic Nations of Wales and Brittany, and preceded by flower maidens, wound their way into a large circle. This had been preceded that morning by a parade down Fore Street which had attracted much interest.

The afternoon ceremonies began with the sounding of the Horn of the Nation and the proclamation of the Gorsedd in the Cornish language, in which most of the proceedings were conducted though with some English translation. The Flower Maidens danced to the sound of the harp and there was lusty Cornish singing of hymns to King Arthur and the Cornish patriotic song 'Hail to the Homeland.'

The ceremony included the installation of retired local schoolteacher Maureen Fuller as Deputy Grand Bard. During her 39 years of teaching at Brunel School she had encouraged students in their Cornish studies as well as promoting the Cornish language.

Although she is now

retired Brunel School was prominent in the amount of awards received at the Gorsedd. Among children from all over Cornwall receiving awards were three Brunel students, Sophie Marsh and Joshua Price for their photography skills and Naomi Snell for her artwork.

Other local young people receiving awards included Kelly Pritchard, daughter of the landlord of the 'Union Inn' for 'courage and determination in the face of handicap.'

Local music promoters were recognised Waterside Youth Club 'Livewire' received an award for encouragement of music making in young people.

Club leader Andy Rance collected the award on behalf of the club, commended for being 'energetic and versatile', with a CD recently recorded sung in the Cornish language! The club's website was described as 'incredible' (www.livewireyouth.com)

A totally different music style was commended with an award to Phil Taylor for 'music performance with a religious element.' Phil joined the Saltash Wesley Church Choir as a boy, became Church organist at the age of 20 and continues to bring music to the church 39 years later.

The Saltash citizens receiving awards were among many from throughout Cornwall and beyond, some guests having travelled from Australia and New Zealand to be recognised for their role in the Cornish Communities of those lands. Among well known personalities present for receiving awards were Torpoint based sailor Pete Goss, Ellie Libby whose pronounced disability inspired her family to fund-raise for Ellie's Haven, and Sir John Trelawney Bart. of the renowned Cornish family.

Saltash Town Mayor Councillor Sue Hooper MBE was present in two roles, as



JAMES CARRIES THE FLAG IN FAMILY TRADITION

As eight year old James Randall carried the flag aloft for the Breton contingent at this year's Cornish Gorsedd in Saltash he was also proudly carrying on a family tradition.

His father Chris, who was proudly watching, had himself been a flag bearer as a young boy in 1980 when the Gorsedd last came to Saltash.

On that occasion Chris had been carrying the flag for the Lady of Cornwall, Brunel School teacher Maureen Fuller. They were re-united at this year's Gorsedd when Maureen was proclaimed Deputy Grand Bard.

Civic Head and as a Bard of the Gorsedd herself. In welcoming bards and other guests to Longstone she spoke of the Town's proud Cornish history as well as the Celtic traditions of honouring poets and musicians. The Town was proud to play its part in this tradition and to see its own sons and daughters among the many recognised for helping to keep the Cornish language and culture alive.

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Devon and Cornwall Travellers Club

Those well travelled people from the Devon and Cornwall travellers club will be putting on an exhibition of their travel photos from the 5th to the 31st of October in Saltash library. Last years exhibition was highly praised, not bad for enthusiastic amateurs.

The club were founded back in 1998 as a way of meeting new friends, especially those with a passion for exotic or unusual travel. Members have travelled to every corner of the world and can tell some amazing tales, some of which you may not want to hear! My favourites are the Russian tick clinic and the Indian leper toilet attendant!

Members meet up at a variety of very informal indoor and outdoor events locally and further afield, which are listed in a monthly newsletter. They also sometimes travel together and are always keen to welcome new members.

They are strictly non-profit making and even give money to charity. For more information and a free newsletter contact Tony on 07847 644749 or Avril on 01752 405077 or avril.money@talktalk.net



Swayambanuth "monkey" temple, Kathmandu, Nepal, taken by Trisha Parsons.

Glow...The Ultimate for Body Enhancing Experience

An ever expanding array of beauty treatments together with ongoing support from a growing and loyal customer base has allowed Salon owner Lisa to develop her business "Glow's" reputation as the ultimate for body enhancing experience.

It is two year's since Lisa established her business in the heart of the town and she wishes to take this opportunity on behalf of herself and her team to thank all customers for their continuing support. With their help she has felt enabled to expand the variety of treatments available and to ensure the latest of beauty facilities are made available, often exclusive to 'Glow' within the area.

At the heart of the business Lisa continues to promote safe tanning and she will be pleased to offer professional advice on building up a healthy tan at a sensible price. During the last twelve months she has been pleased to enhance the salon with the ultimate in spray-booth tanning. Tanning facilities are available to both men and women alike. And as a special second birthday promotion and special thank you to her customers during October Glow is offering a 15% reduction on all spray tan and sun bed courses.

This month also sees the introduction, new to Saltash and exclusive to Glow, of semi-permanent Hollywood lashes subject to a special introductory offer. All are welcome to call in for further details or to visit Lisa's website, www.glowsaltash.com. Indeed it is worth regularly visiting this site to update oneself on the latest special offers and introductions.

Especially popular now is the teeth whitening service exclusive to Glow at a rate believed to be unmatched in the area.

Men are becoming increasingly body conscious and are coming to appreciate the Glow service including in particular waxing, massage and manicures as well as tanning.

Glow gift vouchers are available at all times and

can make an exclusive present especially with Christmas not so far ahead. Indeed with the party season on the horizon now is a good time to plan a personal course of beauty treatments ready for the festivities ahead.

Lisa strongly believes that there is a good future for friendly family owned business in the heart of local communities such as Saltash. On the basis of the welcome that Glow



has been given over its two years of helping Saltash people to make the best of themselves, and in view of Lisa's plan for continuing expansion there is every reason to believe that this welcoming and relaxing tanning and beauty salon will continue to go from strength to strength over the years to come.



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SALTASH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LINKS BUSINESSES FOR FORUM OF IDEAS

Saltash business people can now keep in contact and discuss issues and concerns through a new 'blog' set up by the town's Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

All Chamber members are being invited to link in to the Chamber's own website, fill in their user name and password and click on to 'apply to join forum.' After their identity has been verified they will then be able to view fellow members' comments on a variety of topics of local concern. Members can then add their own comments or, if they wish, introduce new topics.

Initial issues on which members are invited to add their views or suggestions include Tamar Bridge tolls, business rates and vandalism.

The Chamber's Chairman William Cotton and Treasurer Peter Dickerson recently attended a town council committee meeting at which a Cornwall Council Valuation Officer provided valuable updated information on local business rates. This information is being added to the Chamber's website.

The Chamber is also expressing its opposition, through Colin Breed MP, as to the proposed forthcoming 50% increase in bridge tolls and the anticipated blanket power to be given to the Bridge and Ferry Committee to make what changes they like to the toll system.

Chamber Chairman William Cotton anticipates that members will be eager to add their own comments on these and other issues. 'I am pleased that a discussion forum is now available in order to engage members,' commented Mr Cotton. 'I hope that it will be well used by all members and it will offer those who are unable to attend Chamber meetings the opportunity to ensure that their voices are heard. The executive committee will closely monitor those comments and propose action where appropriate.'

Hospice Launch Hard-Hitting Awareness Campaign



St Luke's Hospice launched a brand new awareness raising campaign based on the daily and often difficult experiences of its patients, staff and volunteers.

Public Relations Manager Shirley Smale said: " 'Promise' follows on from the successful '1 in 5' Campaign of last year. But whereas '1 in 5' focused on statistics, 'Promise' takes you much closer in that it is based around the very real fears and questions of patients their families and loved ones and details the assurances they are often desperate to extract from our doctors and nurses. It may not make for easy viewing, but it is a true reflection of important aspects of the work we do."

Guests at the 'Promise', launch saw a short presentation that recounts some of the questions patients ask, the fears they share and the assurances they seek.

Images and words from the presentation will be used for ongoing marketing and publicity purposes to help raise awareness of the Hospice's work and generate funds.

PARKING CHAOS

Residents in Berry Park, among them the elderly living in sheltered housing, have lost the signs that previously indicated their own private parking spaces.

Now as development of 47 new houses goes ahead the parking spaces are used by non-residents and there is general parking chaos, the Mayor Councillor Mrs Sue Hooper told the Town Council.

The Town Council agreed to check the position concerning residents' parking and ask Cornwall's Housing Department to re-instate the signs for this. If this is not possible a new road traffic order might be sought.

Also Cornwall's Planning Development control is to be asked to ensure that all roads are washed of mud and work on new building is not to be carried out to the detriment of existing residents. Furthermore the developers are to be asked to lay down a flat metalled site and ensure that contractors' vehicles are parked there.

ROTARY BEHIND THE SCENES

Rotarians ready to rush aid worldwide

We continue our series featuring the hidden work carried out by members of our community in Saltash Rotary Club.

When news of natural disaster anywhere in the world fills the headlines local Saltash Rotarians are already ready and prepared to rush vital practical aid straight to where it is needed. Shelter Box, now the largest Rotary Club project in the world was set up in Cornwall by a former Royal Navy search and rescue diver.



That was in 2000 and since then Saltash Rotarians have been especially to the fore in helping raise over £25,000,000, and responding with immediate practical aid to over 90 major disasters in 57 countries.

Many will have seen a Shelter Box displayed on a Rotary stall at the various events around the town including this Summer, Mayfair, the Waterside Victorian Fun Day, Forder Fete and Saltash Regatta. They may have seen local Rotarians Frank Hopper and David Wood together with their team demonstrating how each easily transported Shelter Box contains a ten-person tent, blankets, water purification and cooking equipment, basic tools, a stove and other essential equipment. With each lifesaving box costing £490 including contents, packing and transport worldwide, this means that on the basis of an assumed six month's use shelter and warmth for adults and children who might otherwise be on the fatality list is supplied for less than thirty pence per day.

Shelter Box is a special passion of Frank Hopper who spends much of his free time giving talks to local organisations around Plymouth and Saltash on behalf of Saltash Rotary Club. The talks are intended to make the community aware of what Rotary do in the community in general and in regard to Shelter Box in particular. While no

charge is made for giving a talk donations towards the Shelter Box fund are never refused.

The life saving boxes was being rushed all over Asia immediately news of the devastating Indian Ocean Tsunami was spreading to a shocked western world. More recently the boxes have followed the tracks of Hurricane Katrina in the United States, cyclone Nargis in Myanmar (Burma) and this Summer Typhoon Morakot across South East Asia.

As we go to press news is just coming through of a further Tsunami in the Pacific islands and two devastating earth quakes in Indonesia. We have already been advised that once again shelter boxes from Cornwall were on their way as soon as this news was announced.

Anyone wishing to contribute to help Shelter Box in their life saving work may forward funds through the Observer, all cheques must be made payable to.....The Shelter Box Trust. All funds will be immediately forwarded on by local Rotarian Frank Hopper.

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Being an independent family firm and following from Roger's extensive experience in the furniture business, 'For Your Rooms' are able to select from the highest quality products on the market and at the best value. This means that one can shop locally in the knowledge that prices are comparable with those of the impersonal out of town 'sheds' but with extra personal service unmatched by the superstores.

There is a surprisingly wide range of furnishings always in stock and attractively displayed throughout the extensive two floors of showrooms. However, the choice of lounge, dining room and bedroom furniture on display represents only a fraction of that which is available. Roger and Heather are always happy to assist and advise on what may be most suitable to individual needs and to help in supplying just what is needed to make the room look perfect. What is not in



stock can be selected from an attractive range of catalogues and ordered, with most ranges for immediate delivery, free in the Saltash area, at a time to be fixed for mutual convenience. 'For Your Rooms' select from the finest quality manufacturers, largely British based though with also a few of the best European producers.

The range of lounge suites, lounge and dining room cabinets, bedroom cabinets and beds, together with futons, headboards and other accessories is constantly changing. It is well worth calling by whenever passing to see what fine quality products are currently in stock.

When considering a friendly town centre location to set up their own business Roger recalled his working life starting in Saltash, looked around again, and decided that the town had great potential as a niche market for locally owned shops specialising in high quality products at sensible

prices and with personal service assured. Two years later, with a steadily expanding business, Roger and Heather are delighted with their choice and with the welcome that Saltash has given them.

To celebrate their second anniversary they have decided, as a special 'thank you' to their local customers, and to encourage others as to the benefits of shopping locally, to hold an exclusive month of special offers with discounts of up to 50%.

For those who have already discovered how 'For Your Rooms' can enhance any home, or for those who have yet to see for themselves the wide selection in store, between October 6th and November 10th offers an excellent opportunity to examine some of the finest of high quality furniture available at excellent discount value. Roger and Heather look forward to welcoming you and take the opportunity to thank all of their customers from their first two years of business for their loyal support.

We support and accept the 'Saltash Card'

HERITAGE GAINS ITS CONVENIENCE STORE

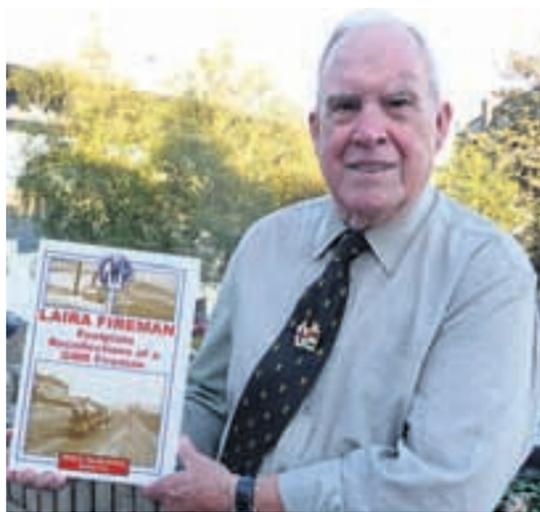
While Heritage are always grateful for such acquisitions it has resulted in increasing storage problems. The rooms above the museum and local history centre are already full to overflowing with memorabilia relating to the town and to our heritage in general.

Following lengthy negotiations Saltash Heritage were therefore delighted to accept the keys of the former

public conveniences in Alexandra Square which are to be used to help store the overflow.

Although this will assist the situation, Heritage continue to be anxious to find new premises both in order to help expand their exhibition area and to store the ever increasing number of artefacts which they are delighted to receive from interested townsfolk and others.

LOCAL RAILWAY RECOLLECTIONS – SIGNING IN SALTASH BOOKSHELF



Lovers of local history, those nostalgic for the smell of steam on the G.W.R. (a.k.a God's Wonderful Railway) and those who simply enjoy well-told, often amusing anecdotes of larger than life characters should take the opportunity to obtain a personally signed book by a local author.

Long term resident of Saltash and known to many, especially for his lively talks of railway days, Philip Rundle M.B.E. will be signing copies of his railway recollections 'Laira Fireman' at Saltash Bookshelf on Saturday 24th October from 10.00am to 1.00pm.

A share of the proceeds from each sale will go to St Luke's Hospice.



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The Observer Charity Silent Auction

Philip has kindly donated a signed copy of this wonderful book Laira Fireman to the Observer Charity; we have decided to auction this book off to the highest bidder to boost our charity pot. It will make a fabulous Christmas present. If you have enjoyed reading your Observer over the years, and feel you would like to take part in this auction please telephone or e mail your offers to me, the highest bidder will be notified and the book will either be delivered locally or postage will be added if out of the Observer area.

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KELLY RECEIVES GORSEDD AWARD AS AMBASSADOR FOR THE DISABLED



"A wonderful ambassador for the disabled" was how 18 year old Kelly Pritchard was described as she proudly received the Frank Pascoe cup for 'courage and determination in the face of handicap.'

Kelly was among a number of local citizens to be recognised for their achievements at the Cornish Gorsedd held annually throughout Cornwall and held this year in Saltash's Longstone Park.

As Kelly was taken forward by her proud father

Brian, landlord of the 'Union Inn' to receive her award she was described as 'always positive' having made 'the bold decision to go to school.'

She was followed to the rostrum by Ellie Libby, the severely disabled girl whose condition inspired her parents to fund raise for 'Ellie's Haven,' a home intended to provide respite for local disabled young people and their parents. While Ellie needs full time care she was described as 'showing a spark' from time to time.

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Wedding as War Declared Recalled at
 Platinum Anniversary



A wedding that was hastily put forward on the outbreak of war, in view of the groom's imminent anticipated call-up to the reserves, was recalled seventy years later at the platinum anniversary of John and Beryl ("Bunnie") Evans.
 Both born in Wales they were married in Plymouth and moved to Saltash eight years ago, family and close friends joining in the celebration included sons Martin and Jonathan as well as six grandchildren and three great grandchildren.
 John was as anticipated, called to the colours within weeks of his wartime wedding. The couples eventful life since then included surviving the Plymouth blits, John's achieving a DSO for conspicuous gallantry in post war D-Day France, and returning to a Dutch town that he helped liberate for a street and school to benamed after him. The adventures of this remarkable couple, now in their nineties, we decided merit a separate and fascinating feature which we hope to include in a forthcoming 'Observer'.

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Guiding Centenary

Over 300 Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Trefoil Guild members, Leaders and parents from GirlGuiding Caradon Tamar Division enjoyed a great day out culminated by a barbecue cooked to perfection by the Guide Leaders.
 To end the evening everyone participated in a campfire where they all sang the top 10 songs taken from Girlguiding Cornwall's top 100 songs along with a few other carefully selected songs. There were eight similar parties held around the county each with a campfire or beacon being lit by six Guides who represented the six Guides who attended the Crystal Palace Scout Rally 100 years ago claiming to be Girl Scouts.
 Grace Courts, Nicola Elliott and Emily McEnely from 1st Torpoint guides also received their Baden Powell Awards at the ceremony.

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HALLOWEEN – WHEN WITCHES RIDE AND APPLES FORETELL THE FUTURE

Apple-bobbing, the lighting of hollowed-out pumpkins and children in ghostly garb “tricking and treating” will as ever mark the last night of October out as “Halloween”. Some of these customs are a loose. In Scotland too, continuance of ancient and local traditions, some are disparaged as recent American imports. Yet the marking of “All Hallows’ Eve” is a tradition that pre-dates Christianity and indeed the Anglo Saxon invasion of Celtic Britain.

The Celtic Festival of “Samain” celebrated on or around the 1st November marked the closure of the year and was an opportune time to perform rituals to ensure good fortune for the year to come. The tradition that the night before Samain was a dangerous time, with spirits of the past both good and evil loose in the world, dates from pre-Saxon Celtic Britain. And some of these Halloween traditions have continued to be performed within the countries of the Celtic fringe, including Cornwall, into comparatively recent times.

If May Day continues to be the traditional celebration for the beginning of summer, All Hallows, six months later, “heralds in the cold and barrenness of Winter” as Frazer described in his “Golden Bough”. This Celtic calendar was followed in the Isle of Man into the 19th century with the old style 1st November continuing to be regarded as New Year. Here, as elsewhere in the Celtic fringe, fires were lit and ceremonies performed to disempower the Manx witches.

Throughout not only the Celtic lands but across Europe tradition dictated that, as Frazer described, “The night on which winter approached drove the souls of the departed from the bare fields and leafless woods to visit their old haunts, warm themselves by the fire,

and enjoy the company of their kinsfolk”. However not only those friendly family spirits were abroad, but also witches sped through the night while fairies and hobgoblins of every sort were let loose.

In Scotland too, Celtic traditions dictated well into the 19th Century that fires be lit and boys would beg neighbours for “a peat to burn the witches”. As the embers cooled stones would be thrown into the ashes, one representing each family member. If a stone was marred or moved by the next morning the person whom it represented was “fey” and doomed to be dead by next All Hallows’ Eve.

In Wales too the “Coel Coeth” family bonfire would be lit near the house and each family member would throw a white stone into the flames. These stones would be eagerly hunted out the next morning and if one were to be missing the person who threw it would also be missing by next Halloween. A similar tradition was reported from Brittany.

The lighting of fires to attract the souls of the dead has now been largely superseded by the lighting of bonfires several nights later for Guy Fawkes night.

But the associated tradition of hollowing out turnips or pumpkins lit by candles to scare away evil spirits still continues. And there is also a traditional belief that children born on Halloween will grow to have supernatural powers...

Cornwall has had its own unique seasonal traditions around Halloween varying from the rumbustious to the romantic. St. Just, when

it was the heart of a prosperous mining area, held its St. Just’s Feast on the nearest Sunday to All Saints Day, November 1st. This had previously been celebrated on the Monday when games such as “kook”, a version of quoits, wrestling, and “kailles”, or “keels” (nine pins) attracted lively interest. Much beer and illicit moonshine were reportedly consumed and celebrations frequently ended in a marred or moved by the free fight. The Feast was described in November 1882 as “a hobble, a squabble and a hubbaldun altogether”.

A popular rhyme recorded “St. Just bugs, leathern jugs, Curdy milk and whey Boil the maggots in the crock On All’an Feasten-Day”.

“Allantide” was a Cornish alternative term for “Halloween”. On the nearest Saturday to Halloween the fruiterers of Penzance would display their very largest apples, known as “Allan apples”. Townsfolk and those from the surrounding countryside would buy them and give one to each family member to eat “for luck”. Girls would sometimes, before eating them, put them under their pillows to ensure that they dreamt of their sweethearts.

In “Cornish Feasts and Folklore” published by Miss M.A. Courtney in 1890 she noted “A few of the apples are still sold but the custom which, I have been told, was also observed in St. Ives is practically dying out”.

Confirmation of this being also a St. Ives tradition comes from Hunt’s 1881 “Popular Romances Of The West Of England”. “The ancient custom of providing children with a large apple on All Hallows-Eve is still observed to a great extent at St. Ives, “Allan Day” as it is day of days to hundreds of children who would deem it a great misfortune were they to go to bed on “Allan Nights” without the time-honoured “Allan apple” to hide beneath their pillows”.

A custom not dissimilar to bobbing apples was practiced at Newlyn. Here on “Allentide” two strips of wood were joined crossways by a nail, at the end of each of the four ends a candle was fixed and apples were hung between the candles. This was suspended from a beam and the players took turn to catch apples in their mouths while seeking to avoid the taste of

candle.

Halloween in Cornwall, as well as the rest of Britain, was a time for trying out charms to discover whom one’s future partner might be. One such method was pouring molten lead through the handle of a door key. The shape that the lead formed foretold the future husband’s profession or trade.

Alternatively three names would be written on separate pieces of paper, these being moulded into three balls of earth and placed in a basin of water. The first name that unfolded and came to the surface was that of the future partner.

Greater opportunity to influence fate applied to the method by which one hung a wedding ring on a cotton thread saying, “If my husband’s name is to be - let this ring swing”. Miss Courtney in her book published in 1890 commented, “I have when a schoolgirl assisted in these rites and I expect the young people still practice them”. She also commented on the likelihood of unconscious oscillation being occasioned when the preferred name was spoken.

Another Cornish charm recorded by the same writer was one which prevents those who practice it from feeling or taking cold for the following year. “Eat a large apple at Halloween under an apple tree just before midnight, no other garment than a bed sheet should be worn”. She added that this was a “kill or cure” remedy.

The tradition of Halloween is of course a worldwide one. It has spread to the Americas and we are most familiar with the custom, now introduced to Britain of “tricking and treating”. I have myself walked through the heat soaked streets of a Mexican port on an October night and seen the pavements lit with candles to attract the departed spirits.

Back in Cornwall it is a popular tradition that the Devil is kept busy in October spitting on the blackberries which should in consequence not be eaten after this time. In “Cornish Feasts And Folklore” Miss Courtney noted that blackberries were not good after Michaelmas which was kept by the old people on the 10th October. Miss Courtney recalled an old lady whose birthday fell on that day and that she “religiously kept it by eating for the last time that year blackberry tart with clotted cream”. That is an Autumn tradition that we can all enjoy.

Martin Lister

FISHING COMMUNITY COMMEMORATED ON WALLS OF WATERSIDE

As an exciting feature of the Saltash art trail the fishing community of the Old Waterside is now commemorated in a vivid tableau where once their families lived.

Alongside the attractively laid out Hanging Gardens of Silver Street was a stone wall which formed the rear of ancient cottages inhabited by generations of Tamar fishing families. The cottages were demolished in the 1950’s.

Now the fishing families have returned, portrayed in a mural of stone wear ceramics which stands out vividly against the ancient stone background.

Artist Rosie Fierek explained to the ‘Observer’ when we caught her hard at work on the project, “As a part of the Saltash art trail, financed by the Saltash Gateway Community Interest Company, local artists were invited to submit ideas by which visitors would be encouraged to stop off in Saltash.” She put forward her own ideas which she considered “an obvious theme for old fishermen’s cottages” “I like working on stone walls.” she added, “This is the first time



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that I have created lifesize people and it has given me a taste for it.” She studied contemporary picture to ensure authenticity of costume and fishing equipment, though she admits that some of the characters’ features are based on her family and friends. After two months of design and a further seven months of creating and firing the ceramic figures in her Albaston Studio she was ready to spend a month on Saltash Waterside installing the completed work.

While the stunning result is Rosie’s own work she has also made this into a community project by inviting the public to attend a series of workshops on the Waterside. Here they have been encouraged to join in by making a wall of stone-shaped clay tiles, each including a word which the maker particularly associates with Saltash.

The mural is already attracting much interest as part of a re-vitalised Saltash Waterside.

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POLICE PURGE ON UNDERAGE ALCOHOL SALES

Saltash public houses and off licences have been visited by fifteen year old girls seeking to buy alcohol as part of Operation Viking.

This was a joint initiative by local police, Trading Standards and licensing authorities to keep a check on underage drink sales.

In Saltash none of the specially recruited under age purchasers was sold alcohol. "This is a good indication that local off licences are aware of their responsibilities," PC Simon Fletcher considered when outlining the operation to Saltash Town Council.

Outdoor drinking does continue to be a problem, however, with Latchbrook

currently being targeted by local police. The area around the scout hut (formerly community hut) is especially well used with up to forty drink containers being collected after one night's drinking during the school holidays.

Better news from PC Fletcher was that local crime continues to fall.

The September crime figures showed 75 offences reported locally as against 106 during the equivalent period last year.

TOWN'S CONCERNS OVER COUNTY'S ONE STOP SHOP

Promises made by the new Cornwall council over their 'one stop shop' in Saltash Library have not been fulfilled, complained Town councillors at their monthly meeting.

They expressed concerns that the 'shop' is manned by library staff, when there had been assurance that they would not be used. There had been promises that casework problems would be solved on the spot, not signposted elsewhere.

The special 'surgeries' on issues including housing, benefits and planning have just not happened, complained Town Councillors.

"We are still in the early stages of the new council and training is still ongoing," replied the County Councillors Austin, Riches and Holley who also serve on town council.

"We have cracking staff among the librarians willing to swing into the job," they added. The manager, Paul, is a housing benefit expert and since the majority of questions raised are on housing benefit issues these can be answered straight away and not referred on. Also telephone queries can be taken at Saltash, unlike some other town's Cornwall One Stop Shops.

Since library visitor numbers have increased in Saltash by a thousand a month over the past year it seems that customer service is not impaired by the librarians' extra duties. "Our library staff are first class and we are lucky to have them," concluded County Councillor Holley.

Deputy Mayor Adam Killea commented that he had been asked to chase up these issues with Cornwall County. However, it was now agreed that this action be deferred until the end of the year to see how matters with the One Stop Shop progress.

U3A

The AGM commenced with Chairman, Mike Scott, welcoming all present. He was pleased to see several new members and preceded with the election of officers and committee members for the coming year.

In his chairman's report he reminded everyone that it was their own U3A and welcomed suggestions and ideas from members. Each may have different expectations of the branch but the study/activity groups had brought many like-minded together, and he hoped that more groups would materialise in the future.

Some of the year's events were summarised, one of the highlights being the visit to Launceston branch's Study Day. As a result, members were asked for their views on holding a Saltash Study Day in the future. With membership having reached over 100, the committee had decided that there would be no increase in subscriptions. There would be a slight reduction in the rate for couples, in line with many other U3A s. A couple would receive only one copy of the national magazine, thus keeping costs down. It is hoped, also, that more men would be encouraged to join.

The Discovery Group and the Digital Photography Group were looking for new leaders; Mike thanked Brenda Davies and Godfrey Allen for all their hard work in running the two groups in the past.

Elected members were: Mike Scott (Chair), Hazel Greeves (Vice-Chair), Shirley Scott (Secretary), Sue Pym (Treasurer), Liz Preedy (Membership Sec.), Jill Rogerson (Minutes Sec.), Sue Martin (Publicity), Denise Watkins (Speaker Sec.), Betty Walkey & Godfrey Allen (Committee).

NOMINATIONS INVITED FOR ANNUAL CATS AWARDS

Building on the success of the past two annual CATS (Community Action Through Sport) awards for Callington and Saltash, the East Cornwall CATS steering group is now seeking nominations for the next awards ceremony which is due to take place in January.

CATS aim is to promote, recognise and reward young people for positive community action with sports and healthy living rewards.

Simply put, far from assuming that all young people are bad, CATS offers young people the opportunity to get involved in a positive way with their community and awards them with sports activities and/or healthy living rewards. Very often sports, that the young person cannot afford or has not considered before.

Nominations are being sought from the communities of Callington and Saltash to celebrate the achievements of young people who have made a real difference to their community. The Awards ceremony will take place at St Mellion International on Wednesday 27th January 2010.

Awards will be given to those young people who have been actively volunteering in the period from September 1st 2008 - November 2009 and who live or go to school in the areas of Callington or Saltash aged 7 - 25 years old.

Nomination forms can be obtained from Callington Community College by emailing sports@callington-comm.cornwall.sch.uk or by telephoning Amanda Huggins at the College 01579 386120. All nominations must be received by Friday 6th November 2009.

Michelle Roberts, Director of Community Sport at the

College, who is organising the event, said "It is important that we recognise the achievements of young people who give up their own time to make a real difference to their community. Young people often receive negative press however there are many young people who make a real difference in their community and this needs to be recognised and celebrated. The standard of last year's nominations was very high and we are looking forward to receiving nominations for the next event."

Last year, young people received awards for volunteering with local sports clubs and organisations, after school clubs, competitions and school events. Awards were also given to young people who had been involved in projects benefiting the local community such as beach cleans, organising fund raising events and art projects.

There are 5 award categories; School Support, School Sports Clubs, Community Sports Clubs, Community Groups and Community Projects. In addition, a panel of judges will select the CATS Volunteer of the Year from the nominations received. This coveted award will be given to the young person who, in the judge's opinion, has made the biggest impact in their local community.

All awards for the next event will be sponsored by local sports and leisure

providers. The voluntary work does not have to be related to sport, but the young person will receive a sports voucher to access a sporting activity free of charge as their reward for positive community action.

The event is supported by Youth Cornwall, South East Cornwall Extended Services Network, Callington Community College, Saltash.net Community School, Caradon District Council, Bude CATS and Devon and Cornwall Police.

If you know of a young person volunteering in your community or with an organisation you are involved in please let us know so we can celebrate and recognise their achievements.

Saltash Library OSS

One to One computer lessons available now Tailored to your individual needs. Every Thursday afternoon and Friday all day. £3.50 per hour (£3.00 concessions) Please ring, email or drop in to make an appointment Sarah Marsh Library Manager Saltash Library One Stop Shop Cultural Services Cornwall Council www.cornwall.gov.uk Tel: 0300 1234 111

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As we launch our anniversary year charity fund (see elsewhere in this Observer) for a limited period we are going to donate a £1.00 from every copy sold to our charity fund, of which we will soon be revealing full details. Watch your Observer for more info on our charity year.

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