



SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

September 2011 - Issue 230

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

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ANOTHER GREAT YEAR FOR SALTASH.NET COMMUNITY SCHOOL

A Level Results 2011

In a year where the pressure on 6th Form Students nationally to achieve highly has never been more intense, saltash.net community school is delighted that its students have been very successful across all subject areas. With an overall pass rate of 98%, and 67% at the higher grades of A*-C, the overwhelming majority of the 100 students in Year 13 who wish to progress to university this year, will be doing so thanks to the excellent tuition, guidance and support they have been given over the last two years by their 6th Form teachers and pastoral team.

There are a large number of individual students who achieved outstanding grades. These include Charlotte Cole who achieved 4 A grades in Maths, Further Maths, Physics and General Studies and a B grade in Chemistry; Lydia Butler who secured 4 A grades in Geography, ICT, English Language and General Studies; Laura Randall who gained 4 A grades in Sociology, Media Studies, English Language and Politics; and Christie Rosser who achieved 4 A grades in English Language, Psychology, Art & Design and General Studies. Charlotte Cole was particularly delighted to have achieved her A grades as it means she is now eligible for a Bursary to study Maths at Leicester. Also to be highly commended are Pollyanna Boucherat who gained 3 A grades, Rebecca Taylor who secured an A* in Art & Design as well as an A and a B, and Jordon Hirst, Becky Wray, Philippa Yellop and Tom Riley who all gained 2 As and a B. Tom Riley is to be particularly commended as he managed to achieve top A



Level grades whilst at the same time, as an incredibly talented athlete, competing in international basketball competitions. Tom is now proceeding to the University of Bath to undertake a degree in Sports Coaching and Sports Development, an excellent opportunity for him

in the lead up to the 2012 Olympic Games. Alongside Year 13 students, Year 12s were also celebrating some superb results, including Oliver Tamblin and Charlie-Ray Mann who have both secured A* grades in A Level Maths a year early as part of the fast track Maths course offered at saltash.net. Commenting on the students' considerable achievements this year, Head of 6th Form, Nick Scantlebury said, "I congratulate all students on their well deserved success, especially in such competitive times. I am especially delighted for those students who have managed to overcome considerable challenges and personal difficulties to achieve this level of success". Headteacher, Isobel Bryce, added her own congratulations to the

students saying, "We are very proud of all our young people and wish them the very best with future plans. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the staff here at the school for all the support they have given and also acknowledge the key role that parents and other family members play in helping their children achieve the best that they can".

MORE PICTURES ON PAGE 8

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CORNWALL COUNCIL



& our PL12 community
For Observer readers
From Councillor Bryan Preston
Burraton Ward Saltash

VOTER REGISTRATION

Voter registration forms should have been dropping through your letterboxes and if they haven't done already they soon will. You need to return the forms as soon as possible to make your voice heard in future elections. The updated electoral register is published on 1st December and only people whose names are on the register will be able to vote at local or national elections in the following twelve months.

250,000 households across Cornwall will be sent the form. Anyone who has not received a form can get one by contacting the electoral registration team on 0300 123 1115 or print a form from the About my Vote website.

If your household details haven't changed you can also reply by text, phone or Internet. Registering electronically is not only the quickest and easiest method, but it also helps the Council to save taxpayers money.

CORNWALL PRIDE

I spent a day in August helping to man the Police Authority stall at Cornwall Pride in Victoria Gardens in Truro. In these days of cuts we were asking the public what they thought the most important priorities were for the Police to spend their budget on. It was a busy day and there was a lot of interest in our questionnaire.

Devon and Cornwall Police were also there with officers and staff from the equality and diversity team.

Cornwall Council also had a large presence, inviting people to find out about Council services and join in Cornwall Conversations, an initiative which asks people to tell the Council what they value most about Cornwall and what they want to see improve life in Cornwall.

There were firefighters from the Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service talking about recruitment opportunities and the Registration Service promoting its support on offer for those who may be planning a civil service in Cornwall

LORD LIEUTENANT

By the time you are reading this, Lady Mary Holborrow the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall will be nearing retiring or have retired from the post. Lady Mary is the Queen's representative in

the County and has along and distinguished service in the post. There are few places in Cornwall, which she has not visited, either when we have had a Royal visit or in some other capacity. I have had the pleasure of meeting Lady Mary on numerous occasions; she is an incredible ambassador for our County with an interest in many areas, which make Cornwall the best place to live. She has had a particular connection with the Police and attends many awards ceremonies and is especially involved with the Special Constabulary.

Her last duty I believe for Devon and Cornwall (police will be to present the Long Service and Good Conduct Awards to Officers and Civilians at two ceremonies at the China Fleet Club in Saltash on 1st September at which I shall be attending with the Chairman of the Police Authority and the Chief Constable. We shall also be hosting a farewell tea for her at the Carlyon Bay Hotel and Cornwall Council will be making a presentation to her at their Council meeting on the 6th September.

Lady Mary will be a very hard act to follow, but the new Lord Lieutenant is Edward Bolitho the present High Sheriff of Cornwall who will, I am sure carry on the traditions of this important appointment splendidly.

SALTASH.NET ACADEMY SCHOOL

Finally hearty congratulations to the students and staff at our saltash.net Academy School on the excellent results at both GCSE and A level. When we hear so many bad stories in the national press about young people, many of them blown up out of all proportion, it is wonderful to be able to salute the achievements of young people in Saltash. None of it could of course be possible without the excellent teachers and the leadership of the Headteacher Isobel Bryce. All the Governors of the school are very proud to be associated with such a dynamic school.

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COLIN'S CAREER OF SERVICE TO SALTASH AND BEYOND

Having dedicated his working life to the sick and injured during his career as a Para-medical ambulance man, Colin Russell dedicated much of his retirement to the sick and disadvantaged of India before losing his own private battle with cancer at the age of 63.

Many will have fond memories of Colin from the twenty-six years in which he was based at Saltash Ambulance Station exercising his quiet and patient kindness on those involved in trauma while practising his paramedic skills.

His retirement in 2001 gave him and his wife Sue the opportunity they wanted to devote more time to working for the welfare of their Saltash community and later worldwide. Since 1998 they had been fundraising for the Shree Bhairav Eye Hospital at Bisalpur in Rajasthan India. This led to a deeper

THE ESSA FILES...

The headlines at the start of August were dominated by the riots in London, Birmingham and elsewhere. Merryyn and I were staying near Birmingham at the time (to see the cricket, not for the riots) and saw some of the damage 'the morning after'.

What struck me is that everybody seemed very keen to give their own sweeping statement of what caused the riots - a breakdown in discipline, soft sentences, spending cuts, unemployment, poor policing etc.

What they all seemed to miss is that the 4,000 or so arrests represent 0.006% of UK the population - actually about the same number of people as live in Essa Ward. More to the point, massive areas of the country, including the whole of Cornwall, had no trouble at all.

This certainly isn't because we have no unemployment or spending cuts, nice idea though that would be. However we have been lucky in Saltash to have had excellent community policing over the last few years - obviously crimes get through and not everyone will ever be happy, but crime in Saltash has been dropping month on month for several years. We know our police and regularly see our PCSOs out patrolling.

Yet this community policing is already in danger from cuts - our police station front desk has closed, we have

been joined in a police area that stretches up to Bude, some of our officers have been forced into retirement, and more of our police responses come from Plymouth.

What concerns me is that the demands for solutions to prevent these riots all, naturally, cost a great deal. It would be a terrible shame if we got even further cuts, including to our community policing, to solve a problem that we didn't have. The more prisons you build, the less you can spend on schools and hospitals, and the more specialist riot police squads (whom we don't need seem to need particularly often in Saltash, or indeed all of Cornwall) that you create the less you can spend on community policing.

Of course we should not ignore the riots or the need to prevent them in the future, but we also need to think about not hitting the areas like Saltash where there was no trouble.

Adam Killeya

involvement and Colin and Sue have spent much of the last few years visiting and working with the medical staff in the sight saving work. This in turn led to their increasing involvement over the past five years with an HIV orphanage in Goa. They both fund raised and gave practical aid to the HIV infected children, making frequent visits while staying in India.

His former career encouraged Colin also to organise the gift of an ambulance filled with medical equipment to a deprived township in Cape Province, South Africa.

Colin and Sue spent much of the last few years in India among their many friends there, but they were at their Saltash home this June when Colin was first diagnosed with terminal cancer. His died at his home and for the funeral, held in a packed St Stephens Church, he was borne in by former colleagues from the Ambulance Service.

He leaves three children, two step children, and four grandchildren in whose company he delighted, as well as his widow Sue. Sue intends to continue travelling to India and carrying on the work for the disadvantaged of that country to which Colin was devoted.

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SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...



In August, Parliament was recalled for a second time and I had to cancel or postpone a number of Constituency Engagements including a visit to talk to the Saltash Rotary Club. I would like to offer my sincere apologies to the Organisation and am pleased that the visit has been rescheduled.

I hope they will understand that it would have been irresponsible to ignore the request to return when Parliament was recalled to discuss two very important National issues, the riots and state of the world economy. Whilst my Constituency was not directly affected by riots, many Officers from Devon and Cornwall Police travelled to London and Bristol to help deal with the trouble and I would like to pay tribute to our Police Officers who placed themselves in the front line to stave off the trouble.

Around 80 MPs wanted to catch the speaker's eye to contribute to the debate. Unfortunately I was not successful and could not make my short contribution. Had I been called I would have told the House about my recent visit to the Democracy Action Day in Torpoint where I realised that we politicians must listen to the youth of today because they come forward with some very good issues.

This criminality we had seen in our Cities is not the way we act in our society. I would have praised the youth parliament and other democratic bodies in showing there is a better way. Not all young people are bad.

I have seen the massive devastation that took place in this constituency through flooding. Like those in London after the riots, I grabbed my broom and joined the residents to help clean up the businesses and properties that were ruined. After the flooding Insurance companies sprang into action and they now need to again after these riots. They need to be paying quickly with assistance given

to anyone who is having issues. I was also pleased to hear from the Prime Minister that we have resources for those who did not have insurance. We learnt these lessons from the flooding.

I would like to praise the people from the communities who are coming together to do their bit to restore some sort of order to the devastation caused by this criminal behaviour.

I hope we will give support to our Police so they can take positive action knowing the Government is backing them with clear, unambiguous rules of engagement.

The lack of detention places should not be a hindrance to arrests. Enough places, even if they are temporary in nature, should be made available. Turfing known rioters back on the streets should not be an option whilst problems continue. Even if this means they are put in places which are not near their homes.

People do not always see the good work carried out by our Police. Before the recall I was fortunate to join Sgt David Carney Howarth at Devonport Police Station to learn about Operation Encompass. This project has been set up to provide support for children who have witnessed incidents of Domestic Violence in their homes.

Through early communication between the Police and a trained contact at the school, it is possible to ensure the young people who have often witnessed a traumatic domestic incident in their home are provided with support. This project is currently restricted to the local area of Devonport but there are plans to expand it and I believe it should be a nationwide initiative.

I will be making representations to the Home Secretary to ask her to seriously consider rolling out this project across the nation. The present system, where bureaucracy often delays communication with schools for months, sees young people who have witnessed Domestic Violence in their homes not get the support they need.

FROM THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR...

I hope you have enjoyed the Summer and have been able to see the wonderful flower displays in Fore Street and the floral boats, what a lovely welcome to Saltash. We are fortunate to have had both Saltash Rotary and Saltash Lions, sponsoring the displays this year, many thanks for all your hard work.

Marilyn and I have been partying at St. Annes residential home. The home celebrated its 20th birthday and we were entertained with music, dancing and a delicious lunch. We had the privilege of meeting many of the residents last year when we attended as deputies and it was lovely to see them all again. We also attended a Diamond Wedding Anniversary for Betty and Ron Pardoe at the Ploughboy and were joined by friends and family from Canada.

Marilyn also attended the St Stephen's Church silent auction and came home with a bag of goodies that she has bought, I am not letting her out again on her own! Seriously, though, she really enjoyed it and it was a great idea to raise funds for the church and the new community hall.

We have been quite lucky with the weather and engagements although it was raining heavily when we attended the Churchtown Farm Awareness day. All was not lost though, as a very kind lady lent Marilyn her wellies and socks and a kind gentleman lent her an umbrella. How's that for community support?

Talking of getting wet, I was asked to open the Saltash Wesley Church Fun Day and I was delighted to accept. How lovely I thought, wandering around and meeting everyone. Chris Clark, the childrens and families worker was pleased that I was able to attend and then casually mentioned that there was a "catch". I was, apparently the ideal person to sit in the stocks and be pounded with wet sponges. Well, all in a days work for a Mayor, I thought, so I did it. Actually, it was a lot of fun and the youngsters queued up for two hours and yes, I was soaked to the skin but had a great time and so did they.

Saltash May Fair has been a long established event in our Town and many of you will have read, I am sure, that the Committee were planning on standing down this year. This meant, of course, that May Fair may not go ahead next year, or indeed may not survive at all.

As President for this year, I was asked to attend the AGM recently and I am pleased to report that the problem has been solved. The Saltash Lions have come to the rescue and along with some of the original members who agreed to stay, have taken it on board and we will once again be able to enjoy this much loved event.

I would like to say a personal thank you to all those who have been involved over the years, for all their hard work and support. When I came to Saltash in 1986, May Fair was one of the first events

that took place in the town and I thought it was a fantastic opportunity for the community to get together. I wish the Saltash Lions and the May Fair Committee, the very best of luck for the future and I know that we will all enjoy the May Fair now for many years to come.

Having seen the recent riots on the news and the destruction of buildings, homes and livelihoods, I feel that we are extremely fortunate to have such a wonderful community in Saltash. Being Mayor, I have had the privilege of seeing, first hand, how many organisations there are in Saltash and the work that they do, there really is something for everyone.

When I became Mayor, I was asked to choose a charity or charities which I wanted to support and I chose two charities to be the main recipients, the League of Friends of St Barnabas Hospital and Saltash.net Academy Trust. My reason for choosing these charities was because I felt that the hospital was available to anyone in Saltash and the majority of our young people, would be educated at the school, there encompassing the whole community.

I also wanted to concentrate on the community theme and to encourage young people to get more involved with the older generation.

I am delighted to say that I have received some very positive feedback from Saltash.net Sixth Form students, who are discussing ways in which to help our elderly residents, many of whom live alone. If any other organisations would like to get involved, please leave details with the Guildhall and I will contact you.

Enjoy the remainder of the Summer and I look forward to seeing you at future events.

*Cllr Colin Oakes
Town Mayor*

MAYOR SOAKED WITH SPONGES IN FAMILY FUN DAY



Having spent a week of the Summer holidays as secret agents, Saltash children came together to enjoy a Family Fun Day.

The activities were organised by Saltash Wesley Church as a holiday club to entertain youngsters while welcoming them and the parents into church activities. The 'secret agents' had fun while interviewing witnesses and reporting back to the 'Pharisees' to establish the trust of the gospel.

The Family Fun Day on the Saturday welcomed all children and their parents to a variety of free activities. The morning weather meant a change of venue from Longstone Park to the indoors of the church but this

STREET WASH IN SEPTEMBER

Saltash pavements should gleam after a pressure wash due to commence in September.

Chewing gum as well as the dirt of decades should disappear from Fore Street as well as Wesley Road and Alexandra Square thanks to an initiative to improve the look of the Town Centre by the Gateway Communities Interest Company. This is subject to a licence from Cornwall Council anticipated to be granted in August.

did not appear to effect the numbers or the enthusiasm of the children who came to bounce on the castle, sumo wrestle, and enjoy a wide variety of games and activities. The favourite activity was clearly "soak the Mayor" with long-suffering Cllr. Colin Oakes, for the second time in his mayoral career finding

himself in the stocks and this time pelted with wet sponges. More peaceable activities included face painting and glitter tattooing.

A special outdoor service on the Sunday to celebrate the event, with again all children, parents and others welcome, concluded a busy week for Wesley volunteers and young people.

Car Parking Ticket Confusion

A driver parking in the Co-op car park just after 3 pm and purchasing a ticket for an hour's parking from the machine was concerned to note that the ticket apparently expired at 9.11 am. She was worried about leaving her car and the risk of a penalty fine notice being attached to it.

In fact the ticket authorised her to leave the car until 9.11 am the following day, and a closer inspection showed the next day's date upon it.

Since parking is free from 4 pm she was authorised to park up until then and, to ensure she got her full money's worth for a further eleven minutes after parking charges started to apply the next morning at 9 am.

For those unaware of the late afternoon free parking or who do not check out the date

on the ticket there is evident reason for them to show concern at the apparent inconsistency of the timing shown.

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COMMUNITY BUS EN ROUTE

Residents in villages around Saltash keen to shop in the town and in particular young people anxious to attend K3 and Livewire Youth Clubs should benefit from a community bus offered to the Gateway Community Interest Company.

One of six sixteen seat easy access Mercedes minibuses equipped with wheelchair tail lifts acquired by Cornwall Council has been offered to Saltash. This is subject to evidence of an adequate business case for community transport in the area. The bus exactly fit the requirements of the Community Transport Project set up in January this year following a transport needs survey undertaken in 2009. Families of young people in villages within the

PL12 postal area showed a special strong interest in transport into the town for youth service events, especially those organised by the Town's two youth clubs.

The bus would have to be pre-booked and the Community Interest Company is currently looking into how administrative costs, the major overhead, could be realistic so as to persuade Cornwall to provide the free bus and offer a service to local rural communities.

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For the well dressed man who likes to feel suitably turned out for every occasion, be it casual, business or formal, VanEssa of Saltash can cater for each and every requirement. In her first year of seeking to serve the discerning Saltash male, Vanessa has taken note of her customers' wishes and requirements and has expanded her range accordingly, catering for an increasing number of men of all ages, from teens to seniors, who have come to depend on her for all their clothing and accessories. She has also expanded upon her range of formal wear and has now introduced a wide selection to hire for that special occasion.



A fabulous selection of Formal Waistcoats



Call in to the showroom to see the full range

A glance around VanEssa shows an amazing variety of clothing and accessories so different from that stocked in a standard chain or department store. As a locally and independently owned business she is able to offer an exclusive and personal service to each customer. For the man who wants something that bit different, whether it is the height of elegance or fun and casual, there is something to suit all.

Silk Ties

Casual wear ranges from smart T shirts and jeans to a colourful choice of ties and bow ties. Attracting particular interest is a limited edition choice of silk ties as worn by the newsreaders on TV! For the smart look a matching tie and handkerchief can be co-ordinated, if required, with all manner of accessories including cummerbunds and white gloves. Cuff links, tie pins and manicure sets as well as pyjamas and underwear are all carefully selected from top quality stylists and manufactures at reasonable prices by Vanessa to ensure that her appreciative clientele can dress to impress within a reasonable budget.

Livening, while smartening up her male clientele when they go to functions has become a particular specialisation of VanEssa. With Christmas and New Year not so far

away she is already building up her range of formal attire to hire and buy. Vanessa is introducing a savings club to ease the financial burden - ask for details.

Classic styles of trousers in stock include renowned German cuts from Gurteen and Meyer, also Douglas & Graham and Oakman from the UK.

Vanessa's recently created Ultimate Formal Hire showroom holds samples of a wide variety of designs, styles and sizes, to suit all from teenagers attending a school prom (highly popular this Summer) to businessmen or wedding guests of any age. A diverse range of thirty five plain or colourful waistcoats with co-ordinated neckwear are among the stock available for hire. There are dinner and dress suits, as well as Ascot top hat and tails - indeed something for every occasion.

Personally order

Customers can call in for a full measurement and fitting, and then select a design in a preferred style. Vanessa will then personally order the chosen design which can be collected in a perfect fit ready for the big day. The hire can be for overnight or a weekend when attending an event such as a formal wedding, gala dinner, Royal garden party or any other special occasion.



Alternatively Vanessa's customers are increasingly taking advantage of extended hire for such events as holidays, functions abroad, including overseas weddings, or glamorous cruises.

With such a selection of fine attire for every occasion and with Vanessa and her friendly assistants always ready to help and advise, if required, there is no reason for the Saltash male not to be dressed at his best for every occasion.

Quality Products

Vanessa believes that Saltash is an up and coming town and as such wants to play her part by providing quality products and a first class service to encourage more people to shop locally. As she enters her second year of business in Fore Street, with renewed confidence given by so many satisfied customers, Vanessa would like to thank everyone who has supported her in so



many ways - from the support of family and friends in setting up a new venture, her loyal customers who not only purchase but spread the word for her and other local traders.

Below: Fantastic bargains in the summer clearance



Sheryll Murray MP Addresses Saltash Chamber on support for local business

Small businesses in towns such as Saltash should be given a boost by the government's Localism Bill, anticipated Sheryll Murray MP while addressing the Saltash Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

In her first meeting with the Chamber since being elected member for South East Cornwall Mrs Murray stressed her availability to seek to help businesses as well as individuals whatever their problems. To this end she had opened an office in Liskeard where anyone with any issue can walk in with no appointment needed. Her local staff with local knowledge are there to help and to refer issues to herself for action when she is absent.

Small businesses should have the red tape which they have to overcome greatly reduced by the soon to be enacted Localism Bill, she promised. In particular business rate relief would be automatic and no longer require complicated claiming.

Declaring herself opposed to Cornwall Council's policy of standard parking charges throughout the County she suggested that once the act is in force, local groups such as the Saltash Chamber could use the Act's powers to call for a referendum seeking that the Town Council use part of its precept towards reducing parking fees in Saltash. She offered to take up local parking issues direct with Secretary of State Mr Eric Pickles.

Planning issues would also be affected by the Localism Bill, she explained, with property owners being given the right to grant their own planning approval subject to a localised vote giving a substantial majority in favour and subject also to a proviso that no community could expand by more than 10% over ten years.

Asked about the Big Society Mrs Murray described government plans to cut public spending by encouraging volunteer groups and also how the Big Society Bank was being set up to fund new projects - she offered to provide full details of this.

Chamber members expressed anger that Saltash had been promised that the Town would be the first in Cornwall to receive superfast Broadband. Now the Redruth based provider is putting Saltash not in the first tranche but last in East Cornwall, aiming for Autumn 2012. Mrs Murray promised to look into this.

As to the general need to bring business back to Town Centre shops, Mrs Murray acknowledged that there was a limited amount that she or central government could do, though legislation limiting new supermarkets to where there was a proven need should help. However, she was doing all that she could to promote Town Centre businesses, such as involving herself in a recent successful fashion show promoting shops in Saltash. She again stressed that she would always be willing to help promote local businesses in any practical way if asked so to do.

Chamber Chairman, William Cotton thanked her warmly for her attendance and for responding so fully to questions and issues raised by Chamber members.

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Tom Tees Off to Golfing Future with Saltash Support

Though hardly out of his teens, Saltash golfer Tom Fox has been playing in the Cornwall mens' team since aged sixteen and has been achieving course records while representing Cornwall and the South West. Now with the help of local sponsorship from supporter Andrew Carmichael of the 'Hearing Room' he has achieved two major golfing awards and looks forward to a national championship at which the England selectors will be keenly appraising the players.

Tom, who has lived in Saltash all his life and attended Bishop Cornish School then Saltash Community School, first developed his golfing interest aged 12 when his father took him on the range at the China Fleet Club. From then on he was hooked.

"I spent all my school holidays playing golf" he recalls, the result being that within a year of that first experience he was playing for Cornwall under 14's, aged 15 he played for the under 18s, and aged 16 he was playing alongside men of all ages and experience. He went from school to Duchy College on a two



year golf foundation course achieving a national diploma.

His golfing career really took off when he met with Andrew Carmichael, managing director of the Hearing Room, who also managed the football team for whom Tom's brother played. Tom asked if Andrew would sponsor him, and Andrew agreed "I would not have been able to continue to pay out accommodation, travel, entry fees and other expenses to further my golfing experience without Andrew's sponsorship," says Tom.

After a year developing his skills a second year of this sponsorship has seen Tom

go on to develop a handicap just short of 'plus two.' This has enabled him to represent Cornwall against other counties throughout Britain and join the prestigious South West Men's Team.

A gruelling twelve rounds of golf in six days during the South Western Championships saw Tom get the best results in the Cornish

team and end up half a point below the overall champion.

This year has seen him take the Cornwall County Amateur Championship Trophy and add to his triumph at Tehidy by winning the Holmans' Climax Cup. This he did while achieving a course record previously held by such renowned golfing names as Peter Alliss and Stuart Little. He already held the course record for his 'local' China Fleet Club.

Recent experience playing against Walker Cup team competitors and experiencing the hallowed greens of such clubs as Royal Lytham St Annes and Royal St Georges has set him up with high hopes for his next major match, the regional South West versus Midlands game at Wrag Barn in October. "The England selectors will be watching that match with interest," he anticipates.

Still aged just twenty he has high hopes of improving his game further to become professional and fully involved in the game, including continuing to share his enthusiasm with

other young people. He has already become involved in the junior section of the China Fleet Club which his parents had run. At his relatively young age there seem high hopes that Saltash may yet have a budding Ballesteros or would-be Woods in the making. With golf set likely to become an Olympic event by 2016 the opportunities seem limitless.

This would not be possible, Tom acknowledges with thanks, without the support of his parents Mark and Kathy, the China Fleet Club and his coach there Dominic Reehag. In particular for helping it all to happen, his thanks go to Andrew at The Hearing Room.

The Hearing Room has been a keen supporter of local sporting talent in general and as well as helping Tom realise his dream was actively involved in supporting the St Mellion Veterans Tournament this Summer.

They are also to support the Bude Golf Club Senior's Tournament this September.

U3A

Saltash U3A is continuing to grow, and our increased membership has forced us to look for larger accommodation or divide and form a second U3A group.

Our July meeting in Saltash Guildhall was therefore our final meeting at this venue, and thanks and presentations were given to the Caretakers and Receptionists who have been so helpful in the past.

Notices were read out and nomination forms for next years committee were collected.

The Walking Group is forming an advanced section with longer and more strenuous walks, and a Computer Study Day has been suggested for members who feel the need for more computer tuition. The Garden Group have planted up the boat on the green at Waterside (which was flourishing until the swans developed a taste for begonias) and the Writing Group is ready for anybody wanting to join.

The talk this month was by Martin Overy, who spoke on "Birds and Gardens", giving some of the reasons why some species are thriving but others are in decline.

After much searching for a larger meeting hall agreement has been reached for us to use Wesley Church for a trial period, where the extra capacity will allow the group to keep growing and stay together. Membership is open to anybody no longer in fulltime paid employment, and we welcome any one to a "taster meeting" before deciding whether to join. Our next meeting will be the AGM on September 8th at 2pm and will be in Wesley Church.

Copper and Lead Stolen

Summer has seen an increase in thefts of copper and lead from empty buildings, garages and roofs.

Eight such offences had been reported locally over a month, PCSO Kim Van Pelt told the Town Council's August meeting.

Overall crime has fallen slightly to seventy-one offences reported in the Saltash area as against seventy-three during the equivalent month last year.

There had been twelve thefts of insecure items including five from the festival at Port Eliot. Three house burglaries had been reported, three thefts from shops and four thefts from motor vehicles. There had been a further five criminal damage to motor vehicles and six criminal damage to dwellings.

'Green' Residents are Refused Recycling Facilities

Those who choose to walk to Carkeel in order to use the Recycling Centre are refused admittance to do so.

Only those who have cars and prefer to burn petrol in order to 'go green' are allowed to enter and deposit their items in the appropriate recycling bin.

The standard reason given, "Health and Safety issues" is general SETA policy, Town Councillors were informed, due to vehicles moving around within the site being a supposed hazard to pedestrians.

"This is absolute nonsense,

as drivers have to park their cars, then they have to walk between the various recycling skips," Councillors agreed. "There is no excuse for saying that it would be any more dangerous for pedestrians to walk within the site than drivers." If there was concern over pedestrians entering the Carkeel site through the gate, a separate pedestrian entrance would be the obvious answer. It was agreed that a letter be written to SETA to this effect.

Meanwhile, those who really choose to go green, or do not have a car, will continue to be refused permission to recycle in Saltash.

Thousand Home Projected for Town

Up to a thousand new homes for Saltash could be built within the next twenty years, Cornwall Councillors had decided.

These are from a total of forty thousand projected for the County - a reduction from the sixty, later reduced to fifty thousand previously put forward.

The thousand homes are a maximum number, local County Councillors maintained. They also emphasised that this figure was subject to economic growth. If jobs became available then houses up to this number should be built. They should not be built in

anticipation of jobs becoming available for their occupants.

The total figure of forty thousand homes for Cornwall is not to house an influx of incomers, County Councillor Colin Riches advised. This is to cater for local residents as well as Cornish people who have lived away and now seek to return to their home county.

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Bus Pass Changes 'Inevitable'

The current concessionary bus pass scheme within Cornwall is unsustainable, Cornwall Councillors have told the Town Council.

Cornwall Council has been paying local bus companies 75% of the standard fare for the over 60's and the disabled who show their bus passes and obtain free travel after 9.30 am. However, Central government has now reduced its grant to 40%. Cornwall Council's threat to reduce payment to local bus companies by a similar amount has led to Western Greyhound advising that it would have to consider withdrawing the majority of its routes in the County altogether and cutting back its service on the few remaining routes. Western Greyhound operates three services passing through Saltash from Plymouth, both well used by local residents.

One takes Saltash passengers to Looe and Polperro, another to Liskeard, Bodmin, and connects to Newquay. Both services are operated by somewhat elderly buses and Western Greyhound had planned to replace them with a more modern fleet. Such plans have been scrapped with the bus company's whole future being in doubt, since management states that the concessionary payment proposed by Cornwall would make most services, on which around 50% or more passengers have passes, uneconomic to run. The third service is a link to Bude, on the Atlantic coast, via Callington and Launceston.

While many, possibly most, concession holders would be willing to pay toward their travel, as confirmed by a barrage of letters from anxious passengers fearing a total loss of bus services, legislation would be required for a change to be made.

"Some bus drivers are demanding a contribution from concessionary pass holders we have heard, but this is totally illegal," County Councillors warn. "Do not agree to pay it."

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Discovery Day Down on the Farm

The splendour of Saltash's community nature reserve was the focus of a Discovery Open Day at Churchtown Farm which attracted many townspeople of all ages.

Children in particular enjoyed a variety of activities, games and quizzes, many becoming actively involved in leaf printing, making a cobweb and creating paint from clay. Adults too were fascinated with these activities provided by Saltash Environmental Action (SEA) as part of their display.

Other local environmental and natural history organisations had their own displays and activities for young and old.

A special highlight of the day was the falconry display in which a falcon, hawk and an Indian owl, all bred in captivity, were put through their paces, the hawk and falcon soaring dramatically before diving over the heads of the watchers back to their handler.

Those unfamiliar with Churchtown Farm's varied habitats of meadow, woodland, marsh and mud flats, all attracting a wide variety of flora and fauna, could enjoy a guided tour of the reserve.

The Friends of Churchtown Farm, who organised the Discovery Open Day, also organise monthly guided walks focusing on such varied aspects of wildlife as spring flowers, winter waders, butterflies and months, and tracking small mammals.

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF SALTASH

We have had five short term Presidents during the year and outgoing President Janet Underwood handed over the Chain of Office to Nancy Davy who will preside over the Club in our 51st year. Janet said she hoped the next 50 years would be as successful as the past 50.



Fundraising efforts this year included a very successful and popular "Snow-drop Weekend", by courtesy of Nancy and Herbert Davy who opened their garden for the two days. Also, a "Soup Kitchen", held at Saints Nicholas and Faith Church Rooms, organised by Carol Couch.

These events enabled us to donate to a number of charities, including Children's Hospice South West, Precious Lives, Maurice Huggins Rest Room, Saints Nicholas and Faith Church, Give a child a Smile, and St Luke's Hospice. Overseas charities supported were The Kaliko Trust, Impact, Aqua Box, Operation Sunshine and Shelter Box. 50th Anniversary A dinner to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Charter Presentation was held at Cartwheels Restaurant, Merrymeet. President Nancy Davy welcomed Chairman of Inner Wheel District 129, Mary Doody, President of Saltash Rotary Club John Smith, Former Inner Wheel member Barbara Palmer, Founder

member June Davey, Club members, Rotarians and Guests. The venue was delightful, enhanced by a lovely summer evening. We started with PIMS on the patio. An excellent Meal followed. The Loyal Toast was given by President Nancy, after which our District Chairman spoke, wishing us a very Happy Anniversary and good luck for the next 50 years. She then presented Nancy with the new chain of office, which has our Saltash Inner Wheel jewel on it. This jewel was originally presented to the club by the Saltash Rotary Club. Cutting of the Birthday cake by President Nancy and founder member June Davey followed and Rotary President John Smith responded on Behalf of the guests. A basket of flowers, a certificate and a gift bearing the Inner Wheel logo were then presented to founder member June Davey.

President Nancy ended the evening with a few words, emphasising that "Friendship" within our club was what made us such a happy and successful club. Earlier in the week, Nancy and June visited Founder President Muriel Bellingham in St Ann's Home, presenting her with a bouquet of flowers and showing her some mementos of earlier days, when she was President.

Our July meeting was "a trip down memory lane", when members perused old albums and photos of events over the years. Nancy Davy chaired the meeting and Grace was given by Carol Couch.

Labour Shortage Delays Road Works

Since major road works began in Callington Road before Easter little progress has been made and motorists are frustrated at delays caused by continual traffic lights.

In fact with about four kilometres work to be done on gas mains, this has still hardly been started, County Councillor Derek Holley advised. He has received numerous complaints from residents of his ward and has taken the matter up with the company carrying out the work for the gas board.

The delay in doing the work is due to a "resource problem" he was told. On investigating further he was advised that there is a local labour shortage of skilled men able to do the work. Almost all of the labour force comes from the North of England, travelling down on Monday, going back home on Friday and leaving a short working week to actually make progress. Hence local drivers are frequently frustrated at being delayed by traffic lights for long lengths of road where nobody is actually working. Without local labour being available there appears to be no answer to speeding completion of work along Callington Road to the top of Fore Street. An assurance, however, has been given to Councillor Holley that no other work in the

Town will be commenced until Callington Road is completed.

Other complaints have come from bus passengers who have found that buses refuse to stop to let them off at St Anne's Home while work is under way. More seriously those waiting for buses at that stop have seen buses speed past and ignore them. The Town Council is to write to First and Citybus accordingly objecting to the practice of failing to stop at an authorised bus stop.

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STATION BUILDING CLEAN UP

The increasing number of passengers using the enhanced train service from Saltash Station have been growing increasingly concerned at the sad state of the former station building.

Its increasing state of dereliction, many feel, presents a terrible first impression of Cornwall to rail passengers.

Waste dumping and vermin activity have added to the problems, Cllr Mrs Sue Hooper told the Town's Industry Commerce Transport and Tourism Committee. She considered the building to be a public health hazard especially since the fencing had broken down allowing access to the building.

A meeting between the Mayor, Town Clerk, Councillors and representatives of the owner of the building subsequently resulted in an agreement that urgent action be taken. It was suggested that the barriers around the building, erected due to the danger of falling slates, could be removed if scaffold boards were erected to catch the slates this helping to improve the look of the building. A promise was given that the remedial work would commence within seven days and at the August full council meeting it was noted that it was already under way.

The considerable gap between train and platform on the "up" Plymouth bound side of the station was also discussed in Town Council Committee. Children, the elderly and the disabled in particular have a considerable climb to board trains and a long jump to leave them. A petition seeking that Network Rail raises the platform level is being organised Saltash Rail Users Group member Cllr Richard Bickford.

Meanwhile the 'down' platform has been enhanced for local rail users and those passing through by a newly replaced boat full of flowers adjacent to the platform.

Ed Planted Cornish Flag on World's Highest Mountain

The first Cornishman to ascend the highest mountain in the world and plant St Piran's flag on the summit of Mount Everest has returned to his Saltash home, where a champagne celebration organised by his relieved but proud parents added £800 to his sponsorship funding.

Ed Buckingham achieved the ultimate in mountaineering endeavour in aid of the British Heart Foundation, his father Des having suffered a heart condition.

Funds raised so far are around £2,500 with more still coming in. "My employers Royal Mail have been fantastic," says postman Ed. "They not only gave me time off but have promised to match my sponsorship money."

Ed gained his love of the outdoors during family walks around the Cornish coast path but it was only when in his twenties that he decided to climb Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain. Since then he has continued climbing the world's six highest mountains and contemplated the ultimate challenge, Everest for five years. At last, at the age of 38 and having fully read-up on the exploits of other climbers he decided that he stood a realistic chance of success.

He flew to the Nepalese capital of Kathmandu where he met up with the other climbers in his multi-national group of seven.

They had elected to ascend the north face, accepted as the harder, and to follow closely the path of Mallory, who is generally believed to have been the first to reach the summit back in 1924, though he perished, it is believed on his return. The first climbers to successfully reach the summit and return, Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing, took the "easier" south face route.

There was a week to wait for visas to enter Tibet and the group spent it acclimatising on the South side. There was a total of eight weeks spent acclimatising to the high

altitude, going higher each time, before the final ascent.

This was made in the dark, leaving the highest camp at 10.30 pm and feeling the way to the summit by means of head-torch. Then, as the sun rose, by 7.30 am they were on the roof of the world with a perfect clear view of lesser peaks spread out below.

"It felt good to be there on the highest point in the world, highly satisfactory, but we did not celebrate as the job was only half done," Ed told the Observer Reporter Martin Lister, "Most accidents occur on the way down."

Once the Cornish flag had been planted amid the various national flags and prayer flags and bedecking the summit they made their way down by daylight. In doing so they could now see the grim remains of those who had failed to make it. The overnight "dash" to the top is done because climbers should be away before 10 am after which winds whip across the summit adding to its dangers.

Descending from twenty-nine thousand feet back to

Kathmandu Ed was one of 216 British climbers to have achieved this ambition.

Parents Jean and Des Buckingham were "so proud that he had done it," as well as relieved to see him "looking as if he had been to the Bahamas, not the roof of the world" that they threw a champagne reception at their Saltash home attended by around seventy family, friends and other guests. Photographs and kit were on display as Ed put on his "lethal looking crampons." "A good day with a lovely atmosphere," the family agreed.

Ed would like to thank all family, friends, work colleagues and others who have supported and sponsored him, and especially parents Jean and Des for organising the reception. His website, for those still wishing to sponsor or just to see pictures and read more of the exploit is still open on www.justgiving.com/ed-buckingham.

He has, at least at present, no further mountaineering aspirations. Well, how do you top that?

New Border Agency offices in Plymouth confirm Government's pledge to act on immigration



(L to R): Oliver Colville MP, Damian Green MP, Jane Farleigh (UK Border Agency Regional Director for Wales and the South West) and Sheryll Murray MP.

Sheryll Murray, MP for South East Cornwall, was pleased to attend the opening of new Border Agency Offices at West Point in Plymouth with colleague Oliver Colville MP and the

Immigration Minister Damian Green MP this week.

In a statement following the opening of the offices Sheryll said, "Securing Britain is a top priority of mine and I welcome this new base in the South West

which I am assured will help us get control of the issue. There is little point in having a secure border in Kent and then not invest enough in Devon & Cornwall to secure our border as well. I will continue to push for adequate funding for the South West to ensure that we do not become a gateway for illegal migrants and smuggling."

Damian Green said in his statement, "UK Border Agency officers in Devon and Cornwall are at the front line in preventing illegal immigration and stopping drugs, contraband and other harmful goods from reaching Britain's streets. We are radically reforming the immigration system and enforcement action plays a key role. The teams based in Plymouth have been very successful in tracking down people who should not be in the UK and removing them from the country."

PENTILLIE REVISITED BY LITERARY AND ARTISTIC SISTERS

Two talented sisters who have combined to produce a book celebrating the Tamar Valley in words and pictures come to Pentillie Castle during the Literary Festival organised by Saltash Bookshelf's Jill Male, and for one it was a return to the place of her birth.

"I was a Pentillie babe," explained Virginia Spiers to Saltash Observer reporter Martin Lister. "I was one of those born in the castle when it served as a wartime maternity hospital, and one of many who came back to enjoy a recent reunion of the Pentillie babes."

Virginia now writes a well-loved countryside column for the "Guardian," reflecting the passing seasons in the Tamar Valley. "It serves as a relief from the gloom on the editorial pages," she says, explaining its popularity, though it is far from idyllic, covering the downside as well as the ups of a farming life.

She certainly has the knowledge to do so, being married to an agricultural expert and coming from a farming background herself. She and her sisters were raised in St Dominic and her younger sister is the renowned artist Mary Martin.

They have previously put together a book on the apple and cherry orchards that not so long ago bedecked the Tamar Valley, worked in many cases by part time miners.

The sweet scent of the orchards vied with the tin and copper mines to add a bouquet unique to the Tamar Valley.

Mary Martin, who went on from Callington Grammar School to spend several years studying art, ending at the Royal Academy, regularly sells out when she holds local exhibitions of her Tamar Valley influenced work.

When the Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Authority suggested that the sisters combine their writing and artistic talents to celebrate

fifteen years of the AONB they were delighted to comply. The result is 'Silver River,' a magnificent tribute to the beauties of the Tamar and its valley, on sale in Saltash Bookshelf.

Their revisit to Pentillie Castle was not the first one, both recall dodging gamekeepers as they entered the estate especially for a

traditional midwinter visit to the gloomy supposedly haunted mausoleum.

On the showery June day of the Festival however, they were honoured guests as they mingled with readers and looked down from the terrace on the winding river that each had endeavoured to portray in their latest literary and artistic achievement.



Shelter for Fore Street

A bus shelter at the foot of Fore Street on the south side of the road is a possible siting for one of several to be provided for the town.

Further shelter installation is planned for September and local consultation was to take place on those proposed for Broad Walk and Callington Road. One by the St Anne's Home, the contractor suggests, should be on the bus bay side, outside the home, and the shelter near the Fire Station would be replaced.

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(More Photos continued from page 1)



Becky Taylor & Mum

In its first year as an Academy, saltash.net community school is extremely proud to announce that its GCSE students have achieved an absolutely stunning set of results, the best ever in the school's history. Students from Years 11, 10 and 9, who sat a very wide range of GCSEs, Diplomas and Vocational examinations, performed extremely well across all areas but it was at the top end this year that the students excelled themselves giving saltash.net its highest ever proportion of A* and A grades. Exceptional performances came from the following students who secured outstanding GCSE results throughout Years 10 and 11, with some also achieving A grades in AS Level Maths at the same time:

- Keeley Seymour - 9 A* & 2 As
 - Rhoda Frost - 7 A* & 4 As + A in AS Level Maths
 - Jake Allan - 7 A* & 4 As + A in AS Level Maths
 - Humphrey Shotton - 6 A* & 5 As
 - Chessen Clook - 5 A* & 5 As
 - Charlotte Yellop - 4 A* & 7 As
- A total of 22 students achieved 7 or more A* & A grades.

In keeping with the school's continuing upward trend in results, the overall 5 A* - C rate for the year 11 students was 88%. Last year, saltash.net was named by the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust as one of the most improved schools in the country on the strength of its overall A* - C figure. This year's figure of 88% is 4 percentage points up on last year's, demonstrating that the quality of education received by the students combined with an appropriate and relevant curriculum offer at Key Stage 4 is definitely reaping rewards and providing life changing opportunities for the young people of Saltash.

Both English and Maths GCSE results showed an improvement helping the school's overall 5 A* - C with English and Maths figure rise at least 5 percentage points from last year, from 53% to 58%. The school is still awaiting confirmation of some results so this figure may increase still further.

The school's other specialist areas of ICT and Science are also celebrating an excellent year of results. 5 students achieved straight A*s across all separate Science subjects. Last year the school was the highest performing for Science in the County and it is encouraging to see that results are still improving.

Speaking on results day, Headteacher, Isobel Bryce said, "I am so very proud of all of our young people and I know that their families and staff will want to join me in congratulating them on their exceptional achievements this year. Some of our students faced extremely difficult circumstances this year and their particular bravery and courage in the face of adversity should be recognised and commended."

Head of Year, Dave Stokes added, "The students and staff all worked so hard to help achieve these results and it shows that the range of interventions put in place to help guide, support and encourage the young people really paid off. Well done to all involved!"



Chessen Clook & Mum



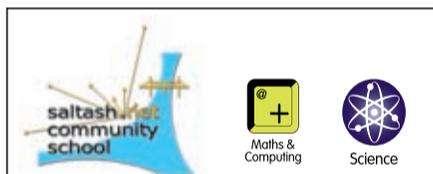
Connor Brady, Robin Bailey & Dan Roberts



Jake Allan



Christie Rosser



saltash.net community school is a thriving, highly successful 11 to 18 mixed, community comprehensive school. On April 1st 2011, the school achieved Academy status, another significant milestone in its history. Becoming an Academy means the school can continue to strengthen and develop all areas of the curriculum, including its specialism of Science, Maths and Computing.

Situated in an area of outstanding natural beauty our school secures high levels of academic success as well as many outstanding sporting and other extra curricular achievements. It offers excellent ICT facilities, state of the art science labs and has an on site farm with world famous pigs and chickens!

The school works very closely with its seven partner primary schools to ensure Year 6 students have a smooth transition to secondary school.

We strive to provide the highest quality education for all children in our care.

We are proud of what our young people achieve and we look forward to welcoming you to our school soon.



For a Prospectus or for more information please contact:

saltash.net community school
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Saltash
Cornwall
PL12 4AY

Tel: 01752 843715
enquiries@saltash.cornwall.sch.uk
www.saltash.net

Our Open Evenings for 2011 will start at 6.30 p.m. on Wednesday 28th & Thursday 29th September



Lydia Butler



Linda Griffin



Keely Seymour & Mum



Natasha Moss, Abi Willcocks & Lee Stevenson

Pengelly Funeral Service

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