

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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September 2019 - Issue 330

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Proposed Cycle Walkway Includes Controversial Crossings and Roundabout

Ambitious plans for a cycle and walkway between Carkeel and Fore Street have been disclosed as part of a scheme to link up with an eventual 'green travel' route from Callington to the Tamar Bridge. The route includes new mini-roundabouts, pedestrian crossings and one way streets within Saltash and it drew mixed reactions from Saltash Town Councillors.

The preliminary plans commence with a 'shared use' widened pedestrian and cycle way from Gilston Road to the Pillmere roundabout and include a traffic island to prevent traffic turning right out of Gilston Road.

Between Burraton Cross and the Church Road junction there would be a widened shared use foot/cycle way on the North side of Callington Road requiring movement of bus stops and lamp standards as well as an enlarged traffic island at Burraton and a new pedestrian crossing point by Warraton shops. Traffic islands by the Church Road mini-roundabout would be realigned.

Beyond here the walk/cycleway would continue on the North side of Callington Road. The link

road into Longview Road would be a 'false one-way street' with entry from Callington Road forbidden save for cyclists. Lollabury Road would also be 'one way' allowing no traffic access into Callington Road with new road signs mounted accordingly.

There would be a new mini roundabout at Plougastel Drive next to St. Annes and a new zebra crossing with beacons to the immediate east of it.

During debate there was criticism in particular by Councillor Julia Peggs of the mini roundabout at Plougastel Drive and the nearby pedestrian crossing which she predicted would cause traffic build up. Deputy Mayor Peter Samuels suggested in preference a pedestrian

crossing by Victoria Gardens linked to Wesley Church or Longstone Park which could help enhance the use of the gardens which the Town Council intends to acquire. Councillors agreed upon this.

After discussion of the preliminary plans the Town Council decided to object on the basis that they were not fit for purpose. They also expressed concern that the plan was incomplete with a gap between Pillmere roundabout and Burraton Cross. They endorsed the view that the proposed roundabout at Plougastel Drive would dangerously impede the flow of traffic and that the proposed pedestrian crossing should be nearer Brunel School where the school crossing attendant is positioned.

Building on Our Past to Guide Our Future



Kresen Kernow, Cornwall's state-of-the-art archive centre is now open. Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Cornwall Council, it is constructed in the Brewhouse of the former Redruth Brewery, and is a stunning new public space for Cornwall, home to over a million documents, books, letters, maps and photographs covering more than 850 years of Cornwall's history. Speaking at the Opening Reception attended by Sir Peter Luff, Chair of the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Councillor Hilary Frank, Chair of Cornwall Council and representing Saltash South on Cornwall Council, said: "It is testament to our strong Cornish spirit that communities from across Cornwall, from St Just in Penwith to Saltash, have been involved in the creation of Kresen Kernow. In Cornwall, we are proud of our distinctive heritage. The documents in this collection will enable our communities to build on our rich past, and will be a compass to ensure our culture continues to thrive."

Charity Faced with Closure is Overwhelmed with Support

News that Ashtorre Rock Centre, a registered charity where mainly elderly volunteers welcome Watersiders and visitors who call by for rest and refreshment, was forced to close by abuse and intimidation from young 'tombstoners' has truly gone viral.

Regional radio, television and press picked up on the story that young people were entering the premises to dive off both balconies and access the bridge pillar. Lynn Marsh, Chair of the charity, reluctantly decided to close the facility rather than allow her helpers to endure this.

Following the widespread publicity, reaction from Saltash and beyond was instantaneous. It included generous offers of CCTV, crowdfunding and mediation, and accordingly it was decided to re-open. 'On behalf of Ashtorre Rock I cannot thank everyone enough for all the supportive comments and helpful (and generous) suggestions,' Mrs Marsh told us. With low tide, the end of the summer school holidays and cooler weather ahead the problems are expected to abate for a while but a meeting is still planned, as we go to press, to consider a long-term solution. The Observer will keep readers advised as to any decisions taken.

Local teenage boys insist that they enjoy diving responsibly, and safely, when the tide is suitable, and blame any troubles on those who have been coming across from 'over the bridge'.

Carkeel Businesses Fear Trade Loss Through Traffic Chaos

An 'advisory' right turn for all traffic leaving the new businesses established recently at Carkeel has been put forward as one option for helping solve the traffic congestion that is becoming a problem.

The traffic situation in the area of Carkeel roundabout and its Callington Road approach is so dire that the local businesses fear it will damage their trade. A number of these businesses came together to write to the Town Council requesting an urgent meeting to discuss the problem. They claim that due to the difficulties and delays of exiting their businesses via Gilston Road they fear that customers who have experienced this will not return. 'We wish our businesses to succeed and to enhance the local economy of Saltash', they stated, and require a considered solution to the traffic issues.

One solution put forward by Cornwall Council was an offer to install an advisory 'no right turn' sign to encourage all traffic leaving via Gilston Road, to turn left towards the town centre.

The town council in discussing this were puzzled as they had never come across any such 'advisory' signs and considered that such a sign should be mandatory or not placed at all.

While agreeing that it might help resolve the traffic problem

and that they might agree to it on a temporary basis, they did foresee problems that it might create. Traffic heading eastwards towards the Tamar bridge would then be likely to continue on via Burraton Cross and add to traffic volume in the residential areas of New Road and North Road. Traffic heading west would have to complete a full circuit of Pillmere roundabout to get back to Carkeel and the A38 and this would be especially difficult and slow for artic and other trucks including those delivering on site.

A suggestion was made by Councillor Bill Phillips that if Lidl's were to encourage cars to enter at the rear of the premises and leave by the front this might help ease the situation.

It was agreed to set up a meeting with the businesses affected and to invite County Councillors, the highways agency, the local member of parliament and any other interested parties to work towards a solution to a problem which, Town Councillors recalled, they had previously foreseen and warned against.



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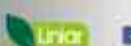
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Working for the People of Saltash

News from Saltash Town Council
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Email:
schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk

Education Welfare:
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educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk

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

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

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

Transport Department
(Schools Transport)
Telephone: 0300 1234 101
(Bus Pass) Telephone: 0300 1234 222

Email:
schooltransport@cornwall.gov.uk

Roads, Transport and Parking
Telephone: 0300 1234 222
Email:
roadstransportandparking@cornwall.gov.uk

Waste Department
Telephone: 0300 1234 141
Email: [via contact form on website only](mailto:viacontactformonwebsiteonly).

Cormac Solutions
Telephone: 01872 323 313
Email:
customerrelations@cormactd.co.uk

Fly Tipping:
Telephone: 0300 1234 141
Email:
refuseandrecycling@cornwall.gov.uk

*Town Messenger
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**Cornwall Councillors –
Cover such services as:**
Housing - Education –
Social Services
Highways –
Waste and Recycling –
Tamar Bridge

Plastic Free School Uniforms

Over the last few months it has been our pleasure to meet so many local people who are engaging in Plastic Free Saltash. Some of the work being undertaken is fantastic and ongoing.

We now have several businesses who have gained their award, and many more who are working towards their Plastic Free status.

We are now working with allies e.g. local organisations, schools, clubs etc. to obtain their status too. One of the businesses we met this week was a real surprise. Did you know you can get your children's school blazer that's totally made of recycled plastic bottles?

Please contact Saltash Town Council lead representative Councillor Julia Peggs for further information
j.peggs@saltash.gov.uk

It takes 18 plastic bottles to make a jacket. All skirts and trousers are 30 - 40% plastic, 5 bottles each. The number of plastic bottles saved by buying eco uniforms in Saltash is four times the length of Elizabeth Tower at Westminster!

If you are a local business and would like to pursue the plastic free award, or you have ideas to help the town, please contact:

Saltash town Council lead representative Councillor Julia Peggs for further information
j.peggs@saltash.gov.uk

Bunting Brings Colour to Street

Bunting to bring colour and add to the attraction of Fore Street, enhancing its appearance as a shopping venue, was agreed by full Town Council. This is in addition to the six banners previously agreed upon.

There is funding available, Mayor Gloria Challen noted. The colours were to be decided upon but it was agreed, since previous bunting has caused problems in falling down, that as well as colourful it should be strong, of good quality, but not plastic.

Meet Your Councillor

Councillor Sarah Gillies North Ward Saltash

As the newest member of Saltash Town Council, having been successful at interview for co-option less than 2 months ago, I am excited to be joining this vibrant and forward-thinking council looking to promote and invest in Saltash.

I have been living in Saltash since 2002, having moved from Kent, where much of my family remain. I enjoy returning as often as possible, to also show my continued support for the Kent Spitfires Cricket Team.

Over these years I have seen North Ward change and grow significantly and believe it is important to maintain and develop a close connection with the businesses and residents in this area with the town as a whole and would look to ensure opportunities for improved transport and communication are created.

During my time in Saltash I have been lucky enough to become a Cub Scout Leader and am passionate about creating opportunities for the young people in the community.

I also work in the town and am an active member of local business networking groups and look to encourage the growth of business relationships within Saltash and the greater community, as well as to demonstrate the strength and diversity of businesses with the Town.

It would be great to see Saltash develop as a town, creating opportunities for the community in the arts, education and employment and flourish as the first town and gateway to Cornwall.

Saltash Town Councillors meet in Fore Street at the beginning of each month and can also be contacted at the Guildhall. If you have a question for your Town Councillors, an issue you wish to raise, a bright idea



that might improve the town, or simply want to find out more about what the Town Council is doing, then follow Saltash Town Council on Social Media to find out when Councillors are next meeting.

Climate Emergency

In January 2019 Cornwall Council declared a Climate Emergency, setting out certain aims and ambitions to reduce carbon emissions and to become carbon neutral by the year 2030.

When this was discussed recently by Saltash Town Council, it became apparent that many of the applicable

aims, ambitions and policies had already been separately implemented in Saltash.

A majority vote by Saltash Town Councillors was sympathetic to the aims and ambitions of the Cornwall Climate Emergency, but it was decided to pursue the independent stance on carbon emissions which had already been previously commenced. As a Town, we would prefer to lead in an innovative and proactive way.

Saltash Town Council already has representatives on

local environmental groups and the work put in by those representatives and the groups they attend, should be both encouraged and applauded.

We will always welcome well-reasoned, practical and sustainable suggestions to further reduce carbon emissions and to tackle other environmental issues, whether those suggestions come from environmental groups or individuals, whilst we seek to engage the wider community in ways that will garner support.

Your Town Council

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Mayor:
Gloria Challen

Deputy Mayor:
Pete Samuels

Town Clerk:
Ray Lane
T: 844846

E: enquiries@saltash.gov.uk

Councillors telephone numbers can be obtained at the guildhall.

**Saltash Town Council, The Guildhall, 12 Lower Fore Street, Saltash PL12 6JX
Tel.: 01752 844846 Email: enquiries@saltash.gov.uk Website: www.saltash.gov.uk**

From the Mayor of Saltash

Greetings Residents

Summer Holidays for the children but what weather we have had recently.

I do hope that people have stopped off in Saltash for a short break to visit our shops and businesses that have so much to offer.

At August Full Council Saltash Town Council made a resolution to support the journey to a plastic free community status. I am proud that Saltash is playing its part in response to the Climate change which is having a dreadful Global effect. We all need to look at what we can do to help reverse the situation in whatever way

possible.

This month I have once again been honoured to represent Saltash Town Council at numerous engagements.

One meeting I attended was with a group of very enthusiastic volunteers who are planning a series of events in Saltash commemorating and celebrating VE Day 2020 on its 75th Anniversary. I was very impressed with their ideas and energy to mark this very worthy event. Please watch this space.

I enjoyed the morning with Active Plus where I presented certificates to a wonderful group of individuals who I really admire the work they do through courses and activities that motivate, inspire confidence and build life skills.

Great news to see a new business come to Fore St, Eclectic Interiors, I wish Donna Hemmings all the best. I also wish all our businesses in Saltash success and express my gratitude for being part of Saltash.

Sadly, however, we have lost a few businesses in the town, which is always so regrettable. I want to pay tribute to all those that run businesses in Saltash and also to those that are closing for various reasons. Many have played active roles within the community; Mike Parker of Saltash DIY is amongst those that I am so sorry we have lost as a local business. I wish

Mike and other businesses closing all the very best for their new ventures.

Saltash Rotary Club invited me to a wine and cheese tasting night which raised £500 for Cornwall Air Ambulance.

I spent a weekend of entertainment at Saltash waterfront which was put on by South West Water-ski racing championship.

Saltash Foodbank asked me to one of their coffee mornings and asked if I would say thanks to Mr Mark Hawker a Trustee for his dedicated work and support, he has given to the community of Saltash.

On Saturday 14th September at Saltash Guildhall I shall be holding a Showcase event for local groups, charities and non-profit making organisations to promote their activities to the public.

Refreshments will be sold on the day by Saltash Lions Club and all proceeds going to The Mayor's Charity, which is Saltash Fire Cadets.

Please do come along from 11am for a chat and a cuppa. Saltash Civic Service - Sunday 29th September at Saltash Baptist Church at 2pm.

Light refreshments provided afterwards at Saltash Guildhall.

All proceeds from the collection from the service will be split between The



Salvation Army and Saltash Fire Cadets. Forder Association kindly made a donation from their summer fete to The Mayor's Charity; I wish to thank the residents of Forder and all the Volunteers who put on a great event.

I also much appreciate their kindness to me and the Mayor's Charity.

Saltash Town Council now have two members of staff who has undertaken a three-day course followed by an exam on pesticide control and spraying. I am pleased to say they passed with top scores. This will allow Saltash Town Council to take this task in house.

It was great that Saltash Town Council Service Department staff could play a part in the Firework Championships this year by supervising people entering and leaving the Saltash Pontoon for transport to the firework display.

*Enjoy your summer.
Yours Sincerely
Councillor Gloria Challen
Saltash Mayor*

Chamber Chairman Peter Ryland — Keeping us Updated

BOGOF – no, I am not insulting the readers but using the term which is the basis of a proposal the Chamber is making re. car parking in the town. As a result of meetings which included Town and Cornwall Councillors, Chamber members, town centre traders and other interested parties, there were various proposals made and are now being pursued. The one that was favoured by many was to ascertain if we could have two hours parking in the town centre car parks for the price of one hour, i.e. 2 hours for 50p.

This initiative will cost and can, if approved for funding,

only last for a few months. However, I have now ascertained the amount that will have to be paid to Cornwall Council and have applied for funding from S.106 (a fund held to benefit the town centre). By the time this article is published the application should be well through the processes that need to be dealt with and, hopefully, will get final approval so that this concession can be up and running later in the year. If implemented we will be able to monitor the number of users so that we can determine whether it is effective.

One of the other initiatives

that came forward, from the meetings, was to hold more activities in the town centre i.e. leisure/markets and to look into whether some of these could be held in Victoria Gardens rather than closing off Fore Street every time, as happens with the Christmas Festival and May Fair, in order to save some of the cost of closing off. This initiative is also being pursued.

There were several other ideas but these will take time to assess and cost but, we are hopeful that these ideas will encourage more people to come into the town centre to shop, particularly with the added advantage of the Saltash Card available, if you don't have one, through the Community Enterprises shop at No. 4.

I have not reported on our August meeting, because we do not meet in August, but we are looking forward to Cornwall Councillor, Sam Tamlin, attending our September meeting and talking about the Tamar Bridge, with his role as the Joint Chairman of the owning committee.

STOP PRESS
Saltash Town Council voted not to recommend the BOGOF parking scheme to the 106 panel

What Saltash is Doing for the Environment

Concerned residents of all ages are already busy working for the environment in and around Saltash, and are 'thinking globally acting locally'

While the Town Council is already actively aiming to achieve Plastic Free status, as reported elsewhere in your 'Observer' a number of other projects are under way as reported by Councillor Julia Peggs to the council.

These include 'bin the butts' with trials for external and portable ashtrays being undertaken for cigarette ends that cannot be incinerated and 'scrap community page FB' with all unwanted items in the PL12 area being offered for free if they may be of use to others. A tree warden is encouraging the planting and planning of trees and can help and advise with a 'green boulevard' while verges are being audited for safely letting wildflowers grow, while green garden corridors are encouraged with volunteers helping residents make low maintenance wildlife areas in their own gardens.

Litter picks are organised on a regular basis by Saltash Environmental Action as well as schools and individual children and adults. Extinction Rebellion is setting up a group in Saltash aiming to draw public attention to climate change and global movement as they have done on a national basis.

Air quality readings are being taken each morning in

Fore Street by a group who have purchased a portable unit and who intend to present their findings to the Town Council in the next few months.

The 'greening' of public events will include reusable beakers (as at this year's regatta), mesh fish and other receptacles to encourage collection of plastic bottles as well as recycling bins at such events. Crisp packets can be saved for tetra- recycling and are collected by schools, brownie packs, Livewire and Core youth centres, while household batteries are collected at the library. The use of single use plastic bottles can be discouraged by free water filling and publicising the local businesses that offer this.

A number of letters from nine year old school children have encouraged the town's efforts. They have shared their concern at seeing the plastic recovered from the stomachs of marine creatures, and have commented that 'recycling bins in a town show a clean tidy town'. One letter concluded 'I hope you take my idea seriously as the Council could be a hero to all mankind'.

Riverside Barbecue for Waterside Volunteers

A summer barbecue on the veranda overlooking the lively traffic of the River Tamar was held for the volunteers who welcome all to Ashtorre Rock Community Centre.

As well as a tasty barbecue buffet the volunteers enjoyed musical entertainment from Martin Crawford and Tony Marsh. Ashtorre has a long tradition of organising community events and several of their songs came from the very popular musical show 'The Gift of Years' written especially for the Ashtorre Players. The entertainment concluded with 'The Rock', a song written by Martin Crawford for the 25th Anniversary of Ashtorre with its chorus, sung by one and all, of 'The rumble up above and the welcome down below'.

The rumble of trains above was heard as Ashtorre Chairman Lynn Marsh, daughter of its founder, former ferryman Gerald Truscott, thanked all for being the 'wonderful friendly faces' who offer refreshment to so many residents and visitors to the Waterside.

More volunteers, who can give us any or as few hours as suits them, are always needed and anyone interested can contact Lynn on 01752 844255

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I'm about to talk rubbish, that's right you read that correctly... waste and recycling!

The current contract for kerbside collections to every home in Cornwall is due to run out at the end of March 2020. At the time of writing the council is in the middle of a tender process for a new contract and the criteria for the contract has been set out. After a phased role out starting in 2021 recycling will be collected once a week in a similar way as now in separate containers but with an extra container for food waste. The big change comes in the "residual waste" (black bags), as the collection will change to every two weeks similar to what happens in most other



CORNWALL COUNCIL

and our PL12 community
For Observer readers
Sam Tamlin
Cornwall Councillor for Saltash West
E: sam.tamlin@cornwallcouncillors.org.uk.



places in the UK. The fortnightly collection will be limited to 180 litres for each household, which is about the same as two very large back bags. This is designed to encourage recycling rates which are low in Cornwall; we currently recycle around 36% of our waste compared to an average of around 50% in the South West. In my house with two adults and two small children we roughly use the

proposed limit of 180 litres when including food waste. We already recycle when we can but with the new food waste collection I don't think the new limit will be a problem as long as we continue to recycle.

Litter is a slightly different issue but still something I get a lot of complaints about, last year volunteers throughout Cornwall including Saltash spent more than 48,000 hours of their own time joining in with litter picks. This is a thankless task which largely goes unseen, the problem is caused by a small minority of people who either don't think or don't care but these volunteers genuinely do. I think these people deserve our thanks and if you would like to support these community groups search for "Litterless Cornwall" to find out more.

The latest round of cycling and walking improvements around Saltash are currently under consultation, this involves sections of Callington Road from the top of Longstone Park up to Gilston Road near Carkeel Roundabout. Please take a look and give us your views, the plans include a change of the junction on Gilston Road to make all traffic turn left away from Carkeel roundabout and it would be great to get your views on this in particular. The consultation can be found by searching for "cornwall consultation finder".

Saltash Aims at Plastic Free Status

By the end of this year it is intended that Saltash should achieve all the objectives required for the town to enter 2020 with Plastic Free Status.

The Town Council agreed upon this following submission of a 'plastic free report' by Councillor Julia Peggs. This was also submitted to the 'Observer' and included in your August 'Town Messenger' section of the paper.

As submitted the town must now work with businesses in the community to help reduce single use plastic, inspire the wider community to spread the plastic free message and mobilise the community to hold clean ups, mass unwraps or other awareness raising events (these are already occurring through Saltash Environmental Action). The town must also set up a steering group of local

stakeholders meeting at least twice a year, and the Town Council must pass a resolution supporting the journey to Plastic Free Status – as Saltash Town Council now has.

The Council must now lead by example, removing as much single use plastic from their premises as possible as well as encourage plastic free initiatives.

A representative of the Council must be named on the Plastic Free Steering Group – Councillor Peggs is already appointed Saltash's Council plastic free champion. An official letter must be written supporting the initiative which Mayor Councillor Gloria Challen has agreed to write.

Council Crackdown of Littering and Dog Fouling

As part of the war against dog fouling, littering and fly tipping local councillors and council staff now can have special powers to report any incidents which they witness.

The scheme is being pioneered in Cornwall and Saltash councillors have attended a course in which they were introduced to the new 'incident report card'. The card is completed with details of the time, location and description of the person involved and is then e-mailed to or sent to Cornwall's neighbourhood

and public protection service together with photographic evidence. Action can then be taken without the witness being involved in confronting the person involved. Training has to be undergone before authorisation is given to use the report cards, which can cover anything from major fly tipping to discarding of a cigarette end.

Cornwall Council intends to prepare a map showing where reported incidents are most prevalent so that enforcement officers may be directed there.

The public cannot use the report card but can still report any incidents that they witness through the contact details given on the Cornwall Council's website.

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E: maryecrawford@hotmail.com

LOWENA



A musical drama based on local historical events at Wearde Camp, Saltash during the First World War

REHEARSALS: Burraton Methodist Church (Janieva Court) on Monday evenings from 6.45 – 8.00pm from 9th September
Burraton Community Centre on Wednesday afternoons from 1.15 - 2.45pm from 4th September

Performance: St Stephens Church
Fri & Sat, 22nd & 23rd Nov 6.30 pm - £5.00
Further information & Tickets

Sue Hooper – 01752 843073 suehcf@msn.com
Julian Barnicoat – info@stillvoices.co.uk
Lynn Marsh – 01752 844255 – lynnsmarsh@aol.com

Happy Birthday Saltash Scrapstore!

A year on after opening their doors to the public in Fore Street, Saltash Scrapstore are pleased to be celebrating their 1st birthday on 13th October and what a busy year it's been!

Running workshops for all ages, engaging in community projects and involving the primary schools, making contact with local businesses to make use of their scrap and all the while recycling and reusing as much as possible, saving hundreds of items from landfill. The project has been so well received, that the Scrapstore will inevitably continue to trade in to 2020.

"We now have over 450 members and are growing day after day. The word is getting out about our affordable yet professionally run workshops, utilising knowledgeable and generous volunteers' skills, along with our recycled resources," commented the Scrapstore team. Since the new retail park opened, supporting Fore Street businesses becomes more important than ever before.

Launch of new membership cards for the Scrapstore for 2020, will be available to purchase during their 1st Birthday celebrations on Friday 11th and Saturday 12th October. This will offer 15 months membership for the price of 12 months. "We will be offering 3 extra months to anyone purchasing during our birthday celebrations, plus a little Prosecco and nibbles in the evening." Why not come along on one of these evenings to find out more about what they do and what they have coming up over the festive period.

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TRIPS



October 2019

Thur 3rd 10am - 5 pm (£10.00)

Budleigh Salterton lovely town & sea front & Museum, return via Exmouth

Sun 6th 11.30am - 4pm (£6)

Lunch at Boringdon Golf Club & Saltram House
Non Members £12.20

Wed 9th 10am - 6pm (£9.00)

Tavistock Goosey Fair

Sun 13th 10.30am - 5pm (£13.00)

Lunch at Mount Pleasant Inn Dawlish (mains around £11) New trip

Thurs 17th 11.30am - 5pm (£6)

Antony House—Torpoint
National Trust non members £11.70
Guided tours of the gardens

Tue 22nd 11am - 5pm (£8)

Buckland Abbey - Yelverton
National Trust Non Members £13.60

Sun 27th 11am-5pm (£11.00)

Lunch at Britannia Inn and Par Market

Thurs 31st 10am - 3.30pm (£6)

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To Town Centre - Supermarkets and Tamar View Nurseries.

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

Nearly a hundred years ago a skilled craftsman built a dry stonewall around the edge of my property. Over the weekend of the 9th, 10th or 11th of August, probably during the hours of darkness, a thief caused considerable damage by stealing several of the large supporting stones, rendering this portion of the wall dangerous. Expensive prompt repairs had to be carried out to ensure safety. At first I put it down to the extreme weather conditions but then it was discovered that the damage could have been due to mindless, probably, drunken vandalism but the removal of many of the large and heavy stones made it more likely to be a targeted attack on private property. I have reported the theft to the police. It would be most unlikely that one anyone could have carried that weight of stones unless there were more than one person involved or that they had transport. I love Saltash and have lived here very happily for many years and intend to end my days here but I no longer feel as safe as I did in my own home due to someone else's action.



Should you find an unexpected pile of 6 or 7 large quarry stones on your property please let the Saltash Observer know
V. Tindal, Saltash

**Press Secretaries
and Correspondents
please email your
copy to**

maryecrawford@hotmail.com

Telephone Numbers

**07971484872 or
01579 345699**

Phone Boxes in Peril

One public telephone box in Saltash is being disconnected and another use sought for it, while another box is threatened with being removed.

The box adjacent to the station building, which is on railway property, is to be disconnected having only recorded twenty calls last year. This is a traditional 'red' box of 1930's design and in keeping with the station building currently under restoration. It has been agreed that the box should remain and be adapted by the town, with Saltash Rotary Club being interested possibly to house a defibrillator there.

The telephone threatened with removal is in Alamein Road alongside the football field. BT have advised that this is one of 104 public payphones in Cornwall identified and proposed for removal under a 90 day consultation period.

Town Councillors noted that 38 phone calls were recorded from this phone over the last year, more than from others marked for removal. They agreed to write to BT commenting that it is relatively well used, it is in an area where many residents do not have mobile phones, and it should be allowed to remain in service.

A phone box marked down for removal in Church Road, Tideford is one of a number in Cornwall that had no calls made from it over the last twelve months.

Childrens' War Poetry and Prose Printed In Anthology

The many spectacular and poignant events organised locally to commemorate the centenary of World War I may eventually fade from memory. However local schoolchildren with adult support have worked hard to ensure a lasting tribute to the centenary of the year when the great guns finally fell silent.

Involving schools in Saltash, Landrake and St, Budeaux the Saltash World War I Commemorative Committee was fortunate to obtain the support of performance poet Andy Blackwell. He not only worked with committee members in leading poetry workshops in schools but wrote and produced a play based on two Saltash boys in 1914. The enthusiasm that he generated has resulted in a beautifully produced and illustrated anthology "Saltash Remembered 1914-1918".

Many youngsters wrote in character as being on the front line, others as children, wives or sweethearts thinking of loved ones in the killing fields. As one reader commented, "You'd almost think they'd been there". One school student wrote of "sleep standing in the slight sludgy swamp that drains us", others can "smell the remains of lost souls" or can see "scrutinising smoke hangs heavy above our heads" or feel "thick layers of mud are slowly creeping up". Owen of Landrake School concludes his poem "as the smell of death gets closer and

closer, we still curse on, we still curse on..." As his schoolmate Isabella concludes, "It was all a big, big lie". Perhaps as good a summary of the Great War as any ever written. There is also a moving series of letters, supposedly from a child to father who increasingly experience the reality of war.

The childrens' writings came with some adult prose and poetry (including from your Observer scribe) and some translated from the German side of the trenches. So much was enthusiastically written that the fifty-six page bound book could not hold it all. So a second book, available for readings and exhibitions has been printed to ensure that none is left out. The main anthology, which includes photographs and memories of 2018, as well as CD of the writers reading their work, will be distributed to all participants and made available for public perusal. Those involved in the project, to ensure that they receive a copy, are asked to contact Lynn Marsh on E: lynnsmarsh@aol.com

A Model World at Ashtorre

Prepare to be amazed at a world in miniature as Saltash Model Club holds its first exhibition at Ashtorre Rock Centre on October 5th and 6th down on the Waterside.

The club was formed eighteen months ago and brings together enthusiasts who model a variety of prototypes and in various materials, all of which will be on display at their first public showing. Militaria, ancient and modern includes tanks from both World Wars,

while ships, aircraft and figures from different ages will be on display created in several differing scales. On the Sunday there will be a stall selling models for all, from those tempted to try their hand at an absorbing new hobby, to those who are already expert and enjoy a new challenge.

The exhibition will be open both days from 10a.m to 4p.m, the admission £1 for adults, children free, with proceeds to the Royal British Legion.

The club, which meets on the last Wednesday of every month at the Essa Club, wishes to thank the Ashtorre committee for making available the ideal venue for their first exhibition.

New Name for Station Building

Saltash station building, where renovation is proceeding apace, is to be officially named 'Isambard House' on completion.

This is in tribute to the Isambard Brunel whose iconic bridge can be viewed from the station. It is anticipated that numbers of visitors will be attracted to the enhanced building which it is hoped will display a few historic items relating to Brunel and the adjacent bridge.

The station building is not the original Brunel construction. While the original station remains at St. Germans, that in Saltash is a later Victorian replacement but is still an interesting and historic example of railway building construction.

Tell your friends & family to visit us at...
www.saltash-observer.co.uk

Saltash Social Club

Newly Refurbished Members Bar

Now in Use

New Members Always Welcome

**Forthcoming FREE Events in the
Members Bar**

September 2019

**Sat 21st Skool Daze Energetic Covers Band
Sat 28th The Jefferson Archive Heavy Rock**

October 2019

Sat 5th The Dockneys

Sat 12th Stargazer (Glam Rock)

Sat 19th Rebel 47 (First Timers)

Friday 25th HELLS BELLS (AC/DC Tribute)

Members £5 Visitors £10

Sat 26th Ashes to Ashes (The 89's Band)

November 2019

Sat 2nd Whiskey Falls

Friday 8th Totally Tina (Fab Tina Turner Tribute)

Members £5 Visitors £10

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Main Course

Stuffed turkey breast wrapped in pancetta, roast potatoes & seasonal veg

Confit duck leg, celeriac mash, tomato & butterbean compote

Bacon wrapped monkfish, lemon mash & black olive sauce

Roast baby squash, stuffed with leek & pomegranate risotto

Desserts

Chocolate ganache torte, wild cherry sorbet

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As the Regatta & Summer Sun Fade Away - We Enter Into Autumn...



Maritime Mutiny Recalled by Replica Boat at Regatta

The Swashbuckling tale of the Mutiny on the "Bounty" was recalled during Saltash regatta by a visit from a replica of the launch into which Captain Bligh had been cast adrift. The replica had itself replicated the amazing 3600 nautical mile voyage which Bligh and the loyal crew of eighteen had undertaken from the coast of Tonga to Timor.

Channel 4 who had filmed the voyage of nine crewmen skippered by Conrad Humphreys who subsequently purchased her had commissioned the replica launch. Your Observer's correspondent was invited aboard by her skipper to hear of how that fantastic feat of endurance in 1789 was replicated with two of the crew being camera men.

"We had our fair share of challenges and, like Captain Bligh, a great deal of rain in the early days leaving us soaked and shivering at night," we were told. The greatest challenge in that seven metre long replica wooden launch was thirst, especially when they were becalmed for weeks and lost 25% of their body weight. Like Bligh's crew they ate fish, including a black tip reef shark, but unlike him they did not dine off the booby birds that landed on the boat. Other maritime encounters were with a salt water crocodile, a bull shark with which they nearly collided, and a host of venomous sea snakes just as they were becalmed in 40 deg heat and longed to enter the water. The most amazing encounter however was with a pod of around eleven false killer whales who swam alongside them for around half an hour, one with a tuna in its mouth.

Now Conrad Humphreys has launched the Bounty Project with The Island Trust to provide opportunities for young people, especially to experience the thrill of sailing the launch and learning new team building skills.

Captain Bligh was a Cornishman and opinions differ as to whether he was truly the tyrant of legend. That he was a skilled navigator is beyond doubt, and doubtless he would be proud to see his launch, in replica, back in Cornish waters as part of a sea faring festival.

Regatta Hosts Italian Rowing Team

Saltash regatta was promised an international element with two crews from the Italian National Fixed Seat Rowing Federation travelling to the town to participate in the mixed gig championships. This was to be only the second time that the Italian Federation sent crews to Cornwall, following their highly successful visit to Mounts Bay and Mousehole regattas last year.

The Town Council agreed to host a reception for the Italian visitors at Ashtorre during the regatta weekend and provide them all with souvenir certificates.

Each year several clubs from the South West and Wales travel to Italy to take part in the European Fixed Seat Championships. Last year the Mayor of Corgeno welcomed them so this year Saltash was to be returning the hospitality.

SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...



Access time away from Parliament gives me the opportunity to spend extra time in my Constituency. I recently spent some time in Saltash and was pleased to accompany Cllr Sheila Lennox Boyd, President of the Club, on a visit to Saltash United Football Club at the Kimberly Stadium in Saltash. It was nice that the Chairman of Cornwall Council Hilary Frank was also able to join us. I was very impressed to see the newly refurbished Club House and learn how the Club is now open to everyone. I can certainly recommend a visit.

Saltash United were recently awarded a grant which was used to purchase a new Tractor to keep the pitch in tip top order. I was pleased to meet the groundsman and to meet the fantastic team of players who went on to win the local derby 9 - 0 although I was unable to show bias because I am the MP for both of the Saltash Clubs playing.

I was also pleased to meet up with Andy Rance of Livewire when I popped down to the Saltash Waterfront. I was grateful to Andy for updating me about the work carried out by Livewire to help young people who suffer from mental health issues. Whilst I welcome the Government announcement in October last year of an extra £20.5 billion which will see the health and education systems come together so our children can access the help they need at school, I do believe that more investment could be made into providing vital services to young people through facilities like Livewire. I will do my best to take this message forward but in the meantime I would urge anyone who feels they can make a donation to this very important facility in Saltash to consider taking part in their fundraising efforts or making a donation.

I would like to thank Saltash Town Council for hosting a meeting with local residents to discuss the junction where

Gilston Road joins Callington Road. This busy road serves as access to MacDonalds, Lidl, Costa, the Food Warehouse and many other businesses on the estate. Having experienced it myself I know that at peak times it can take over 20 minutes to leave the car park which serves many of these businesses. This is clearly unacceptable both for the businesses and the customers they serve. It was a useful meeting where we discussed many possible options. There was general consensus that the main problem however is the much larger junction around 100 metres away where Callington Road crosses the A38 at Carkeel roundabout. I was pleased to report that in discussions I had already had following my survey of the area that there was acceptance that the current Carkeel junction layout needed improvements and that these were already being looked at. It was also felt by most at the meeting that the Gilston Road should be widened where it meets Callington Road to three lanes to allow a traffic wanting to turn left to do so and not be hampered by traffic turning right. As some of the money earmarked for the junction improvement, which was coming from Government, was time restricted I undertook to write to the Minister to ask that we would have longer so that the much needed improvements to Carkeel could be taken into account. I will report more on this in future columns.

I have been spending quite a bit of my time in the constituency knocking on doors. I would like to thank all those who answered my call and especially those who have given me some new issues that I can work on. I apologise to all those who I have not knocked on personally yet. I would like to still here your views and would welcome a call to my office in The Parade in Liskeard, a phone on 01579 344428 or an email to sheryll@sheryllmurray.com

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Oggy Oggy Oggy! No No No

An array of exotic aromas attempted hungry Saltash regatta goers as they strolled along Old Ferry Road between the entertainments on Waterside and Brunel Green.

The street was lined with stalls offering delicious dishes from the near, middle and Far East, as well as every corner of Europe.

Only one dish was not, it seemed, available at our Cornish regatta. Nowhere could be found a traditional Cornish pasty.

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Banners Will Brighten the Heart of the Town

Artistic reminders of our town's proud history, positioned dramatically through the town centre, are intended to catch the eye of residents and visitors as well as encourage all to visit and to enjoy what Fore Street has to offer.

In order to boost the town centre and its friendly largely locally owned businesses the Town Council discussed various options for enhancing the environment. It was agreed that banners were needed as a priority and six initial images have been selected. These portray people and places associated with historic Saltash such as Brunel and Ann Glanville, the Guildhall, Museum and Mary Newman's Cottage.

It is anticipated that they should be up in place by the end of September.

Once they are up further images will be considered and local businesses will be invited to sponsor them.

Observer Telephone Numbers
07971484872
or **01579 345699**

Home Would Reduce "Green Gap"

A proposed single storey sunken dwelling by the lane between Saltash and Forder would greatly reduce the "green gap" between the two communities and should be refused. This was the recommendation of Saltash Town Council who considered the application for building in the garden of Crannog House. They were also concerned at the road across off a narrow and busy lane being a serious traffic hazard and that the changes to the hedgerow to achieve safe access would cause significant environmental damage to the hedgerow and trees within it. Concern was also expressed as to the building in a flooding area and the downstream effects of reducing water absorption capacity of the site.

After debate there was an equal split for and against the recommendation of approval, with the chairman's casting vote coming down for recommending refusal.

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the letters spell Treburley
Liffey 9 Eyes Re-arranged
5 Rooks 6 Tea 7 Red 8
Yodelling 4 Umouchables
1 Ely 2 Biggles 3

Leave Space for Fire Brigade

Drivers who park in places that would prevent fire engines or ambulances reaching an emergency have been ticketed by local firefighters.

Saltash firemen, while out testing hydrants on the Saltash streets, were concerned to note the number of cars parked in such a way that they would have been unable to get past in their fire engines.

'Tickets' which do not incur a penalty but which notify drivers of the danger to life that their parking could cause, were placed on a number of vehicles that were inappropriately parked.

Saltash a Town of Hedgehog Heroes

With numbers of hedgehogs nationwide falling drastically Saltash Town Council had decided to help preserve these friendly small animals by becoming a hedgehog friendly town.

The town's services committee decided upon this after discussion, having received a letter from a local resident concerned at the number of hedgehogs found dead on our increasingly busy roads.

The British Hedgehog Preservation Society has responded by including the Town Council, as well as that of Callington, as 'Hedgehog Heroes'. This means that the Town Council will instruct its staff as to how to protect hedgehogs when strimming grass and undergrowth. It will also post notices of its boards as well as social media as to how to encourage hedgehogs into gardens, where they eat many garden pests, and how to protect and

preserve them. This advice includes leaving gaps in fences to allow free movement, using organic means, not pesticides or pellets which can enter the food chain, to keep down slugs and other pests, and in particular checking before strimming and especially before lighting bonfires in which hedgehogs may be sleeping. Shallow dishes of water, cat or dog food are appreciated especially in long dry periods, but not milk since hedgehogs are lactose intolerant.

The snuffles of a friendly hedgehog going about its nightly wanderings is a part of our natural world which it would be tragic to lose and Saltash Council seeks to encourage residents to do all possible to maintain our local Mrs. Tiggywinkle.

Letter to the Editor..

Good morning
I was amused (in a black sort of way) to read Sheryl Murray's view that Boris Johnson plans to unite the country. Either we inhabit different countries or she is dazzled blind by his 'electric' charisma.

His sole aim is to unite the Tory party... purged of wets, into a party of hardliners. Happily Murray is one such, one who will always follow the party line, always putting ideology ahead of open-mindedness debate (follow her voting pattern, her attending of debates, her replies to letters).

As for uniting the country... seldom has the country been so bitterly and angrily divided, as one half seeks to dominate and ignore the other half. This bitter division is what Johnson thrives on, as it energises his extremist project. It is the logical outcome of years of Tory policy, with unity of the party prioritised over the interests of the country. This was the cynical logic behind Cameron's referendum, not a starry-eyed view that 'the people' should be heard.

Murray is too free with her use of the word "democratic". We have a Parliamentary democracy (she should know) and referendums are by definition advisory in our constitution. The strength of opinion on both sides could have been a constructive pause for thought for the government, rather than a leap into an action which is reminiscent of the Charge of the Light Brigade.

I pray that in the next election, perhaps very soon, we will all come to our senses and steer away from the narrow interests of the Tory party, locally and nationally. There are plenty of better ideas about, even if our current voting system is biased to suppress them.

Sincerely
Richard Sowman
Saltash

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Conundrum Corner

Taking the initial letter to the one-word answers to the following nine questions can you re-arrange them to make a Cornish place name?

- 1 Which English City's Cathedral is known as The Ship of the Fens? (3)
- 2 Which literary character's opponent was Erich von Stalheim? (7)
- 3 What is the name of the style of singing normally associated with Alpine dwellers? (9)
- 4 Which group of crime fighters was led by Eliot Ness? (12)
- 5 At the start of a standard game of Chess which pieces occupy the four corners? (5)
- 6 What type of drink is Darjeeling? (3)
- 7 The leaves of the Henna plant are used to make a dye of which colour? (3)
- 8 Which river flows through Dublin? (6)
- 9 Which part of your body would suffer from Astigmatism? (4)

Answers above

Essa Files

A few years ago I had the pleasure of playing football a few times at Kimberley Stadium, the home of Saltash United, as they kindly let the school book the pitch for our annual 'Eat my Goal' teachers vs parent match. Indeed on one occasion I officially kicked off the match as Mayor, then did a quick change so I could play in goal (we won that time, just saying). This is just one example of something the club does for the local community, and the same is true of several other sports clubs in Saltash: indeed as Mayor I also enjoyed a number of trips up to the terraces of the rugby club including to see their amazing youth set up.

This is particularly in my mind this week because my home football team, Bury FC, has just been expelled from the league after failing to meet deadlines to sort out their finances, and is probably about to be completely wound up. Bury is a club with a 125-year history and two FA Cup wins to its name, including the biggest ever win in an FA Cup Final (6-0 Derby County, 1903 for anyone taking notes): a record that I have bored many listeners with over the years.

Now I can't pretend that I was a big fan: I was there at Gigg Lane in 1997 when they last won a title (what's now League 1), I've been to see them a couple of times when they played at Argyle, and I follow the results. I may even have exchanged a bit of good spirited banter with some

Argyle fans last season when Bury when up and they went down (in exchange for the banter the previous season when we went down and Argyle didn't!). But that's about it. I didn't grow up on the terraces, I don't have blue and white blood in my veins, and I have a scarf but definitely not a tattoo. I also haven't travelled the 300 miles back to the town Bury since my Mum moved down to Cornwall.

Nevertheless this end to the club is a tragedy for my home club, and a big blow to my home community. A lot of old school friends up there are genuinely devastated and I fully understand why and feel a bit of it myself. Bury FC was an important part of Bury life, just as United, Saltash Rugby Club, Caradon Gig Club and many others are important to our community here: even for those who aren't members and fans they are part of what makes Saltash the place that it is and their loss would be felt very strongly.

There are still desperate efforts afoot to get Bury saved and reinstated, or if not then to start a 'phoenix club' from the ashes. I hope they succeed. In the meantime this sad happening should remind sports fans everywhere, and those who don't follow a particular club but appreciate their important role in the community, to support and value our local clubs because we'd miss them if they were gone.

Adam Killeya

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The Tamar Rivers

The Bridges - The Brothers

A Tale of Two Tamars...

Celebrating the launch of the Lottery-funded Tamar Bridge Visitor Centre, 20 lucky locals recently won a literally 'once in a lifetime' ascent of the eastern bridge tower. Just after, I ascended the same ladder rungs, suitably belayed and hard-hatted, behind a Westcountry TV duo, surrounded by enclosing, almost shaft-like concrete walls. Cars whizzing under grids below our feet, after the fifth ladder we finally emerged on to a steel-fenced observation platform with a panorama to die for (not

traffic - taxis, tankers, three-wheelers, all flee east and west on the three-lane blacktop, the A38, 50,000 a day. They're only halted at teal-coloured tollbooths one end, where they pay for the privilege.

The big river's sleepy this morning. A single southbound fishing boat trails a white furrow past countless tethered sailboats, obediently awaiting windy voyages; the wooded banks of the Lynher are quiet; to our left a distinctive serpent-like snout emerges from Brunel's iconic Royal Albert Bridge - one of the new green Hitachi trains snakes silently into a tunnel under sprawling Plymouth. Upriver, the quiet arsenal beneath the Tellytubbies

dominate the skyline. Our host, Engineering Manager Richard Cole, reminds us annual maintenance costs for 335 bridge metres are £2 million, with a single bolt costing as much as £500! Wow!

MEANWHILE... 10,921 miles away, my Brisbane-based brother, Martin, was touring Tasmania's Tamar Valley where George Town has a spectacular river bridge to rival ours, the 432-metre Batman Bridge, named after founder of Melbourne, John Batman. The town also boasts a lighthouse similar to our Hoe's Smeaton's Tower, with a foghorn audible for 40 miles!

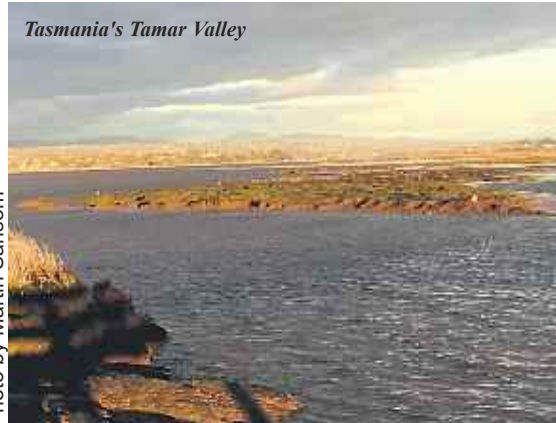
Their Tamar River is brackish and tidal throughout its 43-mile length, in places 500 metres wide and penetrable to shipping. Martin enthused about the valley, driveable both sides, as an outdoor pursuits playground, offering flyfishing, a boardwalked wetlands reserve, bird sanctuaries and amazing vegetation - massive walk-in gumtrees and tree ferns 20 feet tall! And there are at least 20 wineries. A slight wine connoisseur, Martin described the white as better than the red and similar to the newish champagne being attempted in England! Beware though, there are 3 deadly snakes in Tasmania too!

Reflecting early settlers, local names proliferate including Exton, Exeter,



Bridges over the Tamar to Saltash

Photo by Ian Robinson



Tasmania's Tamar Valley

Photo by Martin Sansom

literally!) The view past the battleship-grey superstructure just hits you! You simply run out of superlatives up there!!! 108 feet below, Dinky Toy

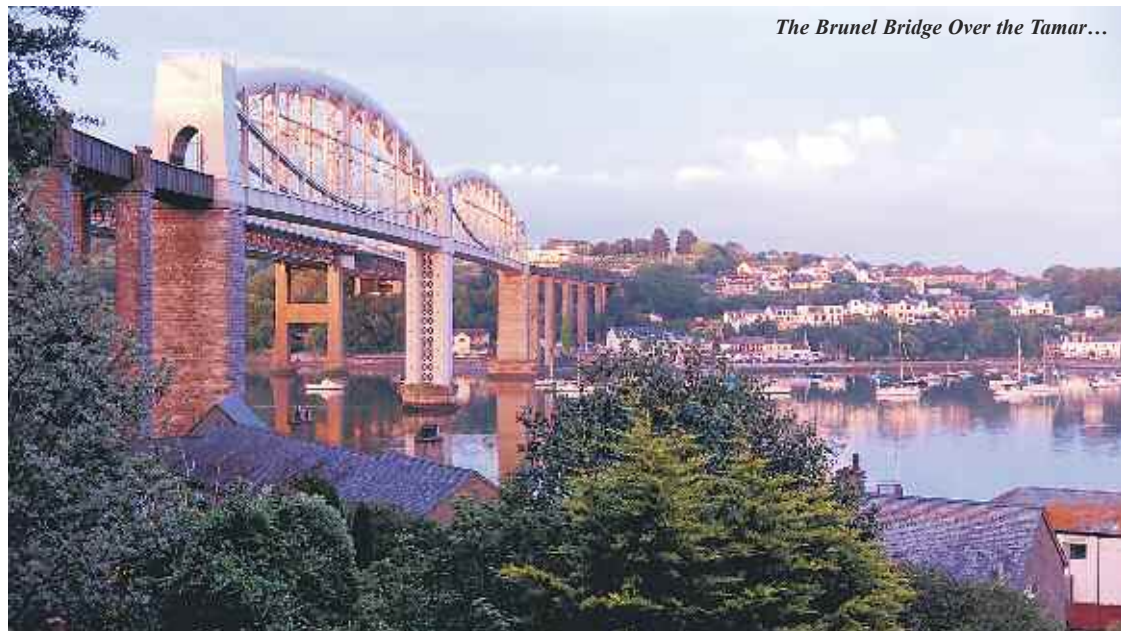
meadow is without attendant tugboats Lilly and Deborah; beyond the serene silver surface, distant Dartmoor competes with Bodmin to



Tasmania's Tamar Valley

Photo by Martin Sansom

Cornwall, Weymouth, and Devonport, where the ferry crosses the Bass Strait to the mainland. Beaconsfield is prominent too, with a long-established goldmine history and remembered for a successful mine rescue as recently as 2006; Martin well remembers the pasty shop there "with real Cornish pasties," and the pub serving up kangaroo and wallaby burgers! And popular, spread-out Launceston (pron. Lawncesston), a Truro-sized city with lovely Victorian buildings and a big riverside brewery, known for its lager-like beer since the 1880s. Here the North and South Esk rivers become the Tamar River with its spectacular Cataract Gorge giving my brother a memorable hike... and tiny Sidmouth, 2 houses! He also enjoyed a 2



The Brunel Bridge Over the Tamar...

Photo by Ian Robinson

hour walk by the Esk, comparing it to our smallish River Otter at Budleigh

Salterton, in contrast to Tasmania's Tamar, a big estuary broadening as wide as our River

Exe, back home in Exmouth. Although abandoned, as August is winter with single

figure temperatures and snow higher up, he mentioned a Fairy Penguin colony, the world's smallest... lots of empty nests in the gorse, though they were rewarded with a few humpback whales off the headland. Also on the ornithological front, a roadrunner like a giant chicken, black swans, a lot of birds of prey, and the superb blue-tailed fairywren frequently caught his eye... plus a lucky glimpse of two duck-billed platypuses!

I hitch-hiked round Tazzy in 1982... strikes me it's time I did it again!

Ian Robinson.

Martin Sansom
(Tasmania Pictures)



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