

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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September 2022 - Issue 366

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Saltash Mourns the Passing of the Late Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II After 70 Years of Dutiful and Selfless Service 6th February 1952 – 8th September 2022

United Kingdom and other Commonwealth realms

The whole of Saltash, along with the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth realms and indeed all over the world are still in shock at the sudden passing of our beloved late Queen Elizabeth II.

Although our late Queen was in her 96th year, she was working right up until a few days of her death, and although she did become quite frail, she was in excellent spirits and gave audience to the outgoing and incoming Prime Ministers of our Country with great dignity and sincerity just two days before her passing.

Having met our late Sovereign on two proud and

separate occasions, I write this with a heavy heart, but also in commemoration, celebration and gratitude for her tireless 70 years dedicated unequivocally to her subjects.

**Acceded the Throne
1952 – Coronation 1953**
Queen Elizabeth II acceded to the Throne on 6 February 1952, following the untimely death of her father King George VI - and it was on 2 June 1953 Princess Elizabeth's Coronation took place at Westminster Abbey.

May I therefore, reflect a little upon our late Sovereign, and the most famous women in the world.

Elizabeth II was the youngest monarch to succeed the throne since the 18 year old Princess Victoria became Queen in 1837, and following a 900 year tradition.

The streets were lined with hundreds of thousands of people of all ages, many of whom had camped out all night to make sure of excellent vantage points.

Television Coverage
For the first time ever, the events of the day were televised giving millions of people across the world the opportunity to witness at first hand this ancient ceremony, and wonderful example of Royal pomp and pageantry.

Our late Queen's dutiful service and commitment to her subjects and that of a wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother, have all been well documented over the past 70 years, so I

will only give a few highlights and a mention of when as Princess Elizabeth and Queen Elizabeth II she visited Saltash.

**Princess Elizabeth
visits Saltash**
The then Princess Elizabeth visited South East Cornwall on 21st October 1949. When she arrived in Saltash Elizabeth inspected the Saltash cubs and brownies and their adult personnel of Brown Owl (B. Crabb), Scout District Commissioner (D.C. Vosper B.E.M.), Duchy Land Steward (T.M. Stanier), and Cub master (W. Gard).

Many hundreds of local people and visitors alike lined the Saltash Waterside to see the Princess before she boarded the Saltash Ferry by car, to Saltash Passage for her next Royal visits whilst in the locality. There will still be people around today that will remember that special occasion I feel sure!

**Queen Elizabeth
visits Saltash**
Again in 1962 Queen Elizabeth II visited Saltash – she was welcomed by the Mayor and Mayoress of Saltash, Vernon and Margaret Seccombe at Saltash Railway Station; and following a reception Her Majesty went on to visit the Duchy of Cornwall farms near Saltash; joyfully many hundreds of people thronged the streets of Saltash to witness such an honourable visit of their Sovereign Queen.

Constitutional Monarch
Elizabeth reigned as a constitutional monarch through major political changes such as the troubles in Northern Ireland, devolution in the

United Kingdom, the decolonisation of Africa, and the United Kingdom's accession to the European Communities and withdrawal from the European Union.

The number of her realms has varied over time as territories have gained independence, and as some realms have become Republics.

Her many historic visits and meetings include a state visit to the Republic of Ireland in 2011 and visits to and from five Popes.

The Queen welcomed and entertained at Buckingham Palace, leaders and Presidents of many countries from all around the World – including Presidents of America, leaders of Russia, Germany, Turkey, India, South Africa and the Arab States.

Round-the-World Tour
In 1953, the Queen and her husband the late Duke of Edinburgh, embarked on a seven-month round-the-world tour, visiting 13 countries and covering more than 40,000 miles - by land, sea and air.

She became the first Reigning monarch of Australia and New Zealand to visit those nations.

Throughout her reign, the Queen made 112 State visits to other countries and tours of the Commonwealth; she is the most widely travelled head of State in history.

Jubilees
Significant celebratory events have included the Queen's Coronation in 1953 and the celebrations of her Silver, Golden, Diamond and Platinum Jubilees in 1977, 2002, 2012, and 2022 respectively, all of which Saltash has celebrated led by the Saltash Corporation and hundreds of hard working and devoted volunteers.

Longevity and Service
Elizabeth was the longest-lived and longest-reigning British monarch; the longest-serving female Head of State.

continued on page 2

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News from Saltash Town Council
Konsel an dre Essa



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Telephone: 0300 1234 101
Email: schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk

Education Welfare:
Telephone: 0300 1234 101
educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk

Housing Department
Telephone: 0300 1234 161
Email: info@cornwallhousing.org.uk
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.

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

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

Town Messenger news is supplied by the Town Council

Cornwall Councillors/ Wards

Saltash Essa ED
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cldr.hilary.frank@cornwall.gov.uk

Saltash Tamar ED
Cllr Sheila Lennox-Boyd
cldr.sheila.lennox-boyd@cornwall.gov.uk

Saltash Trematon & Landrake ED
Cllr Martin Worth
cldr.martin.worth@cornwall.gov.uk

Cornwall Councillors Cover such services as:
Housing – Education
Social Services
Highways
Waste & Recycling
Tamar Bridge

From the Mayor of Saltash

I am sure that the past few weeks have been a real challenge for many people, with so much sadness and grief, tinged with memories of the life of the late Queen but also balanced with the celebration of the Accession of King Charles III as Monarch.

The news of the Queens passing was announced to councillors just as we had started a committee meeting, after a few minutes silence and contemplation we called a halt to our meeting and started to put into action a protocol for this sad time.

Town Councils have definite instructions and directions of what must take place at very specific times and dates following an announcement of this kind, such as, website and Social Media posts to opening a book of condolence and planning the two minutes silence and floral tribute area. The whole council team pulled so well together, to ensure that we did all the things that were expected of us in a professional and respectful manner.

It was my honour to repeat the national Proclamation of



Accession of King Charles III, in the Guildhall, the same words were being spoken around the country in cities and towns of the nations. It did feel strange engaging in these celebrations with calls of 'three cheers for the King' on an evening that was 'bookended' with the nations period of mourning.

On the eve of Queen Elizabeth II funeral, there was a moving Service of Commemoration at St Nicholas and St Faith Church. I would like to thank all of those who attended to pay their respects in this manner, and the church for being so accommodating.

During this period of mourning, the town council

postponed scheduled council meetings, so we have a little catching up to do. I feel sure our town councillors and our excellent staff will get us back 'up to speed' in the next couple of weeks, but there will be a busy meeting schedule.

On a personal note, Sarah and I would both like to thank Rev Tim Parkman, who as Mayors Chaplain has proved himself especially invaluable during this challenging time, with his sound advice and always the right amount of wit and humour!

We love walking around the footpaths in and around Saltash, and we are looking forward to the 8th October when we will join the 'Beating of the bounds', a long tradition of walking a town or parish boundary. Saltash is so fortunate to largely have a river boundary, but we will walk from Moditenham Quay, in Kingsmill Lake, just north of the China Fleet Club, across



Photo taken following a 'Two Minute silence' and the laying of floral tributes, noon Friday 9th September

to Notter Bridge, on the Lyhner River. Bus shuttles will take people to St Germans where we can catch a train back, which runs close to the river and hence boundary, before stopping off

at Isambard House for a Cream Tea. You are all welcome to come along on this fun event. See elsewhere on this page for more details.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Prince William and

Catherine on becoming the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall, I am sure the Duchy of Cornwall is in good hands

Councillor Richard Bickford Mayor of Saltash 2022-23

Your Town Council & Wards

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Mayor:

Cllr Richard Bickford

Deputy Mayor:

Cllr Julia Peggs

Town Clerk:

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T: 844846
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Councillors' Telephone Numbers can be obtained at The Guildhall.

Saltash Town Council, The Guildhall 12 Lower Fore Street Saltash PL12 6JX Tel: 01752 844846
E: enquiries@saltash.gov.uk W: www.saltash.gov.uk
Facebook: [SaltashTownCouncilOfficial](https://www.facebook.com/SaltashTownCouncilOfficial)
Twitter: [SaltashTC](https://twitter.com/SaltashTC)



Mike Pitches Photography

Beating the Saltash Boundary!

Come along and walk the traditional five mile walk around the land boundaries of Saltash stopping at each boundary marker on Saturday 8th October. As is tradition the Mayor of Saltash Councillor Richard Bickford will be bumped on the boundary stones.

The day will involve a bus and a train ride (Pay separately on train - around £3.50 per person, much less if travelling in groups of 3 or more) and end with a cream tea at Isambard House at Saltash Station.

Tickets are £5 per person and are available from the Saltash Library, Saltash Guildhall or via phone on 01752 844846. Pre-booking is essential.

Setting Saltash Town Councils Budget for 2023-24

Saltash Town Council are about to enter the annual Precept setting process, a period where we work out our budgets, this has direct implication on the Saltash Town Council portion of your Council Tax.

The process is an open and transparent one, carried out in open Committee meetings. Members of the public are welcome to any of these meetings, and are encouraged to attend and use the 'Public Questions' period to ask questions on any subject the Town Council have an interest in.

Councillors and Officers of the Council are always mindful of decisions around budgets and the knock-on impact to Council Tax payers, and should make balanced decisions on funding council services and projects.

A full list of Town Council meetings and their agendas is available on our website, and notices about the issuing of agendas are usually released on our Social Media feeds. If you have an interest, you might want to consider FOLLOWING our Facebook page (SaltashTown

Council Official) and setting it as a 'Favourite'.

You can ask a public question at almost all meetings, although those questions should be submitted by phone, letter, or email by noon the day before the meeting.

Councillor Richard Bickford Mayor of Saltash 2022-23

Excerpt from the Proclamation:



We, therefore, do now hereby with one voice and Consent of Tongue and Heart publish and proclaim that The Prince Charles Philip Arthur George is now, by the Death of our late Sovereign of Happy Memory, become our only lawful and rightful Liege Lord, Charles the Third.
GOD SAVE THE KING
RE SALWO DUW AN VYGHTERN

Continued from page 1

The Queen reigned during the leadership of 15 British Prime Ministers – from Winston Churchill to Liz Truss.

She experienced and mastered the changes of the Jet age, space age and modern technology and was a dab hand at computer skills and social media

Her late Majesty wore over 6,000 hats and far more outfits over the 70 years as Queen.

Her late Majesty performed her role as Sovereign with flawless professionalism, wisdom and sincerity.

The responsibilities of Monarchy took precedence over all else, and the public duties, of which she had never once tempted to avoid.

Elizabeth II accepted and honoured with grace and dignity her all powerful obligation to the United Kingdom, realms and the Commonwealth and at the same time she has strengthened immeasurably the function of a constitutional Monarchy; thus leaving a legacy that our new King Charles III has already

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



pledged to continue in her footsteps of faith, duty, dedication, selflessness, courage, wisdom and humour all underpinned and endorsed with the returning love of their Sovereign subjects.

Thank you Ma'am - RIP Sue Hooper MBE



Mike Pitches Photography



She Touched the Hearts of So Many

We all need someone to encourage us to embrace our better angels, and for 70 years Queen Elizabeth II, steadfast in her duty, brought us compassion in times of turbulence and constancy through change. Her presence and national address during the depths of Covid were soothing, and her Platinum Jubilee celebrations, marked with such joy here in Saltash, were like a beacon in a rough sea. She touched the hearts of so many.

A reach far beyond her realms

And this reach extended far beyond her realms. As President Macron said: "To you she was your Queen. To us, she was the Queen." There are, apparently, 195 countries in the world, and during her reign the late Queen made overseas trips to 117 of them, travelling well over a million miles - the equivalent of two return trips to the moon. As a professional interpreter and translator of Japanese, I was particularly drawn in by the news that the Emperor and Empress of Japan would attend her late Majesty's funeral. Traditionally, a Japanese emperor stays away from funerals, whether at home or abroad, because of a cultural belief rooted in the Shinto religion that considers death to be impure. The decision for the Imperial couple to attend the funeral underscores the importance and deep bond between the royal and imperial families, a bond that was reinforced when the current Emperor studied at Oxford in the 1980s.

In his memoir "The Thames and I", the Emperor has shared touching recollections of his two years at Oxford University, highlighting the warmth of welcome when he spent time with the Queen and Prince Philip at Balmoral in 1984 but also admitting to feeling nervous when being invited to tea at Buckingham Palace in 1983.

Essa Voices



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

A new Duke of Cornwall

But we will need to embrace the change, especially here in Cornwall where on the death of his grandmother Prince William succeeded his father as Duke of Cornwall, and took on the responsibilities for the Duchy of Cornwall. It's a private estate established by Edward III in 1337 to provide independent income to his son and heir to the throne, Prince Edward. In 1760 the Crown gave up its estates to the nation in exchange for an income, but the Duchy of Cornwall estates were not included in this deal. The Duchy owns 7,571 hectares of land in Cornwall, including part of the foreshore (fundus) of the River Tamar here in Saltash and the southern portion of Port Eliot estate stretching from Polbathic to the cliffs of Whitsand Bay, as well as housing estates, Tintagel Castle, the Duchy of Cornwall nursery in Lostwithiel and, intriguingly, the Oval cricket ground in London.

Recognising the new role of Prince William, we passed a motion in Cornwall Council in September offering the new Duke of Cornwall condolences on the loss of his grandmother and inviting him to address the Council and look at ways in which to build on the excellent working relationship and outcomes set in place by his father.

Grief is the price we pay for love

The Dean of Truro in his sermon at Truro Cathedral at the Commemorative Service of Thanksgiving for her life paid tribute to this enduring reach of the late Queen, to the way she touched the hearts of people far and wide, and to the way in which she embraced and honoured diversity.

As Queen Elizabeth herself said, though: grief is the price we pay for love. And for a nation who loved her so deeply, the impact of her death will be felt all the more keenly, especially as 87% of the population of this country have only ever known one monarch. People who were gathered on the steps of Truro Cathedral and in Saltash Guildhall to hear the reading of the Proclamation of Accession proclaiming Charles as King admitted to a slight sense of guilt when they joined together to say the unfamiliar words 'God Save the King.'

May flights of angels sing thee to thy rest



Mike Pitches Photography

It also feels like there are many here who would agree with the sentiments expressed by Charles in his first speech as King when he quoted Shakespeare to say: 'May flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.' Thank you, Ma'am, for everything.

King Charles, as Duke of Cornwall, sought to manage the Duchy in a way that is environmentally sustainable, financially viable and of meaningful value to the local community, establishing solid foundations for Prince William to build on. And reflecting on the joy that spilled over at the street parties and other celebrations at the time of the Platinum Jubilee, it feels like there are many here in Cornwall who would want to honour the memory of the Queen by actively supporting the Duchy's aims, helping Cornish neighbours at the same time.



God Save The King!



Cllr. Frank signing the Book of Condolence in the Guildhall

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Rain Didn't Dampen Regatta Spirits

A weekend of intermittent drizzle meant the crowds were not quite so dense as previous years, but Saltash Regatta once again proved a hugely successful community event, evidently enjoyed by the thousands who braved the weather. It takes more than Cornish mizzle to dampen the Saltash spirit!

Regatta has traditionally been held in June but this year was postponed to the first weekend of September to prevent it clashing with a diary of events crowded into June to mark the Queen's Jubilee, meaning that this year Summer was welcomed in by May Fair and seen out by the weekend of the Regatta and Waterside Festival.



Photo Mary Crawford

Mike Pitches Photography

was the highlight of the weekend. Crowds packed the area around the old ferry slipway for the grand Cardboard Boat Race, hosted by Redeemer Church. Twelve boats competed, all unique in design, ranging from The Core Youth Centre's 'No Periscope' to the 'Sponge Bob' vessel, bearing more than a striking resemblance to a familiar cartoon character. After



Mike Pitches Photography

A buzz of excitement spread along Fore Street on the Saturday morning as Saltash Town Band led the Civic Parade through the town to the Waterside. In opening what he believed to be the second oldest regatta in the country, Mayor Richard Bickford presented the award for the best dressed Parade participants to Brunel School, and paid tribute to members of the organising team, given excellent support this year by Saltash Air Cadets and Royal Navy trainee submarine engineers from HMS Drake SMQ.



Mike Pitches Photography

Fun in and Out of the Water

Then it was set fair for a day of fun in and out of the water. While dinghies raced along the Tamar, interrupted only for the gloriously helter-skelter paddleboard relay, Wreckers Morris dancers and a wide variety of music entertained the crowds on the two stages at Waterside and Jubilee Green. Linking the two entertainment centres were lines of stalls, including many of local organisations, while Jubilee Green itself was overflowing with stalls selling a wide variety of food and drink.

Sunday opened with an ecumenical service on Waterside Green held by Saltash Churches Together and attended by congregations from over five Saltash churches.

Later, the Green was taken over by local pooches strutting their stuff in the Gables Dog Show.

Wild Wet & Wacky

On the water there was yacht racing and the opportunity to have a go at water skiing. Then came what for many

a blessing from Reverend Tim Parkman, it was away to a wild, wet and wacky chase through the waters with sinking and sabotage rife.

After a damp morning the skies cleared enough for the crowds to enjoy a variety of music on the two stages, including local bands 'Cornish Jam', with a repertoire ranging from Irish Folk through modern rock to traditional Cornish songs, and 'All about Iris', a stylish acoustic duo performing pure acoustic versions of crowd-pleasing favourites.

In what has become a Regatta tradition, the weekend fun concluded with an opportunity to cover friends and family in bright colours, as young and not so young shared the spirit of Regatta in a fast and furious paint party. As participants wandered homeward to wash themselves off and dust themselves down, the last local festival of Summer drew to a close leaving Regatta visitors with happy memories to cherish and the Christmas Festival on the first weekend of December to look forward to.

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Community Enterprises PL12 | 4 Fore Street | Saltash | PL12 6JL

Mike Pitches Photography

Fearless Navy Wins Tamar Battle

The coveted award for the first boat home in Saltash Regatta's infamous Cardboard Boat Race went to the Royal Navy team in HMS Dreadnought. The Unicorns won the award for the best fancy dress, while the prize for the most eco-friendly boat was won by Saltash firefighters, and the award for the most impressive sinking went to Queen and Queenie.

Awards were presented by Rear Admiral Mike Wood CBE, a Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall and Chairman of the China Fleet Trust, who commented: "Judging the Cardboard Boat Race was a great delight. I was particularly struck by the enthusiasm of everyone I met in the afternoon and the tangible sense of community spirit. Well done, One and All."



Photo Mary Crawford



Mike Pitches Photography



Mike Pitches Photography

Feeling A Little Bit Happier...says Oksana



Oksana, from Ukraine, a volunteer at Saltash Regatta

"Regatta was a fresh breath of summer. I met a lot of new people and really enjoyed the atmosphere of the festival. I even exchanged hats with the Mayor, which was very funny. Spending time with my friend's family during these two days has given me an opportunity to feel a little bit happier, even staying so far from my home."



Photo Mary Crawford



Mike Pitches Photography



Photo Mary Crawford

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Sunday 9th October

Lunch at The Lyneham Inn Plympton

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Thursday 13th October

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Afternoon Tea at Lifton Hall

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ADVANCE WARNING

Roads closed for: Saltash Christmas Festival

A38 Sliproad (South Lane) (Full Length)
 Fore Street (Full Length)
 Wesley Road (Full Length)

Victoria Road (King Edward Road TO Wesley Road) Eastbound Only
 Belle Vue Road (Junction Car Parks TO Fore Street)

King Edward Road (Essa Road TO Victoria Road) Northbound Only
 Callington Road (Fore Street Roundabout) 14:15 - 14:30 (For Fun Run)

St Stephens Road (Fore Street Roundabout) 14:15 - 14:30 (For Fun Run)

King Edward Road (Fore Street Roundabout) 14:15 - 14:30 (For Fun Run)

North Road (Tavy Road TO Lower Fore Street) 18:30 - 18:45 (For Parade)

Callington Road (Fore Street TO Gleebe Avenue) 18:45 - 19:15 (For Fireworks)

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3RD DECEMBER 2022

10:00 - 22:00



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Saltash Hope

You are invited to the official launch of Saltash Hope!

Sunday 16th October, 10.30am, at Saltash Baptist Church, by the train station.

The church has always sought to play an active part in the community and we have decided to bring all of our community action projects under one banner – Saltash Hope.

Our first significant project was a debt help centre, run in conjunction with national, award-winning charity Christians Against Poverty. In 2017, Queen Elizabeth II expressed her appreciation for CAP's work through a letter of support, along with a donation from her Privy Purse Charitable Trust. We were obviously grateful, remember her fondly and continue to pray for King Charles III and the wider family.

As CAP has continued to develop, so have we and we are now able to offer everyone living in the PL12 postcode area – for free – all of the following:

- Debt advice - for people struggling to keep up with their finances
- Money courses - so anyone can learn budgeting skills, whether saving for a purpose

or trying to live within a budget

■ Funding - especially for the current cost of living crisis but for any emergency situation

■ Non-crisis funding - for those struggling to afford essential purchases

■ Homeless help - linking people in need with appropriate professional help

Homelessness is the latest addition to our range of community projects and is supported by the Town Council. It may not seem a significant problem in Saltash, but there are often people hidden in unseen places. Some are local, others are not; most are ready to receive help but have given up.

Unfortunately, we cannot provide accommodation ourselves but what we can do is help settle people into accommodation who have been found somewhere to live and support individuals who are either rough sleeping or sofa-surfing, providing the link to relevant services.

You are also welcome to

Saltash Royal British Legion's Festival of Remembrance

Saltash & District Royal British Legion are once again hosting the Festival of Remembrance Concert & Service after a 2 year enforced break due to recent pandemic. This year's event launches the 2022/2023 Poppy Appeal. It is being held at the Wesley Methodist Church, Callington Road, Saltash on Saturday 29th October 2022. Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start.

This year will see Saltash Town Band, Burraton

Community Primary School Choir, local singer Roxanne Danielle Grew and bagpiper Lewis Wilmot providing the musical content. This, together with the traditional "Parade of the Standards" and Remembrance Service, should prove to be an entertaining evening.

There will be a chance to partake in the Raffle to win a host of prizes and the Poppy Merchandise table will be available for you to get that extra special gift.

Tickets are £5 for adults, Under 16s £2.50 and Under 5 will be free. They will be available from Piglets in Fore Street from 1st October onwards or can be purchased on the night.

contact me directly about any of our community action projects.

As a church, we have always tried to hold out hope for people who are struggling and to offer practical solutions which will really make a difference. Please do come and join us as we celebrate this together under our new banner – Saltash Hope. We'd love to see you on 16th October.

Tim Squires Debt Centre Manager
Christians Against Poverty Saltash
Book an appointment with him by calling 0800 328 0006 or email timsquires@capuk.org

From Italian Coffee to English Tea



The doors of Caffè Corradi have closed for a final time after 19 years of delivering glorious slices of Italy in the Courtyard at the top of Fore Street.

More than just a watering hole, Caffè Corradi was a social hub for a throng of regular customers, many of whom went along on Louise and Renato's last day of trading to wish them a joyful, healthy retirement. So many brought flowers that for a few hours the café looked more like a florist.

While no-one will be able to recreate the warm Italian sunshine vibes of Caffè Corradi, regulars were pleased to hear that a local couple, Theresa and Leigh Hardy, will be opening up a tea room in the building by the end of October.

You will be missed, Louise and Renato. Arrivederci!

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Sustainable Saltash

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

Our family is proud to have welcomed a new arrival this month. Our very own domestic solar and battery system, just in time to protect us against October's energy price 'freeze' (which will actually be another price increase, albeit one now restricted to 27% instead of the 80% predicated by Ofgem's price 'cap').

Lucky us, you might think, and I wouldn't disagree. Indeed, one of the problematic truths lurking behind the energy crisis is that the ongoing surge in the wholesale price of gas will help us recoup our financial outlay more quickly than we anticipated as we were commissioning it.

The same is true for large-scale renewable providers whose profits have soared with each Ofgem review. And it will remain true until the retail price of renewable energy is sufficiently decoupled from that of fossil fuels so that we, the end-users, can see how much more cost effective it would be to save our climate rather than continue to destroy it.

Meanwhile, it has taken several years to bring our fabulous new system fully online and we have needed to make more than a few compromises along the way. Probably the hardest decision was how much storage to include.

Battery storage has been a game changer when it comes to domestic solar power as it means we are able to continue

using our own self-generated power even after the sun has gone to bed for the night. Given panels produce more energy than we would generally expect to use during daylight hours, any initial excess goes to replenish what has been used from the battery overnight. Any further excess is then sold on to the grid.

Quite apart from allowing us to use a much larger percentage of our self-generated power, we anticipate our battery might also work to protect us in the event of power cuts this coming winter. It is this more than anything that has really got me thinking about the potential benefits of retrofitting British homes to not only use less, but also more cost-effective energy.

When I say 'retrofitting', I mean to suggest that British homes not only need to be far better insulated than at present, but ideally ought also to have the capacity to store perhaps as much as a day's worth of energy to keep themselves going at times when weather conditions prohibit renewable generators from operating.

Regrettably, we have left it late for this intervention to be as simple as might sound. The International Energy Agency is warning that the world could start to notice lithium shortages as soon as 2025, yet another reason why generation and storage of energy must be coupled with reduced usage and greater equality of access for us to succeed.

Elizabeth Gay

This column is a conversation starter for our whole community. If you have comments on the subject, ideas of your own or suggestions for future content, please do get in touch at sustainable.saltash@protonmail.com

Conundrum Corner

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 What title is given to someone who studies or collects Coins? (11)
- 2 What is the alternative name Sea Eagle? (4)
- 3 In which English County would you find the Vale of Pewsey and the Marlborough Downs? (9)
- 4 The Requiem is a type of which Fish? (4)
- 5 Who is the Heroine of Beethoven's Opera Fidelio? (7)
- 6 Which European River has Four Capital Cities standing on its Banks including Vienna and Belgrade? (6)
- 7 What name is given to the Line from which Darts are thrown? (4)
- 8 What shape is a Cannoli Pasta? (7)
- 9 What was the first Christian name of the Explorer Shackleton? (7)

Answers Page 7

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Tamar Reflections

Crossing the River Lynher

In the last issue of the Saltash Observer, I reflected upon the wonderful passenger ferry service started in 2003 from Saltash to Plymouth Phoenix Wharf.

This time, I reflect upon another and more ancient passenger ferry service which ran from the early 14th Century until the mid-20th Century (1950's).

Hundreds of keen walkers and joggers pass our home at Burraton Coombe on their way to the picturesque countryside villages and hamlets of Forder, Antony Passage, Shillingham, Trematon and Trehan on a daily basis.

These countryside settlements are steeped in history going back to medieval times, as we can see from ancient monuments, structures, Churches and indeed, buildings such as Trematon Castle.

The visitors to these breathtakingly beautiful hamlets thankfully mainly come on foot, as vehicles through the country lanes can be hazardous and pollutive. The lanes historically were not really built for vast commuter

traffic. The wild flowers, fauna and tree bedecked narrow routes accommodated horse and carts for the inhabitants which would have been very small in numbers years ago, and in many respects still are.

These magical surroundings astonishingly still remain very much like they did centuries ago when there was very little transport other than those used for the Industries and when Forder and Antony Passage were more easily accessible by water than by road.

Antony Passage was from ancient times a ferry passage which transported people and animals across the River Lynher over to Antony Quay at Jupiter Point.

Originated by Daunay family, then passed on to the Carew family, then for generations from the late 18th Century, the ferry service was run by the Crosley family of Antony Passage. Many of that same family are my friends today, as following generations of the Crosley family still live in Saltash, and have since moved to other parts of Saltash.

Return journeys to Antony Passage would sometimes take in the landing stages at Passage Point, below Point Field, and Forder Lake; this was to take into account a few hours waiting time due to high water and thus the impassible road

between Antony Passage and Forder, Forder being a tidal creek.

People who wanted to catch the ferry from Jupiter Point would wave a flag, and I understand at times that a few hoaxes took place as when the ferry arrived found there was no one waiting!

According to a periodical penned by the late Colin Squires of Saltash Heritage; on 30th April, 1768 during a stormy passage journey a ferryman and a Mr. Anthony Pennington, a bell founder was drowned when the ferry capsized and sadly sank. It was thought that the heavy bell which Mr. Pennington was taking to Landulph Church could have been a factor due to the weight of the bell. Mr. Pennington's body was later recovered and laid to rest at Landulph Church; a plaque in his honour is placed at the Church.

The ferry was in fact just a modest rowing boat, yet ferried many hundreds of people, animals and stock across the River Lynher during its service.

The ferry was more popular with passengers from Jupiter Point; carrying people from Plymouth and Torpoint and hinterland that came across to visit the Saltash tea gardens and other Saltash attractions.

Moreover, to accommodate the increase in passenger visitors an Inn was provided called the 'Ferry House Inn' hosted by the ferryman who was the licensee and where he resided.

When my husband John and I occasionally walk to Antony Passage, I feel I can still hear the echo of the muffled voices of the ferrymen and their passengers, and the chit chat of the folks in the old 'Ferry House Inn' now long gone.

My dear friend of many years, Anne Keith who is one of the Crosley family generation still living in Saltash, could tell us additional wonderful stories of the ferry that her family ran for centuries, and indeed the most interesting life she had living at Antony Passage during her childhood.

Such amazing memories and diaries are a joy to behold! Sue Hooper MBE
Email suehcf@msn.com
Telephone 01752 843073

Conundrum Answers:

1 Nunnismatist 2 Erne 3 Withshire 4 Shark 5 Leonore 6 Danube 7 Oche 8 Tubular 9 Ernest. Re-arranged the letters spell Leeds town.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Mary

I read with interest the Letter to the Editor Saltash Observer Summer 2022 from Mr Jeff Way.

I agree totally with the point he made regarding inadequate essential services for the existing population of Saltash, let alone for the increased numbers following new housing developments.

More importantly, however, I would like to echo his opinions on responses received from our local MP Sheryll Murray. I have been in regular communication with her on related issues particularly in terms of the loss of the only NHS dentist, the inadequate GP services, worries about the energy crisis and pedestrian safety.

Without exception all I have received are printed copies of government policy containing information which is already in the public domain, despite me saying that I did not want this and needed to know what SHE was going to do to address these issues. I became so frustrated that I contacted the Chief Whip but all he did was back her as what he called 'a good MP', and said that he could not and would not assist me as I was not his constituent. I then emailed Ms Murray again including direct questions about what SHE was going to do to address these issues, but all I received in reply was a response saying she was waiting to see what the new PM would do. I am seriously worried about access to democratic representation and the impact of this on the community.

I hope that you may print at least part of this letter as it demonstrates that Mr Way's experience of our current MP is not an isolated one and needs to be addressed.

Kind Regards
Ms Jane Hoad

Dear Mary

What an amazing letter from Mr. Jeff Way (Observer

365) there is no more I can add except to say well done you have highlighted this whole miserable shambles of what was our lovely town Well Done!!

Mr. P Ashton
Saltash

Dear Mary

I was intrigued to read Jeff Way's letter on the subject of an MP's duties.

As to why Ms Murray has done so little to address the problems he highlights I think I may be able to shed some light... she may be "too busy on Parliamentary business". This was her response to my request that she attend a particular debate some time ago (on Proportional Representation). Perhaps that wasn't Parliamentary business, or perhaps answering stupid requests like mine takes all her time.

In fact she has never taken the slightest interest in the concerns of this constituent, but never fails to finish a letter with "if I can be of any further help, please don't hesitate to contact me". I pointed out once that she never actually has helped me, to which her reply was "if I can be of any further help, please don't hesitate to contact me".

Are we seeing the beginning of the robot revolution? Her voting record suggests so. This may be no bad thing (no worse thing) but does £84,144 p.a plus expenses seem a little pricey for the service? We all thought robotics saved money on wages.

Sincerely
Richard Sowman
Saltash

Dear Editor

Two Very Different Aspects of Saltash It was good to read the letter about the help given to Mr Langdon after his nasty fall. It shows the caring face of our town.

I had a very different experience. I was walking on the pavement on the Liskeard Road, just up from Taylor Road. A female runner was coming down from the roundabout. Suddenly, and without warning, I was hit hard from behind by one of the heavier disabled vehicles. The runner must have seen what was going to happen and what happened. She carried on running.

The driver said I had moved into him, though he hit me from behind trying to overtake between me and the kerb. After repairing the black shopping basket on his dark red and black vehicle, he drove off rapidly down Fairmead Road. There were two potential offences - careless driving and failing to give details after an accident.

My leg was badly hurt and I was in pain/incapacitated for almost a month. I reported the incident to the Police Helpline. They took details but told me that to make it official I had to complete a form at Charles Cross Police Station within 24 hours. I told them I could hardly walk to the bathroom, let alone Plymouth. I am taking up the matter with the Police and Crime Commissioner. In the meantime, the community needs to be aware of the danger presented by some drivers of disabled vehicles particularly on pavements.

Barry Brooking
Address supplied

Just Keep Swimming

Saltash Leisure Centre, marked for closure last year but reprieved following an extensive local campaign, is now reporting better than anticipated income.

July saw monthly income increase to £78,000, which is £28,000 above budget. This is despite the fact that casual swimming figures were down this summer, probably as swimmers hit the beaches during the hot spell. School bookings for 2022-23 are the highest ever seen, and membership, on which the Centre largely depends for its survival, continues to grow, though still only at 75% of its pre-Covid level.

Meanwhile, the Centre's appearance has been improved following completion of external decoration and signage, and residents moving into the new Treledan housing development are receiving information on what the Centre has to offer, tapping into a potential growing market.

Over the year to date, however, Saltash Leisure Centre

is trading at a £22,000 loss, and although the building is fitted with solar panels the cost of heating is both a major expenditure and a major headache, exacerbated by increasing energy prices. In commending the excellent partnership work with GLL and dedicated commitment of staff at the Centre, Saltash Town Council also urged residents to 'Just Keep Swimming'.

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I Think It Was 1945

Just Thinking Aloud...

In fact I am certain it was the early part of that year. I was at a nursery school run by twin sisters who came to school on their bicycles and wore voluminous and colourful cotton dresses. I think I also recall that they had moustaches, but that could be my imaginative memory.

My father was born in 1914 and did not grace schools with his presence on a regular basis (or so the story goes). It had been the same with his father, my grandfather, who allegedly became an illegally young crew member on a banana boat – before taking up the family tradition of joining the fire brigade.

Come on now Munro – get to the point!

Well, Dad met Mum. Mum had passed for the grammar school but her father declined to allow her to go, and she spent her very early teens looking after her bedridden mother and being her father's maid of all work. Her single great joy in life was reading – voraciously. Hilda met John because they both pitched up as humble office workers in the same place at the same time, Mum less humble than Dad because she was a proficient reader. Dad's job involved lots of fetching and carrying, but not much else until Mum enthused him with the idea of becoming a better reader. Progress was made on more than one front. He became a really good reader and eventually followed his father into the fire brigade. They also married – about nine months before I was born. The war had begun in September 1939, but each of the armed forces rejected Dad's offer to join, as he had a problem with eyesight...though this was a problem which did not extend to him having difficulties with reading. In fact, my very early memories are of him and Mum sitting either side of the fireplace with their noses in books or newspapers and/or their ears tuned to the BBC Home Service.

We were a fairly normal working class household living in what was basically a rented two up two down terrace house

with an outside loo, a coalhole and a bomb shelter. Two parents – normal, my younger brother and I – normal, plus my demented great grandmother (at least until she died), and a very big plus – books. In this we were different to most of our neighbours. I rarely spied a book in any of their houses.

Anyway, during my fifth year on this earth, Dad decided that it was time for me to be introduced to the wonders of our local municipal library. Put simply, that decision was the best thing he ever did for me. We would do the ten minute walk together (I seem to remember that I wasn't allowed to go by myself until I was seven or eight). That library for me was an Aladdin's Cave stuffed with unimaginable treasures. I didn't mind having my hands inspected each time I entered its hallowed portals. I didn't object to repeated lectures on appropriate behaviour (mostly to do with compulsory silence). I even fell in love with one of the librarians when I was thirteen, but we won't go into that....

Just to say that I have been head over heels in love with libraries for the rest of my life. I have benefited from their growth, their capacity to adapt, to modernise and to satisfy the demands of society as it changes. As I write this I have just returned from my latest three weekly visit to Saltash Library. I applaud everything that is going on there. The staff are without exception helpful and pleasant – and these days librarians no longer inspect my hands. Nor-I hasten to add – do I any longer fall in love with librarians!

Saltash Town Council has my wholehearted support for its library plans. I wish it every success.

Bob Munro

Methodist Memories in St Dominic

Cornwall is rich in Methodist chapels, built as the nonconformist movement mushroomed through the nineteenth century. Many of them now, though, are gaunt and empty or have been converted to other uses. Saltash Old Cornwall Society members learned of the history of Methodism in one local rural parish when they were welcomed to St Dominic Methodist Church to hear Arthur Tink speak about Methodism from the time when meetings were first licenced in a home in the 1820s.

The Ebenezer chapel in which they first assembled was founded in 1830 but became insufficient to house its growing congregation. A thought-provoking account was read out describing the foundation service in 1895 when the first stones were laid for the chapel where worship continues today. Built to hold 150 the new building cost £400 raised locally, with the previous building brought into use as a schoolroom. Many family names of the early supporters of the chapel are prominent in St Dominic today.

There was a fascinating display of memorabilia

including photographs of Sunday school children on outings, at tea treats and participating in village galas. Some of those children are still worshippers at the chapel.

After a superb tea offered in the best Methodist tradition, Saltash Old Cornwall Society Secretary Martin Lister warmly thanked St Dominic church members for their hospitality and for the interesting insight they had given of the vital pillar of village life. He expressed the hope that the chapel, so much a part of the village for over 180 years, would continue to flourish as part of the St Dominic community.

Observer Contact Details
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w: saltash-observer.co.uk

Garden Haven on Grenfell Scrubland



Volunteers have cleared an area of overgrown scrub by Grenfell Avenue. It now provides not only a productive garden for vegetable and fruit crops but also a pleasant venue for local residents to relax and socialise.

The Grenfell Avenue Community Allotment is run on permaculture principles and is totally eco-friendly. Local volunteers began work as a Covid lockdown project, and once they had cleared the site of years of undergrowth they divided it into thirds. One third now yields fruit and one third is given over to vegetables, while the remaining third has been retained for wildlife. It includes a small pond, beetle banks and a compost area surrounded by wild flowers.

The local community has donated all plants and tools, and all are welcome to visit the garden to relax and unwind, or perhaps even to do some gentle gardening.

This year Saltash Environmental Action, who are supporting the project, are seeking to raise funds to make access paths wheelchair friendly and provide raised beds for volunteers with mobility issues. For more information visit www.seasalt.org.uk

Charlotte's Dad Cycles



“Get on yer bike, Dad,” quipped Charlotte Carpenter, youth worker at The Core Youth and Community Centre when her 78-year-old father, faced with rail strikes and airport chaos, wondered how he could get from his home of Aberdeen to visit his family in Saltash. So he got on his bike, the recumbent trike he has spent two years carefully designing and constructing, and cycled 758 miles to Saltash.

To crown this achievement, he also managed to raise over £1,100 for The Core, £20 of which was donated by the tree surgeons of Lydford he encountered on Dartmoor, who were entranced by his story and his handiwork.

Intrepid Charlotte's Dad used a cyclist's equivalent of satnav on a smartphone sitting neatly on his tadpole-shaped tricycle to help him arrive safely at his Saltash destination and travel along quieter routes, away from busy main roads. Technology was no help in avoiding storms, though: “I encountered biblical floods in Cumbria, at the highest point in England. The pies I had later in Kendal were the best I have ever eaten!”

“I'm so incredibly proud of

my amazing Dad,” said Charlotte. “Thanks to the money he has raised we will be able to open some more youth sessions and buy new equipment for the young people.” The Core's donation site is still open on its

Facebook page for anyone wanting to celebrate Charlotte's Dad's achievement by making a financial contribution to support the work of this vibrant community centre.



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