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September 2024 - Issue 387

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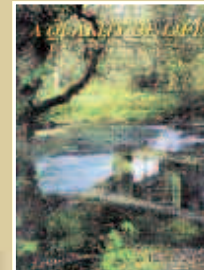
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Substantial Evidence Submitted by TTAG to October Inquiry into Toll Hike

Following a well-attended meeting with local businesses on 14th August at the China Fleet Club in Saltash, the Tamar Toll Action Group (TTAG) undertook to present evidence to the public inquiry into the toll revision application.

The deadline for everyone who had previously sent their objection to submit additional evidence was 6th September, and two days before the deadline TTAG's Vice Chair, Scott Slavin, submitted a comprehensive 15-page report with a further 185 pages of evidence that formed the 19 annexes to the report.

These were submitted for consideration by the inspector who will be conducting the inquiry set to start on the morning of 15th October at the Copthorne Hotel in Plymouth. TTAG is grateful to the businesses and organisations that supplied information on the impact of the toll.

The report and evidence submitted focused initially on examining the 2019 Inquiry report, specifically the arguments made in favour of the application, and comparing those arguments to the 2024 application to assess the similarity between the two. It then presented counter arguments and supporting evidence to offer the inspector information to assess in support of the public's objections made against the toll rise.

TTAG Vice-Chair Scott Slavin said: "The report I submitted on behalf of TTAG sets out to demonstrate so many different elements of why a toll increase at this time is immoral and completely unjustified. We hope it helps to discredit evidence put forward in support of the current toll revision application and to show the critical reliance on the crossings in south-east Cornwall, as well as the impact on local businesses that already causes them to suffer recruitment problems and congestion-related issues. Some are even seeking to relocate away from the area. We need to highlight that there are alternative options, such as pressing for National Highways to fund the bridge and discontinue tolls. As a group we feel there has been a lack of serious work to reduce the costs of the Tamar Crossings, instead relying on further capital borrowing and toll increases to support spending.

There is strong opposition from the people of Cornwall and their councillors to this toll increase application. We hope the inspector is listening at the inquiry to all our voices and considers all the evidence submitted to come to the right conclusion. TTAG will continue to press this cause at the inquiry and encourages the public to attend a protest on the first day; the plan is to travel by train from Saltash, and march from Plymouth Station to the Copthorne Hotel."

The evidence submission is available on TTAG's website at: www.tamartollactiongroup.org/news/
Email: Contact@tamartollactiongroup.org for further details or follow the TTAG Facebook page.

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Town Messenger

Working for the People of Saltash

News from Saltash Town Council Konsel an dre Essa



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Education Welfare:
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educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk

Housing Department
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Email: info@cornwallhousing.org.uk
Social Services Department
Telephone: 0300 1234 101
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adultcare@cornwall.gov.uk

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Telephone: 0300 1234 222
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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:
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Tamar Bridge

From the Mayor of Saltash

I have had the pleasure this month of meeting some incredible people who volunteer their time for the great many organisations in Saltash. I have also been impressed by how a lot of these organisations are encouraging young people to be part of them, musicians, singers, craft makers, gardening, and many more. It was fantastic to see the opening of the Community shed, and the many projects they have planned for the future, again including teaching young people skills.

At the other end of the scale I went to meet a lovely lady and her family who was 100 years old, when I asked her secret to looking so amazing she said "Just keep your mind and body fit mi dear" a plan I intend to adopt!

Many of our community organisations are all struggling financially, and I was sorry to hear that the Community kitchen has had to restructure to enable it to stay open. I know that they have enthusiastic and committed volunteers, and I'm sure that they will find a way forward.

If you find that you have time on your hands even for a few hours a week there are many organisations that would be delighted to have your help.

Exciting plans are being submitted for funding for a new play park and sensory, wellbeing garden on Jubilee Green. Also, the funding for two play parks on Pillmere commenced w/c 10 September. Play parks are essential for families and young children to be able to enjoy the fresh air, exercise, communicate with other children, and are FREE!

Meet Your Councillor

Councillor Jean Dent Tamar Ward

Well, here we are again, it's my turn to write something for the Observer.

I must have done it quite a few times in my Saltash Town Council career over the last few years, put it like this my hair was brown when I first joined the Town Council, and look at me now!

Obviously, things have changed over the years, not necessarily better or worse, just different.

In many ways we have become more professional, see the Town Vision and Business Plans for example. Also, Community Infrastructure Levy funding applications for children's play parks in



By now we all know that the Saltash tunnel works will probably start in November 2024. National Highways has refined the project to try to minimise disruption and to deliver in two phases.

First Phase - Civil Engineering:

This phase involves installing advanced warning signs on both tunnel approaches to communicate various information to users.

Second Phase - Technology Works:

This phase involves Civil Engineering works.

This work must be done, as all the electrical components inside the tunnel are now out of date, and spares are just not available anymore. The tunnel will not be shut, but one lane of the three will be closed to allow this essential work to be completed. Yes, there will be queues, and yes, it will take longer to go to and from the bridge.

Saltash Town Council have been working hard to engage with the National Highways and key stakeholders of this project because we are aware of the impact on Saltash will be severe. The National Highways confirmed their final mitigation plan is to be published six weeks before the



Pillmere and improvements to Saltash Waterside, as just some of our current initiatives. This has required a great deal of work from our staff and consultants.

From a personal perspective I will be very happy to see the library refurbishment finished, and the war memorial benches in place... amongst many other projects before I move on to retirement!

However, what has not changed is our Councillors' and staff's hard, and conscientious work for our community.

commencement date.

For further updates, refer to the National Highways website (link below), follow Saltash Town Council Facebook page @SaltashTownCouncilOfficial or refer to Saltash Town Council minutes (link below).

<https://nationalhighways.c>

[our-roads/south-west/a38-saltash-tunnel-technology-upgrade/](https://www.saltash.gov.uk)
www.saltash.gov.uk

In the meantime, I'm getting my Christmas shopping locally in our lovely town to support our traders. I would also suggest car sharing as much as possible, catch the train when you can, use a Beryl bike if

your fit enough or walk.

If you attend regular appointments in Plymouth, you may wish to book them outside of peak periods. We know it will be painful for many, but as previously said this work is essential to secure the future of the tunnel.

On a lighter note, many people call me The Mayoress,

I reply jokingly, "No I'm the Mayor, my husband is the mayoress" (consort really) He was in the park walking the dog when someone came up to him and said, "Hello you're the Mayoress" oops think I'd better stop saying that!

Warmest regards
Councillor Julia Peggs
Mayor of Saltash 2024-25

Your Town Council & Wards

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Deputy Mayor:

Cllr Rachel Bullock

Town Clerk:

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Councillors' Telephone Numbers can be obtained at The Guildhall.

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Saltash Remembrance 2024

Saltash Town Council will be holding the **Remembrance Service** on Sunday 10 November 2024 to remember all those who have lost their lives fighting for their country.

The service will be held at the Wesley Church, Saltash commencing at 2pm. This will be followed by a parade from the Church to the war memorial outside St Nicholas and St Faith Church for the laying of the wreaths. The parade will leave approximately 3pm and will be led by the Saltash Town Band.

Saltash Town Council will be inviting representatives from local organisations, the armed forces and local dignitaries. Members of the public are also welcome to attend with seats being allocated to residents on a first come first served basis, until the Church is at full capacity. Further details of the timings for the service will be shared in due course on social media, town noticeboards and local newspapers.

All residents and visitors are welcome to watch the parade as it marches down Fore Street and to follow it to the war memorial. Along with the wreath laying, the Mayor's Chaplain will lead prayers and a minute's silence for Saltash to pay its respects to all who have lost their lives in conflict.

Addition of Footpaths at Babis Lane & Town Quay in the Parish of Saltash

Following the meeting at the Guildhall, Saltash on 11 June 2024 concerning the Addition of Footpaths at Babis Lane & Town Quay in the Parish of Saltash Modification Order 2017, the Planning Inspector has issued an interim decision on this Order.

At the Meeting of The Planning and Licensing Committee on 20 August 2024, members received and discussed the interim decision and resolved to note the correspondence and that there is no objection from Saltash Town Council to the Inspector's proposed modification of (Addition of

Footpaths at Babis Lane and Town Quay in the Parish of Saltash) Modification Order 2017. Further information concerning the interim decision, together with all documentation can be found by via the Town Council's website. Please click on the link below to access details: https://www.saltash.gov.uk/edit/stuploads/9164_1930771208.pdf

Any representation or objection with respect to the proposed modifications must be submitted between 28 August 2024 and 25 September 2024 and should be sent to Helen Sparks by email or in writing, quoting reference ROW/3295824: Email: helen.sparks@planninginspectorate.gov.uk Correspondence: Rights of Way Section, Room 3/A, Eagle Wing, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN.

Town Vision Sub Committee Monitors Progress on Business Plan

The Town Vision Sub Committee is responsible for producing the Town Council's three-year business plan which was adopted in April 2024 and will be in place until March 2027.

The sub committee comprising of eight Town Councillors will now monitor the Business Plan Priorities, Vision, Aims and Objectives on behalf of the Town Council to ensure delivery. Each committee/sub committee will review their deliverables, scoring their progress and report back to Town Vision. The six strategic priorities of the Business Plan are:

- Boosting Jobs and Economic Prosperity
- Health and Wellbeing
- Housing
- Travel and Transport
- Climate Emergency
- Recreation and Leisure

The Business Plan can be viewed in full on the Town Council website: www.saltash.gov.uk/index.php To monitor the Business Plan regularly the Town Vision sub committee agreed future meeting dates with all meetings starting at 6.30pm in the Guildhall:

- 24 October 2024
- 23 January 2025
- 24 April 2025

Members of the public are welcome to attend all Saltash Town Council meetings, any questions to committees/sub committees need to be submitted in writing no later than 12noon the day before the meeting via email enquiries@saltash.gov.uk or posted to The Guildhall, 12 Lower Fore Street, Saltash PL12 6LW.

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

Light at the End of the Tunnel

Safe38 is a co-opted member of the South East Cornwall Community Area Partnership (CAP) and sits on its transport working group. The CAP is made up of councillors from Cornwall Council as well as from our local town and parish councils. Its role is to tackle the issues that matter to communities, so everyone can start, live and age well. The CAP is therefore an influential forum in deciding on local priorities, and we are thankful that improved connectivity and a safer A38 have been recognised as top concerns for this group.

We have written to our MP Anna Gelderd to ask for average speed cameras to be delivered as soon as possible, and at a recent CAP meeting I was able to speak in person to National Highways South West senior management and all members of the CAP about the vital importance of bringing forward the delivery of average speed cameras for the Carkeel to Trerulefoot section of the A38.

These measures were due to be delivered as part of a larger, major scheme. That scheme now looks to be delayed to beyond 2035, and residents and visitors to the area cannot be expected to wait over 10 years for what is in reality a relatively modest safety intervention that will save lives and help to secure livelihoods. As a result of much lobbying by ourselves and our Cornwall councillors we were buoyed to hear that our MP and National Highways have confirmed they are working to deliver average speed cameras within the next 18 months. We will continue to push to see them delivered as soon as possible.

We are also pleased to see

significant investment at Notter Bridge to improve the significant drainage problems that we see on that stretch of road. The aim of those works is to mitigate against the regular flooding that occurs in that location where pools of water often develop on the carriageway after heavy rain, making it impassable. This is a significant hazard for drivers and we are hopeful these works by National Highways will greatly reduce this occurrence and the risks associated with it.

The amount of attention we are seeing on the A38 in our part of South East Cornwall shines a light on how strategically important this part of the road network is. For too many years, we have been overlooked. With roadworks at Saltash on the tunnel which look set to start in November and last some considerable time, hopefully this focus on improving our transport infrastructure will mean a renewed energy on putting the bypass option back on the table in future negotiations with National Highways, making our local A38 truly fit for purpose.

James Millidge

Chamber Chairman Peter Ryland Keeping us Updated

At the September monthly meeting of Saltash Chamber we were pleased to welcome two new members, Floorsite UK and Tip of Elegance. A third company, Westcountry Fabrication, has joined since the meeting and it is good to see differing forms of trade becoming members and, with two of the new members being located in the industrial estates, it is also good to know that it is not only town centre traders who see the Chamber of use.

The three main items of discussion were the news regarding Newquay Airport, the imminent tunnel works and the impending public enquiry into the application to raise the tolls for using the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry.

The Chamber raised concerns regarding Cornwall Council's lack of consultation with businesses regarding arrangements for the operation of Newquay airport and the use of the land around it. It was agreed that it was not an acceptable way for dealing with negotiations, and I pointed out that the words being used in the press release were similar to those used years ago by Plymouth City Council regarding Plymouth Airport - and look what happened to that! Newquay Airport does provide a use to the business community both in transportation of goods and personnel for meetings, and members hoped to get assurances of its long-term future and growth in services.

Members were also worried about the works to the tunnel that are due to start late autumn, and the delays to traffic that will be caused. Members remembered the lengthy delays and queues in places like Fore Street and North Road when the works to the Bridge were carried

out recently. It was hoped that assurances could be given that the scheduling of the work would give minimum disruption to the town of Saltash, and that measures would be put in place to prevent drivers from being tempted to use the centre of town as a diversion to the A38 hold ups.

Again, with the toll enquiry members wanted assurance that our voice would be heard, and we undertook to support

TTAG in their opposition to the current proposals.

I am a Director of Community Enterprises PL12, and wearing that hat can I say that there has been a lot of misinterpretation regarding our future. We are not closing, but we do need the support of the community to ensure that all the enterprises under our umbrella continue to grow and help all sectors of the population of the PL12 area.

Safer Streets Ahead: Saltash Joins 20mph Rollout

Saltash is set to join Cornwall Council's ambitious road safety programme, as 20mph speed limits are rolled out in towns across Cornwall this autumn. Following successful implementations in Camelford, Falmouth, and Penryn, where 20 out of 22 sites reported positive reductions in traffic speeds, Saltash, Landrake, and Torpoint are the latest areas to be included.

Cornwall is one of the first rural areas to reduce speed limits from 30mph to 20mph on residential roads and in built-up areas. Research shows a strong link between traffic speed and injury severity in collisions. If someone is struck at 20mph, they have a 90% chance of survival, compared to just 50% at 30mph. By introducing 20mph limits, the Council hopes to make roads safer, healthier, and greener for everyone, aiming to reduce deaths and serious injuries on Cornish roads by 50% by 2030.

Unlike the blanket speed reductions seen in Wales, Cornwall Council has taken a

more tailored approach, consulting on the suitability of each road before including it in the 20mph scheme. After a consultation earlier this year, it was decided that existing 30mph limits would be retained on key Saltash roads to maintain traffic flow. These include North Road, New Road, Callington Road, St Stephens Road between Fore Street and the junction with Beatrice Avenue, and Church Road from the fire station to just before Manor Park.

Construction on the speed limit changes will begin this autumn. Find out more at cornwall.gov.uk/20mph.

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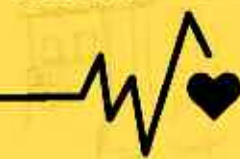
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Pete's Point of View ...

Readers of this column will be in no doubt as to my views on the withdrawal of the winter fuel allowance, which has, until now, proven to be a lifeline for many of our senior citizens. I have watched in disbelief as the matter has been debated on TV, with certain interviewees claiming that senior citizens are largely well off, with many of them being millionaires, this being given as some sort of justification for axing the payment.

Really? I haven't yet met

too many millionaires in Saltash of pensionable age, but if you are out there, could I please borrow your yacht for a couple of months?

A report has suggested that across the UK, there could be as many as 4000 excess deaths during the winter months, as a result of this frankly despicable and heartless decision. But there is also sheer financial genius in that taking an extra 4000 pensioners out of the system each year will save an estimated 43 million pounds in the first year, 129 million in the second year, 258 million in the third year and so on. Almost two thirds of a billion over a period of five years at that rate. Then for those who

Essa Voices

Breaking the EHCP Bottleneck:

A Need for Reform

"Delays in sorting out EHCPs are putting an unbearable strain on our

are no longer around, if they had been lucky enough to own their own homes, those can be sold off by relatives, with no doubt a hefty bonus to the treasury in terms of capital gains tax!

It is not only the government that seems to have a disregard of senior citizens. We are increasingly being confronted by required use of QR codes to perform even the simplest of tasks. I recently walked out of a branch of a reasonably-priced restaurant chain, having been seated and only then told that I must use the QR code on the table to order food, no alternative being available.

Whilst I do have both Cornish and French blood in my ancestry, I don't often praise the French way of doing things, but have come to admire their electoral system, which is a two-stage vote. After the first round of the recent National Assembly elections in that country, it seemed that politically France was heading in a certain direction. Given a week to take stock of the situation and the implications thereof, the second vote produced a result that was very different to the direction of travel implied by the first round of voting. If only...

Whilst on the subject of elections, it is now less than two months before we learn who will be the 47th President of the United States. We are all used to the phrase 'God Bless America' but let's hope that doesn't turn into God Help America.

Pete Samuels

Any views expressed are personal views and not that of any organisation with which Pete is associated.

school as well as on our children and their families," said the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator at a Saltash primary school during one of my final meetings as a governor. An EHCP is an Education, Health and Care Plan, a document drawn up with the local authority that identifies a child or young person's special needs and the support required. These plans are essential, but the process is achingly slow - the worst I've known in my 12 years as a governor.

Local authorities like Cornwall Council have a legal duty to produce an EHCP within 20 weeks of a request, but demand has soared in recent years and Cornwall is struggling to meet deadlines. In 2018, Cornwall handled 477

requests. Driven by factors like developmental delays caused by the pandemic, this number surged to 1,173 by 2023. Struggling to cope, Cornwall Council completed only 1.6% of EHCP requests within the 20-week deadline last year. So it's saddening but not surprising that Saltash resident Hannah Hepton says EHCP delays are a daily topic for the 400 families in her Facebook group for families of children with special needs.

Sadly, Cornwall's EHCP struggle is not unique. Nationwide, 138,242 EHCP requests were made in 2023, up from 114,500 in 2022, with only half completed within the 20-week time limit. Each EHCP costs around £6,000 to produce, yet government funding for EHCPs has stagnated over recent years, adding extra financial strain on councils already stretched to the brink.

I've spoken with people producing EHCPs at

Cornwall Council, and I know significant time and expertise have been invested to identify and implement key changes. But further improvement and systemic issues like these demand national reform and proper funding, which is why I'm highlighting this issue now.

Time is running out. Without decisive national and local action, the cost to our schools, local authorities, and especially to our children and their futures, will only escalate further.



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

New Creative Hub for Saltash

Saltash will soon be home to a brand-new creative hub on Fore Street. The Saltash Studios project will bring the former Barclays Bank building back into use for the whole community. Saltash Studios will offer accessible studios and co-workspace for creative industry professionals alongside an evening and weekend events and activities programme. The Studios will be a centre for all local people who have an interest in the arts and a hub for inspiring and fun creative activities and enterprise.

Funded by the Cornwall Council's Community Levelling Up Programme, Howton Solar Fund and the Saltash Section 106 Fund, the project will regenerate a property that has been empty for nearly 7 years and has fast been becoming an eyesore on Fore Street. The 1960s building will be refurbished with original features such as high ceilings and windows being reinstalled.

The flexible workspace aims to inspire collaboration and innovation between professionals. Funded residencies will also be available to support young people and other groups such as carers and veterans.

Saltash Studios is being developed by local social enterprise Salt Arts CIC, who are building on the success of their other projects including Saltash Songs & Shanties Festival which attracted nearly 3,000 people to events in 2024.

Lindsay Endean, Salt Arts CIC Director says: "This is a fantastic opportunity to make a completely new and permanent facility in Saltash. Other local towns like Liskeard and Bodmin benefit from similar hubs and until now, Saltash has been left behind.

Saltash Studios will provide space for professionals in the creative industries including artists, publishing, designers, crafts people, content creators,

fashion, digital creatives, performing arts and more. The co-work hub and studios will welcome established professionals alongside people looking to change career or start a new career.

The Studios will also run an exciting public events programme and hope to bring exhibitions, screenings and creative workshops to Saltash. This is going to be a unique project in a great building and a fantastic community - we can't wait to welcome everyone through the doors".

Cllr Louis Gardner, Cornwall Council's portfolio holder for the economy, said: "I'm delighted to announce £120,588.38 funding from our Good Growth Community Levelling Up Programme for this exciting project in the heart of Saltash. Not only will it provide a vibrant new facility for the community, but it also means one less empty building on our high streets."

This project is part-funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. This funding has been allocated from Cornwall Council's Community Levelling Up Programme. The Community Levelling Up Programme is part of the Good Growth Programme, which is delivering the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in Cornwall and Isles of Scilly.



Sophie Morrell and Henry Woodward of Saltash youth music project Livewire receiving a certificate from the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, Colonel Sir Edward Bolitho KCVO OBE, recognising Livewire's nomination for a King's Award for Voluntary Service. A total of 12 groups across Cornwall have been nominated to receive the Award, which celebrates groups where volunteers collectively work to the highest standards and make a tangible difference to their community. Assessments have been completed and recipients will be announced on 14th November, the birthday of HM The King.

ADVANCE WARNING

**Roads closed for:
Saltash Christmas Festival**

Road Closures for Event - 10:00 - 22:00
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

Road Closures for Fun Run - 14:15 - 15:30
Callington Road (Fore Street Roundabout)
St Stephens Road (Fore Street Roundabout)
King Edward Road (Fore Street Roundabout)
Lower Fore Street (Fore Street TO Tamar Bridge Entrance)

Road Closures for Parade Lineup - 17:00 - 18:30
Ellwell Road (Tavy Road TO 2 Lockyer Terrace)

Road Closures for Parade - 17:45 - 18:15
North Road (Tavy Road TO Lower Fore Street)
Tavy Road (Ellwell Road TO North Road)

Road Closures for Fireworks - 19:10 - 19:25
Callington Road (Fore Street TO Glebe Avenue)
St Stephens Road (Fore Street Roundabout TO Essa Road)

7TH DECEMBER 2024 10:00 - 22:00

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Anna Gelderd MP Intervenes in Parliamentary Debate Prior to Maiden Speech

Last night, Anna Gelderd, the newly elected Member of Parliament for South East Cornwall, intervened in a key debate in the House of Commons before delivering her formal maiden speech. The decision to speak on this occasion underscores the severity of the housing crisis in South East Cornwall and across the Duchy.

Local residents are struggling to attain genuinely affordable homes due to rising rents and property prices, as well as the increase in second homes and holiday lets that sit empty for much of the year. Holiday accommodation supports the tourism industry, which benefits the local economy. However, a balance is needed to ensure that affordable, suitable housing options available to reduce the impact on families and the elderly, and to eliminate barriers to employment, education, and reduce the strain on local services.

Gelderd is listening to constituents of South East Cornwall and understands the struggles they are facing. This is why she was compelled to

intervene in the debate and advocate for local residents, calling for government action on second home ownership. In her intervention, Anna Gelderd MP stated:

“In the constituency I represent, beautiful South East Cornwall, local residents are being priced out and we don’t have the homes that we need.

Earlier this summer, an elderly couple from Torpoint in my constituency, were forced to live apart for more than four months, both in their 90s, after an accident at their own home left one in hospital and a lack of suitable housing allowed them not to live together.

Does [the Minister] agree with me that we need action on

second homes so local people, such as this couple from Torpoint, can benefit from more of the housing being built.”

The intervention was received with thanks from Matthew Pennycook MP, Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government who went on to say he was sorry to hear of the Torpoint couple’s situation and that the Government recognises that more needs to be done on second homes.

Anna Gelderd MP will deliver her maiden speech in due course, which will address her vision for South East Cornwall, with a focus on delivering a fresh start to the constituency and lasting improvements for local residents.

Autumn Music in Saltash

Top classical and folk musicians will be coming to Saltash in a new series of events this Autumn. On Friday 11 October folk trio Jaclarabag will be performing at Saltash Social Club.

This new trio of multi-instrumentalists perform songs and tunes from across the world. Featuring seasoned Cornish theatre musicians (from Kneehigh, Wildworks and Miracle theatre) this collaboration between Jim Carey, Giles King and Claire Ingleheart will include eclectic folk music and new compositions. Wielding a large palette of instruments the group invite you into an exciting world of plaintive airs, brass band mischief and Balkan delights!

On Friday 1 November, Penzance’s Chapel Street Ensemble come to Saltash Wesley Methodist Church. Cornish classical musicians Nat Jones and Katy Rowe (violins), Emma Stansfield (viola), Sebastian Poznansky (cello) and Tim Dean (piano) will perform a feast of music by Mozart, Elgar, Dvorak, Humperdinck and the Beatles.

The season’s grand finale on Saturday 23 November features musicians from the International Music Seminar Prussia Cove performing at Saltash Wesley Methodist Church. Since 1972 IMS Prussia Cove has given the world’s most talented classical musicians the opportunity to



Saltash Foodbank Lays It All Out

“Without the help from Foodbank, I’d starve. These are good people.”

These words, written on a tablecloth at an event hosted by Saltash Foodbank in early September, reflect the harsh reality faced by an increasing number of people in the community. The event was part of the Trussell Trust’s national Laying it All Out on the Table campaign, where people are invited to share their thoughts on large tablecloths, writing messages that reflect on their experiences of food insecurity and their hopes for change.

Recent research from the Trussell Trust highlights the severe challenges faced by people on Universal Credit, with figures showing that two-thirds of working families are unable to afford life’s necessities like food, energy and transportation. Saltash Foodbank Manager Rika Chanter commented, “The rising cost of essentials is forcing more and more into unmanageable debt and foodbank reliance, and the demand on our services is greater than ever before. This is not sustainable for foodbank clients or volunteers, so we are throwing our weight behind this campaign in the hope that

foodbanks will no longer be needed.”

The number of foodbanks has seen a shocking growth, from 10 in 2010 to 1,699 today. “Many people in temporary accommodation these days don’t have access to cooking facilities,” explained Rika, “and we are running short of items like Cup-a-Soup and having to buy in 5% of our stock, including items like peanut butter and milk powder that are high in protein and shelf-stable but don’t often get donated.” She encouraged residents to download the Bank the Food app, which connects shoppers to the essential items currently needed and shows the drop-off points in Saltash.

Mayor Cllr. Julia Peggs expressed her support for the campaign, stating, “This tablecloth is more than a symbol - it’s a powerful reminder of the challenges faced by so many in our community. But it’s also a reminder that we are fortunate to have such a dedicated Foodbank team and caring residents in Saltash, who work tirelessly to ensure that help is available to those in need. These are the good people making a real difference.”

study and rehearse in Cornwall. This concert will feature rising stars Alessandro Ruisi (violin), Chiara Sannicandro (violin), Toby Cook (viola) and Natania Hoffman (cello). The programme includes string quartets by Haydn, Beethoven and Mendelssohn alongside Bartók’s virtuosic duos for two violins.

These concerts are produced by Salt Arts CIC, in partnership with Carn to Cove. Salt Arts CIC also brings the highly successful Saltash Songs & Shanties Festival to the town – which attracted nearly 3,000 audience members in 2024. Visit: www.saltarts.org



Chiara Sannicandro

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Sustainable Saltash

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

We are great egg eaters in this house. We also have a slug problem. When it became evident that my husband was too allergic to cats and dogs for us to consider these as pets for our daughter, we turned our attention to other possibilities, and hens were an obvious choice. I was delighted. I have always loved them, and had aspired to own them from the first moment we had outside space.

There are millions upon millions of chickens in this country, living in varying circumstances. Most of the laying birds have one thing in common - limited lives. When egg production is past peak, usually after 18 months or 2 years, margins are so tight that farmers cannot justify keeping them any longer. Most are destroyed, their meat being sold for pet feed or similar non-human purposes. This is often as challenging for the farmer as it is for many of us consumers, but there are other options for some lucky birds.

Charities exist which rehome some of these individuals. They come to their adopters as pets, but ours have provided us with eggs more days than not. We have had them in our lives since 2021 and they have been delightful companions. For the most part they take care of themselves, needing minimal but predictable intervention. Our photograph album is stuffed with lovely pictures of our little girl playing with them. They have learned through her unwavering attention to accept and enjoy being cuddled. They come when called. They gather around us when we are outside, and sit with us when we are in the garden, purring contentedly (yes, that's right). The eggs are delicious and the flower beds

and lawns are free of weeds. They have largely solved the slug problem.

There are some downsides to life in this utopia. They don't just manage the weeds. All shoots are delicious, including annuals and my lovely dahlias. They have seen off the raspberry canes, which I thought impossible. They also produce their fair share of manure. Most of it right by the back door where they wait for us, but such is the nature of pet ownership. Overall, I think these minor inconveniences have been well worth it. I marvel at them. They can be fabulously clever when they aren't being ridiculously silly. They have helped us with pest control, nourished us and our garden, and they have reduced our food miles. All this while being great pets to our family. If this appeals and you are looking for a rewarding way to reduce waste in our food systems, the smallest of gardens will support a handful of hens and they will make you glad you took them in.

Marc Bramham

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

Just Thinking Aloud

Back in my early seventies, I found myself unexpectedly in the chair at Saltash Heritage. A bit of a challenge, but we all survived, and I was blessed by lots of unselfish helpers. Prominent among them was David Coles, who at different times had been Curator and Archivist, and always a fantastic local historian, a person willing to share his expertise with ignoramuses such as me. At 98 David has recently gone to his eternal rest. The community of Saltash owes him a lot. My sympathies are with his family, with Alison, Chris and Paul.

Those of you who regularly have a decko at my multifarious meanderings may recall that last month milady and I were looking forward excitedly to the birth of our first great-grandchild. Well, an 8lb 6oz Ariane arrived mid-August. Both she and her mother Charlene seem content and are doing well. Her father Allan is ecstatic. Grandparents and great-grandparents? Need you ask? For the moment we rely on Gmail and WhatsApp for updates via word, pics and videos, as a little house bordering the Mediterranean is a bit far for us at the moment, and just coping with excitement is enough.

The more I sit in my study and watch the House of Commons at work, the more I wonder how to date I have resisted the temptation to throw something at the screen, having already failed to desist from shouting impolite words at egocentric politicians. Why does the so-called Mother of

Parliaments feel obliged to emphasize what its members seem to imagine is the pre-eminent importance of parties being confrontational? Could they not reach out to each other? They could even discover that this might move our longstanding flawed version of democracy towards something that would be good for all.

And yet I still want to believe that most of the folk we elect to serve us - at whatever level - are simply there to do just that - to serve us. Painting a picture of them simply via a prejudiced press or from the nastiness sometimes emanating from social media is not the way. For MPs let me suggest that we should begin by researching the Parliament UK website for official accounts, updated daily. Want to know more about our new MP Anna Gelderd? Have a look. I for one will be following her parliamentary career with keen interest.

Cheerio Clic Sargent. Hello St Lukes. In addition to supporting Saltash Library, I continue to explore local places where I can find second-hand paperback books at reasonable prices. St Lukes is the latest (3 books for £2). They were very welcoming, and I even managed to find Frank Gardner's first thriller (having already read the later ones). He also does security reporting for the BBC and his partner Elizabeth Rizzini is one of said channel's stable of weather forecasters. Do you really need to know such fripperies? Dunno. Pub quiz question? Anyway, try St Lukes. It has some classy customers.

Bob Munro

Saltash Teen Wins Young Carer Award

Jasmine, 14, from Saltash, has received the Young Carer award at the 2024 BBC Radio Cornwall Make a Difference Awards, held at the National Maritime Museum Cornwall in Falmouth. Jasmine balances her schoolwork with caring for her mum, Melissa, who has fibromyalgia and a heart condition. Explaining her motivation, Jasmine said, "I just want to give her the best and help her out because of all she has done for me."

Cornish Fijian rugby star Josh Matavesi, one of the judges, praised Jasmine for "putting family first," calling her achievement "Awesome!" Outside her caregiving responsibilities, Jasmine attends Saltash Army Cadets, where she has made lasting friendships. She also participates in Young Carers, an initiative supporting young people like Jasmine who care for family members. As well as emotional support, Young Carers offers practical advice and social opportunities, giving Jasmine a much-needed balance between her caring duties and teenage life.

Jasmine's story underscores the crucial yet often invisible role young carers play, offering both emotional and physical support to loved ones. Her award reflects her own dedication, while also bringing recognition to young carers across the community whose efforts often go unnoticed.

Squash Those Money Worries this September

September is often a month of change. Whether you're sending your kids back to school, heading off to university, or preparing for higher energy bills over the winter, change usually comes with cost. Here are some tips on saving money this September.

Starting university?

The freedom that comes with moving away and starting university is exciting, but finances can soon spiral out of control.

Visit capuk.org/budgeting for help creating a budget, so that you can make sure there's money allocated for fun and social activities as well as important costs like food and rent.

Back to school?

If you're struggling with the cost of school uniform, get in touch with your child's school to find out what support they can offer. Schools are legally required by the Department for Education (DfE) to make sure their uniforms are affordable for all students. This includes allowing supermarket own-brand options and making second-hand uniforms available. Buying from any store as opposed to a designated shop or school could save parents around £50 on average, says the DfE.

Planning for Christmas?

Celebrations like Christmas can be great, but they're never worth getting into unmanageable debt for. 16th September marks 100 days until Christmas Day and there's nothing wrong with planning ahead. The closer we get to December, the higher prices will creep for festive 'must-haves' like toys and the

latest tech. If you know there's something you want to buy, it's worth starting to shop around now, before prices go up. Make a list and tick things off as you go, helping you avoid impulse buys that you don't really need.

Feeling the cold?

As the colder weather approaches, and with the cost of energy increasing again in October, we're all looking for ways to save. According to the Energy Saving Trust, limiting showers to four minutes could save households up to £70 a year, and avoiding using the tumble dryer could reduce costs by up to £75 a year, depending on where in the UK you live. For more advice, visit energysavingtrust.org.uk.

Thinking longer term?

Make future Septembers a little bit easier by getting into the habit of saving regularly. Even a small amount adds up and can provide a safety net in case the unexpected happens, or just help you reach your goals. September includes UK Savings Week, with a mission to help make saving simple, easy and rewarding, whatever your circumstances.

Visit uksavingsweek.co.uk for tips.

Finally, if you are in unmanageable debt or want personal budgeting help, please contact me direct - timsquires@capuk.org

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a UK charity working with over 800 affiliated churches to deliver debt help, budgeting guidance, support to find work, life skills groups and more. Visit capuk.org to find out more.



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Tamar Reflections

Reflections of Wearde and St Stephens

The area of Wearde at St Stephens as I have written about on various occasions is steeped in history. Those of us that live or walk in the Wearde vicinity of Saltash, associate the area now with housing and schools.

However, over 110 years ago, Wearde was quite a different place, with its rolling fields and uninterrupted views across the River Lynher and Hamoaze.

Now at Wearde sits Saltash Community School with Bishop Cornish School as its close neighbour; and there are many hundreds of houses built where these fields were. Indeed, Wearde area of Saltash still boasts many lovely open spaces at Church Town Nature Reserve that dozens of walkers enjoy on a daily basis. However, historically, Wearde Farm was a very important site that was used to eventually host 5,000 troops from August 1914 onwards, known as Wearde Camp.

Tents, huts and Troops

The encampment comprised of hundreds of tents, which were not ideal in the wet seasons. As a consequence, eventually, some months later, more sophisticated accommodation was built for the Troops such as wooden huts placed on concrete and stone foundations. They were built in the sloping fields and within the grounds of what is now Saltash Community School. The Troops were

glad to be on more substantial footings as they were often camped in quagmires due to heavy rain falls. Over 2000 tons of stone for the huts and foundations were supplied by Messrs. Jeffords Quarry. Between October 1914 and April 1915, a further 900 tons was used to improve all the access roads.

St Stephen's Hall

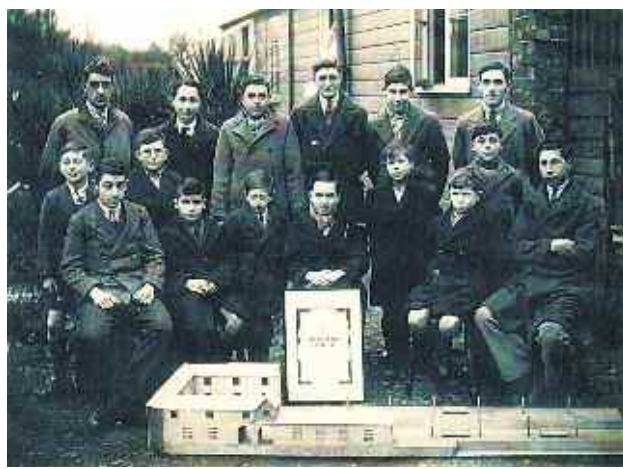
The enormous toll of casualties on the Western Front eventually changed the role of the Wearde encampment from a military training base to a hospital for the wounded. After the war in 1920 the Camp became the Queen Alexandra Convalescent Centre under the auspices of the Ministry of Pensions.

As things changed and when the hospital eventually became redundant, the huts were removed during 1927-28; with just one remaining which was sited at St Stephen's village and known as St Stephen's Hall, and was closely associated with St Stephen's Church.

In the 1970's I had many a happy time at that hall with the former Saltash Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society, performing in concerts and dramatic leisurely events. As I recall the Hut was also used for many local community, public and social occasions and indeed, often used by the congregation of St Stephen's Church for various Church events.

Meccano Guild - GWR Millbay Railway Station

The hut was removed some years ago, and a bungalow now sits on that site just down from St Stephen's Church and the Cecil Arms.



Here goes!! L to R ...Arthur Dingle - (?) Crimp - Jack Summerfield - (?) - (?) - (?) Skipworth - Bob Hallett - George Hoare - Arthur Nancarrow - Raymond Pickard - Denzel Lamb Jack Edgecumbe - Horace Stokes - Sidney Hoare - Bertie Braund - Vernon Seccombe - Roy Saunders

Interestingly, during 1936 the Meccano Guild was set up in the St Stephen's Church hut for local boys with a great interest in Meccano. The boys built a wonderful model of the Great Western Railway (GWR) Millbay Station which was sited in Millbay Road, Plymouth. .

The station was sadly destroyed by enemy action on 23rd April 1941. Millbay Station was Plymouth's first main railway station and built in 1849, before Brunel's Bridge and Station, which was built in 1859 as part of the Cornish Railways. Brunel was closely associated with South Devon and Cornish railways that originally ran Millbay Railway's Station for some time.

Plymouth Pavilions now sits on the site of the old GWR Millbay Railway Station. I am not sure whatever happened to the Meccano Club's model? But what I can advise readers

of Tamar Reflections are most of the boys' names; it would be most interesting if any Saltash Observer readers could advise me of the names that I am not clear about!

Of course, these historic events took place long before I was born, and (the boys) have all passed on now sadly, but in my lifetime in Saltash, I can proudly claim true

one of the early members of the Saltash Handicapped and Disabled Organisation (SHADO) and Jack's late wife (Elsie) chaired that organisation for many years - and the Braund family I knew well from my years as a Parish Clerk at Landulph Parish Council (still many Braund's living in the Landulph Parish I believe).

friendships with some to those lads in adult life; such as Vernon Seccombe, who went on to become Sir Vernon Seccombe and Chairman of the South West Region Health Authority. Vernon also became Mayor of Saltash, Bob Hallett who went on to own and edit the Saltash Journal, Arthur Nancarrow who farmed at Trehan and was the brother of the late Mona Nancarrow (Honywill-Tomaszka) - Mona went on to become Mayor of Saltash on two separate occasions - Jack Edgecumbe was

Visit to Saltash Community School

It was so nice to visit Saltash Community School a while back with my friends and colleagues Lynn and Tony Marsh. We met with English teacher Tom Ward who arranged for the three of us to talk to the children of years 7 and 8 about the history of Wearde Camp, where the school is now situated.

The children were so well behaved and very interested to learn about the history of where their school now sits. On behalf of the Great War 1914-1918 Committee (now disbanded) we presented the school with a framed history of the encampment of over 100 years ago.

Until the next time - Bye for now!

Sue Hooper MBE

(Former Mayor of Saltash and Freeman of the Town)

Booking System at The Tip:

A Solution or a New Problem?

Cornwall Council has introduced a booking system at the Saltash Household Waste and Recycling Centre, requiring drivers to pre-book a 30-minute slot online or by phone. While the system aims to reduce waiting times and traffic congestion at the site, concerns have been raised about the potential risk of increased fly-tipping. Residents have voiced frustration, suggesting that alternative solutions such as extending the centre's opening hours beyond 4pm should have been considered first. Saltash Town Council also expressed disappointment at being notified of the changes just four days before the system was introduced.

Tincombe Tea Party Brings Smiles all Around



The sun shone brightly for the Tincombe Tea Party, held on the last Saturday in August. Now in its fourth year, the event has grown in to a delightful afternoon for the community, featuring musicians including the Sunset Swing Band, U3A Ukulele group and rising local star Tom Hannigan. Families relaxed on picnic blankets on Tincombe Green, basking in the golden afternoon sunshine and atmosphere. With bunting fluttering, tables laden with delicious home-baked cakes and stalls offering a creative range of goods, the day was filled with smiles and a sense of togetherness. James Jenkins, Chair of Friends of Tincombe, which organised the Tea Party, said, "It's always amazing to see our community come together like this."

A special mention goes to Ted, who triumphed in the Dutch 'sjoelbak' competition and took home the top prize of a game of Othello.



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Saltash's Community Enterprises Launches SOS Campaign to Secure Long-Term Sustainability



Community Enterprises PL12, (CEPL12) based in the heart of Saltash on Fore Street, has launched an urgent SOS campaign—Save Our Services—to secure the financial sustainability needed to continue its vital community work in the area. As a Community Interest Company (CIC), CEPL12 is facing rising costs and reduced donations, prompting an urgent call for support to ensure its services remain available for years to come.

Community Enterprises runs several services and groups in Saltash. 'Memory Box' offers a safe space for those with dementia and cognitive impairments, providing activities and a welcoming environment for nearly 100 people each week, including carers. The 'Community Shop' on 4 Fore Street serves as a hub for local artisans, offering a platform to sell their goods and support the local economy. The 'Community Kitchen' at 8 Fore Street is a bustling space where over 500 people each month access affordable meals on a donation basis and has groups from mental health support to dementia cafés and stroke support. Plus, the Fridge & Larder which shares food that would have gone to waste.

"We've been here for 13 years, and with the community's help, we'll be here for another 13," said Melanie Cowie Smith for CEPL12. "This campaign is about securing long-term

financial stability so we can continue to serve and support the people of Saltash and surrounding areas."

The SOS campaign is calling on individuals, local businesses, and organisations to get involved, whether through donations, attending events, volunteering, or offering sponsorship. CEPL12 does not receive any external financial support from the Town Council or County Council, all their work is funded by grants and donations. Currently it costs approximately £8,000 a month to run all of their services, the Kitchen costs around £4,000 a month. In July the donations they received averaged out at £1.20 per meal per head in the Community Kitchen and £1.50 per person visiting the Fridge, this means they have a big shortfall every month.

"This isn't just a short-term fix," added Melanie. "It's about building a sustainable future for services that are at the heart of Saltash. What we do here impacts on everyone in the Saltash area as we provide help and support to those who would otherwise have to turn to their local, already busy, GP for support or guidance. What we do here truly matters and truly makes a difference."

To find out how you can help or donate, visit www.cepl12.co.uk



What they do:

Memory Box

Activities & support for people with dementia and cognitive impairments, including their carers - Weekly Singing Group, Drop in Cafes and events.

Fridge & Larder (Outside No. 4 Fore Street)

Operates at least three times a week, distributing surplus food from Waitrose, Co-op, Lidl, and Rowe's Pasty's - stopping food going to waste. Plus a mobile larder for those unable to visit the shop

Community Kitchen (No. 8 Fore Street)

Serves meals on 'donation only' to over 500 people monthly & hosts many free events by 'donation only':

Men's Mental Health Group | Women's Mental Health Group
Dementia Support Groups | Stroke Cafe
Therapy Dog Sessions | Cooking demonstrations
Craft Workshops | Pop-up Theatre | Free Blood Pressure Tests
Social Prescriber from Saltash Health Centre & Port View Surgery

Community Shop (4 Fore Street, Saltash)

A marketplace for local artisans and small traders to sell their goods and support the local economy.

Exclusive products under the Community Enterprises PL12 name.

Property Enterprise

Manages affordable spaces for local tenants, including providing FREE office space for Citizens Advice Cornwall and housing a Saltash Food Bank.

Volunteer Led and Run

Did you know that CEPL12 is run by a team of over 120 volunteers including a board of directors - none of whom get paid. They bring their individual experience to the group and do everything from collecting food from supermarkets for the Fridge & Larder, serving in the Kitchen, run the activities, manage the Community Shop as well as work behind the scenes.

How You Can Help Them:

Donate:

Financial contributions sustain their vital services and ensure they can continue supporting the community. Every donation, large or small, makes a difference.

Attend Events:

Participate in their fundraising events, craft workshops, and pop-up theatre performances to support their initiatives and enjoy community activities.

Volunteer:

Offer your time and skills to assist with their various services, from running workshops to helping at the Fridge & Larder. Volunteer opportunities including front of house as well as back office and admin skills are available for all.

Sponsor:

Local businesses can get involved by sponsoring events or services, providing crucial support and gaining visibility in the community.

Spread the Word:

Share their campaign on social media, tell friends and family, and help them reach a wider audience to garner more support.

Participate in Workshops:

Engage in their craft workshops and cooking demonstrations, which not only benefit you but also support their mission.

Provide Resources:

Contribute items or services, such as supplies for workshops or expertise.



Get Involved:

Website: www.cepl12.co.uk

Phone: 01752 848348

Scan the QR Code:



Article kindly sponsored by
The Saltash Observer

Every bit of support helps them continue their essential work and ensures their services remain available to those who need them.