

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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September 2023 - Issue 376

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Essa Voices

Safety at what price?

In the beginning of August, shops on London's Oxford Street were forced to close early after a viral surge of Tik Tok posts called for people to break the law and go on a 'looting spree'. Police made a total of nine arrests and issued 34 dispersal orders.

While retail crime in Saltash is nowhere near as organised, shops on Fore Street have seen a marked rise in shoplifting recently, culminating in the theft of a counter display of bracelets from Saphira Jewellers on the last day of August. Thankfully, staff were left shaken but not hurt, and thanks to CCTV images from the shop's camera, a suspect has been taken into custody.

Nationwide, there are reports that shoplifting is out of control, with owners of small shops complaining they are being treated as larders. The stark reality is that budget cuts of recent years mean that police don't have the resources to patrol shopping centres, which could well be encouraging an atmosphere where shoplifters think they can get away with stealing. John Lewis has apparently taken to offering free coffees to passing police officers. "Just having a police car parked outside can make people think twice about shoplifting from our branches," the head of security for the John Lewis Partnership said.

And it's not just the visible presence that has suffered in budget cuts. Police don't seem to have the resources to deal with crime that is considered to be 'low-level': the number of shoplifting incidents has dou-

bled since 2016 to around eight million a year, but the number of thieves charged has collapsed from an annual 80,000 a decade ago to 21,000 last year. And stealing items worth less than £200 is now a 'summary offence', meaning you can pay a £70 fine via post and not even have to attend court. Shoplifting has been, effectively, 'decriminalised'. Many retailers are now saying we should be using the term 'shop theft' to drive home the message that shoplifting is actually a crime that should not be considered lightly.

How can this situation be resolved in Saltash? Like John Lewis, I'd certainly like to see more 'bobbies on the beat', but without a huge injection of finance into policing this outcome seems to be highly unlikely in the short term. Besides which, light-fingered thieves can just wait until a policeman moves away before they com-

mit their crime. So perhaps another option is CCTV on Fore Street?

Vigilant sentinels, CCTV cameras can discourage potential wrongdoers from trying anything. Plus, they provide valuable evidence for law enforcement, helping to identify culprits and secure convictions.

Critics of CCTV argue, though, that having a silent witness at every corner is an infringement of our privacy and civil liberties. I was alarmed to read that there are already around 4.2 million CCTV cameras in the UK, translating to roughly one camera for every 15 people! We want to keep our town safe, but we don't want to feel like we're living in a surveillance state.

Another issue with CCTV is that fixed cameras could end up shifting issues of antisocial behaviour away from well-lit centres of population to quieter places.

And then there is the issue of cost. Earlier this year, we were given a quote of £90,000 to set up CCTV in Saltash town centre that would be linked to the Cornwall Fire and Rescue centre in Tolvaddon. I have to say that £90,000 feels like a huge amount of money in these days of austerity, especially when statistics show that Saltash has a lower crime rate than other towns in Cornwall. Yes - there has been an increase in shop theft, but the number of offences is still low compared with other Cornish towns.

In the middle of pondering shop theft and CCTV, Saltash Town Council invited me to join them in their visit to Plymouth City Council's impressive new CCTV control centre. Let me tell you, it was quite an eye-opener!

The brand-new, multi-agency CCTV control centre is a round-the-clock operation

with an impressive array of 356 cameras covering key transport routes, car parks, shopping centres and pedestrian areas in the city. With 57 high-definition screens (which can do some nifty split-screen action), they can display images from three times as many locations as before, all in much higher resolution.

The centre also includes a dedicated room for the police, where they can monitor and review footage without having to interrupt day-to-day operations. It's a game-changer for data collection and analysis, too, as key data can be gathered to help inform traffic management planning for one-off city events like a Plymouth Argyle match or to improve bus service reliability. It's like having a crystal ball that helps the city plan for its future needs effectively.

A singularly impressive feature was Plymouth's mobile cameras, which can be attached to reinforced lampposts for short periods of time, answering concerns about the potential for fixed CCTV cameras to shift antisocial behaviour. Some of these cameras were deployed in Keyham shortly after the murders there, to reassure residents.

Best of all, though, is that Plymouth City Council is keen to share their technology with neighbouring local authorities - even in Cornwall. Having said that, we don't know yet what they might charge for this.

In the end, it'll be about finding the right mix: the right blend of technology at the right price, together with community spirit and a dash of good old-fashioned policing. We have plenty of community spirit. I'll let you know what Plymouth suggests regarding costs.

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

Putin Blamed for Increase in Tamar Tolls

Factors including the conflict in Ukraine and traffic not reverting to pre-Covid levels were cited as reasons for the need to increase Tamar tolls at the September meeting of the Plymouth City Council and Cornwall Council committee that manages the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint Crossings.

Legislation stipulates that the financing of the maintenance and operations of the two crossings must come through the 'User Pays' principle of tolls, and Committee members were shown figures demonstrating that the 'user' is not currently paying enough to cover expenditure. Without an increase in tolls, members were told, the crossings would go in to the red within the next couple of years.

Local authorities throughout the country are facing financial struggles, and with Birmingham City Council effectively declaring bankruptcy two days before their meeting, councillors were acutely aware that unless other council services were cut there would be no money from Plymouth or Cornwall to cover the shortfall.

The Committee therefore decided to go out to public consultation on a range of toll increases. Consultation results will be debated at their November meeting, and any increase that is settled on will come into effect around November 2024.

Committee members stressed that the crossings are a service, not a business, and expressed their frustration at previous government decisions not to provide financial support. "MPs can no longer continue to bury their heads in the sand," said Cllr. Coker.

Members of the Tamar Toll Action Group, a campaign group calling for the abolition of tolls, contributed to the meeting and vowed to escalate their campaign.



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Town Messenger

Working for the People of Saltash

News from Saltash Town Council
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Telephone: 0300 1234 101
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Cornwall Councillors/ Wards

Saltash Essa ED
Cllr Hilary Frank
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

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Tamar Bridge

From the Mayor of Saltash

It might be September, but there is a little blast of summer to keep us outside and enjoying our beautiful surroundings. There are so many wonderful walks on our doorstep that take you to the far edges of the Saltash boundaries, from one river to another. You can find a range of Saltash walks on the Town Council website, or the QR code link on this page will take you to them.

During August, Sarah and I have been lucky enough to attend several wonderful events. We were honoured to attend Saltash Bowls club's 100th anniversary celebration match, against Devonport Bowls Club, in 1923 the Devonport team arrived by train (there was no road bridge then), and were welcomed by the Town Band, so it was fitting that the band played again 100 years on for this rematch held on a beautiful sun kissed day. Saltash won, but this was more of a celebration, and we were so impressed by the number of members the bowls club have and the surprisingly mixed range of ages. If you would like to meet some new people, or try your hand at bowls, then I can thoroughly recommend



popping into the clubhouse and saying hello.

The Bank Holiday weekend, saw a more mixed weather picture, but we enjoyed visits to the Fire Station Open Day, and the Tincombe Tea Party. Thankfully no one was put off by the odd shower. The Fire Station was buzzing with families enjoying a good look over fire appliances, police vehicles and more, I hope some children are inspired to consider these careers, or maybe a parent might be encouraged to look at becoming a retained fire fighter. It became clear to us that our retained fire fighters show real commitment in having jobs or pursuing careers where they can be called away at an instant, and must have employers that support them in doing this. A big shout out to all Saltash employers that allow their staff to become retained firefighters, indeed any employer that allows their staff to carry out

roles in our community, whether paid or not. Your flexibility often goes unnoticed or not thanked.

From the hustle of the fire station, we made our way down to Tincombe Green, where we were met by James Jenkins, the driving force behind the Friends of Tincombe group, who showed us around and introduced us to many of the volunteer team who spend many hours keeping the area in a beautiful state, mostly wild, but managed so well. The event was well supported, with a range of live music, stalls and refreshments, well done all.

I must also mention that we, along with Councillor Julia

Peggs (Deputy Mayor) attended another anniversary, the 50th year of the Abbeyfield Association that runs Cresta House in Saltash. Thank you Kirsty and team for your warm welcome and hospitality, and thank you to the long serving volunteer trustees that keep the charity going.

The Tincombe Tea Party and the Saltash Bowls Club are just two organisations that have benefited from Saltash Town Council grant funds. We would welcome applications from other organisations for projects that support people in Saltash. Why not visit the Town Council's website, or the QR code link on this page will take

you direct.

I would like to sign off with many thanks to our Service Delivery Team, a surprisingly small team that puts so much effort into maintaining the things that the Town Council look after. They try to strike the right balance between tidy and clean cut while allowing some areas to be a bit more wild to support wildlife. I think they have got that about right, but we will always review and adapt. Please remember that much of the Saltash public realm is owned and maintained by Cornwall Council. Roads, footpaths and large open spaces are almost certainly their responsibility, and they

maintain them.

We have however recently agreed to take on Victoria Gardens, we consider it a manageable space and one that is important to our residents to maintain to a high standard. Councillor Julia Peggs, our Deputy Mayor and her team of volunteers have been leading the way in improving the gardens, thanks to everyone that has dug, pruned, weeded, or planted, along with those that have generously donated plants.

We hope you can enjoy the Autumn sunshine whilst it lasts.

Councillor Richard Bickford Mayor of Saltash 2023-24

Your Town Council & Wards

Saltash Essa:

1. Cllr Richard Bickford
r.bickford@saltash.gov.uk
2. Cllr Rachel Bullock
r.bullock@saltash.gov.uk
3. Cllr John Brady
j.brady@saltash.gov.uk
4. Cllr Matt Griffiths
m.griffiths@saltash.gov.uk
5. Cllr Jon Foster
jon.foster@saltash.gov.uk
6. Cllr Sheila Lennox-Boyd
s.lennox-boyd@saltash.gov.uk

Saltash Tamar:

1. Cllr Lisa Mortimore
l.mortimore@saltash.gov.uk
2. Cllr Sarah Gillies
s.gillies@saltash.gov.uk
3. Cllr Sarah Martin
s.martin@saltash.gov.uk
4. Cllr Julia Peggs
j.peggs@saltash.gov.uk
5. Cllr Pete Samuels
p.samuels@saltash.gov.uk
6. Cllr Jean Dent
j.dent@saltash.gov.uk

Saltash Trematon:

1. Cllr Steve Miller
s.miller@saltash.gov.uk
2. Cllr Brenda Samuels
b.samuels@saltash.gov.uk
3. Cllr Brian Stoyel
b.stoyel@saltash.gov.uk
4. Cllr Yates
d.yates@saltash.gov.uk

Mayor:

Cllr Richard Bickford

Deputy Mayor.
Cllr Julia Peggs

Town Clerk:
Sinead Burrows
T: 844846
E: enquiries@saltash.gov.uk

Councillors' Telephone Numbers can be obtained at The Guildhall.

Saltash Town Council, The Guildhall 12 Lower Fore Street Saltash PL12 6JX Tel: 01752 844846
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HAVE YOUR SAY!

Saltash Town Council, working in partnership with Pillmere Community Association, has identified an opportunity to improve Pillmere play provisions for young people of all ages to enjoy.

We need to apply for funding from Cornwall Council to deliver this project and need your help to submit a good application.

For more information go to:
https://www.saltash.gov.uk/edit/stuploads/8957_1943143035.pdf

We need **YOU** to tell **US** what play equipment you would like to see on Pillmere to ensure that what we design, will be used by young people.

Please take part in our short survey. We welcome feedback from young people and their carers so please do share this survey with your family.

To take part scan the QR code or please go to:
<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/PillmerePlayArea/>

If you don't have access to a computer, pop along to Saltash Town Council Library Hub where the staff will be able to help you. Please complete by **Friday 22nd September 2023** so your views can be taken into account.

All members of the community are welcome to attend the Pillmere Community Association AGM:
Monday 18th September at 7pm at the Ploughboy pub

As well as hearing about the work of the Community Association, you will also be able to find out more about the play area proposal and complete the survey on the night (hard copies will be available).

For more information go to:
https://www.saltash.gov.uk/edit/stuploads/8957_1943143035.pdf

Chamber Chairman Peter Ryland Keeping us Updated ...

Well, I am almost at the end of another year as Chairman of the Saltash Chamber of Commerce. Our AGM is in October, so the September meeting was the last of an eventful, busy year.

One of the most visible aspects of our activities is the annual Christmas Festival, which for many signals the start of the Christmas period. We have been delivering this event for the retail community and wider community for several years, and I'm pleased to say that preparations are in hand for the 2023 Festival, which will take place on Saturday 2nd December.

In addition, there is a lot that the Chamber carries out behind the scenes on behalf of its members and the wider business community. This year, we have helped members resolve matters relating to landlord and tenant issues, business rates, trading issues and planning requirements, as well as being there on a friendly basis when a member has an issue. Because of our relationship with the Cornwall Chamber, we are also linked in to a larger network, which has helped in the expansion of trade.

The most time-consuming efforts this year have related to being an active member of the Town Team, which has been responsible for various initiatives in the town, including the project to develop an event space within the town centre that will make the town more appealing to the consumer and bring green issues to the forefront. The report on the project is due to be published in the next month, and will provide a blueprint of ideas as well as a toolkit for delivering them. I know from attending public consultations on the project that the people of Saltash have many ideas on what can make Fore Street a better place to shop. The consistent message at the consultations was that Fore Street has to be

brought into the 21st Century and be a family friendly, safe place.

Inevitably, pedestrianisation was suggested as an option, but to many that idea is anathema as they fear it will result in congestion on roads around Fore Street. Following the publication of the report, the Town Team will be looking to deliver a scheme that will be a happy compromise for all, but the scale will depend on our success in unlocking funding opportunities.

Many people have commented favourably on the diversity of trade in the town but the news that Lloyds is to close means that there will no longer be a bank here. The Chamber is considering what action to take so that its members do not have to go to Plymouth for their banking requirements. But although we will, probably, not have a bank we do have a butcher, a jeweller, a bookshop, a pet shop and a grocer in the town centre. Many towns have lost them completely or they are out of town.

Chamber members have also played an active role in Safer Saltash (which helps to make Saltash a safer place), Saltash Scrapstore (which helps to keep items out of landfill and helps funding community projects such as the Lantern Parade at the Christmas Festival) and CEPL12 (which helps provide fresh food and meals for those in need).

The Chamber has a diverse membership, and would love to have more members from the business community so that we can continue to support our businesses and continue to take an active role in the decisions that impact and shape our community.

A Right Royal Anomaly

The Observer provides a valuable record of news, views and activities in the Saltash area. In your October 2020 issue you published an interesting article, 'HMS TAMAR Britain's newest warship'. Recently, while researching Royal Navy topics, I found reference to ships bearing the name HMS TAMAR, including representations of the ships' badges over the years. Badges were used to replace bow figureheads after the transitions from wood and sail to metal and steam.

At first sight the badges looked fine ~ logical, in that under the naval crown and name, they depicted a crowned red lion rampant on a silver background, the badge of Devon, 2 blue wavy lines representing the river Tamar, and the inverted triangle of 15 golden bezants, the badge of Cornwall, on a black background. But only 10 bezants are represented, not the 15 required for accuracy and authenticity.

I just had to investigate. It was not easy, as I am a loyal 'R.N. veteran' and a proud Cornishman! I contacted the

main Royal Navy historical sources, museums and collections. None could say why the representation of the Cornwall badge was incomplete.

The experts and I are aware that HMS CORNWALL badges over the years are represented correctly, showing the full 15 bezants. We agree that the HMS TAMAR representation is probably not a mistake, but a decision by the original designer to use 'artistic licence' in creating a design combining the badges of 2 counties with the river. So, 1 line was removed. Over the years, the design



The Tincombe Tea Party is fast becoming a Saltash tradition, and the latest edition of this annual event was enjoyed on a Saturday in August that was generally sunny, although scattered light showers saw some people taking shelter under gazebo cover. Thomas Tingcombe, the 18th century squire who bequeathed Tincombe Park to the borough of Saltash, made a guest appearance, his wig kept dry by his fine tricorne hat. People said that this year he bore an uncanny resemblance to Councillor David Yates.

The Friends of Tincombe provided a bug hunt for younger visitors, while collaboration with Cornwall Wildlife Trust gave young and not so young the chance to make a bird feeder or spider catcher. The delightful variety of craft stalls celebrated local skills ranging from jewellery to photography and walking sticks. Meanwhile, there was a continual queue to sample the tasty home-made cakes.

Entertainment was provided for the third year, by popular request, by the Sunset Swing Band, while local crooner Peter Mancini also made a welcome return, his mellow numbers well attuned to a summer's afternoon. Newcomers Ukes 3 A, a ukulele group based within Saltash u3a and playing in public for only the second time, gave a well-appreciated performance that resonated with fun.

"We are grateful to Saltash Town Council for giving us a grant to host this Tea Party", said James Jenkins, Chair of Friends of Tincombe. "It has given us the chance to bring the community together and promote our work enhancing this beautiful 12-acre green space." Recent projects led by the Friends include the

installation of a picnic table donated by Tamar Landscaping Ltd, and an environmentally friendly bench made by volunteers from pallets. The Friends will be making a 'stumpery', a home for plant and animal life built of logs, to add to the 'hibernacula', a home for amphibians to pass the winter.

The Friends of Tincombe also hold Easter, Christmas and other seasonal events along with regular Tree Walks and Wildflower Walks. If you would like to get involved at Tincombe Park, the volunteers meet on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month, 10am at Tincombe Green (PL12 4PY). Just come along!

Barry Brooking

Tincombe Tea Party Celebrates Environmental Enhancement

The Friends of Tincombe also hold Easter, Christmas and other seasonal events along with regular Tree Walks and Wildflower Walks. If you would like to get involved at Tincombe Park, the volunteers meet on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month, 10am at Tincombe Green (PL12 4PY). Just come along!

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Colin Martin Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group

Eighteen years ago this week, I moved to Cornwall to work for local Liberal Democrat MP Colin Breed. He taught me how to be an effective campaigner, working diligently and creatively to tackle the issues affecting our community, including successfully securing funding for a bypass on the A38, demanding greater local control over planning rules to meet the needs of our community and protecting the civil rights of individuals against an authoritarian Government. We

also stood in solidarity with our armed forces calling for decent housing and better care for veterans and worked with other Cornish MPs to fight for a fair deal on funding, for schools, hospitals, council services, economic development and of course, the Tamar Crossings.

Today we face very similar issues. In 2006, Colin Breed secured funding for the Dobwalls bypass; today I am campaigning with SAFE38 for a bypass between Carkeel and Trerulefoot, along with other safety measures. Colin Breed campaigned against the Labour planning policy which saw 1,200 new homes built at Pillmere with less than one parking space per house, leading to streets so clogged with cars that the bus couldn't get through! Today I am campaigning against the Conservative planning policies which have allowed thousands of Cornish homes to be turned into holiday accommodation, leaving 24,000 families on the waiting list for affordable housing.

Colin Breed voted against Labour's laws which gave excessive powers to Police to arrest people and detain them

without trial. I have spoken out against Conservative laws which criminalise legitimate refugees and even take away our right to peaceful protest. Incredibly, armed forces housing has actually got worse since the Conservatives came to power, and the number of veterans with untreated mental illness continues to grow.

Colin Breed worked with other Cornish MPs to get the EU to recognise the level of poverty in Cornwall. The original "levelling up" programme gave Cornwall £60m per year from 2000 and was due to reach £100m per year from 2021. Pro-Brexit politicians promised that the UK Government would replace "every penny", but in fact we now receive just £44m per year. Promises made to farmers, fishers and food producers have all been broken, too.

After working for Colin and the Liberal Democrats, I went to work for the Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership. Tackling climate change and helping people to escape from fuel poverty have been my passion for many years, and the importance of these issues becomes clearer every day. Unfortunately on every one of these issues, our current Conservative MP has either been an ineffective advocate for our community, or has acted directly against our interests by following the party line.

In July, I was one of the speakers proudly leading hundreds of protesters across the Tamar Bridge to demand Government funding to scrap the tolls, but neither Labour nor Conservative MPs were anywhere to be seen.

So, after thirteen years of Conservative representation, perhaps what Saltash needs is another Liberal Democrat MP called Colin!

To find out more about my work standing up for South East Cornwall, please visit www.seclibdems.org

Family Clocks up a Century of Service to Local Fire Fighting

A family's near century of service to fighting fires was marked with a special ceremony at Saltash Fire Station in August, when firefighter Gary Hale received his certificate of service. Gary was retiring after 35 years as an on call (retained) firefighter, all based at Saltash.

For his first two years of service he served alongside his father 'Tich' Hale, who himself served in Saltash for 27 years between 1963 and 1990. Sadly, Tich passed away five years ago.

Also in the family tradition of dedication to the firefighting service, Saltash resident and Gary's brother, Kevin Hale, served for 32 years in the fire control room for Devon and Somerset Fire service.

Gary now looks forward to spending more time with his family, wife Claire, son Daniel (22) and daughter Katie (17). He will continue in his full time employment as work technician with Roger Young, and wishes to thank his employer for their support in his role as an on call firefighter, allowing him frequent and sudden absences to attend fires and other emergencies.

Gary has lost count of the number of 'shouts' that he has been called out to over the years, but as the average is around 120 per year and he has attended most of them, they must number many thousands. Following the celebration to mark his retirement, he has promised to share some of his most memorable experiences with Saltash Observer readers.

To Advertise in the Observer

Contact Mary Crawford
Tel: 07971484872
E: maryecrawford@hotmail.com

Saltash Town Council Award Grant Funding

Saltash Town Council is pleased to award grant funding to the following organisations. Saltash Radio were awarded a Community Chest grant for £500 to set up a new community radio station in the town. The grant will be used for set up costs to enable the station to broadcast at community events such as May Fair and Saltash Regatta.

The Saltash Music, Speech and Drama Festival were awarded a Community Chest grant of £1,000. This historic festival celebrates public performances in a range of categories and takes place annually in the town. Friends of Tincombe were awarded a Festival Fund grant £639.90 to organise the Tincombe Tea Party.

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This is an annual event at Tincombe to celebrate nature and the surrounding area.

The Town Council are pleased to award to a diverse set of applicants and look forward to seeing other applications this year!

Further details of past awards and how to apply for a grant from the Town Council can be found at <https://www.saltash.gov.uk/grants.php>

Press Secretaries & Correspondents

Please email your copy to maryecrawford@hotmail.com

Editorial Copy
Using Ariel 14 as a Word document - no formatting.
Letters to the Editor
up to 250 words

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Annual General Meeting



You are invited!

Community Enterprises PL12, Saltash, we would like to invite you to attend its 2023 AGM on:

- Wednesday 27th Sept 2023
- 5.30pm - 6.30pm
- Isambard House, Saltash Railway Station PL12 4EB

If you are interested in attending (and/or would like further information) please contact

Email: hub@CEPL12.co.uk

Tel: 01752 848348

We hope you will be able to join us!

Funds Raised for Vital Foodbank Work



Picture with Deputy Mayor Julia Peggs, alongside Rika Chanter, Saltash Foodbank Manager and Sam Williams from Transformation Cornwall highlighting the 'Guarantee our Essentials' Campaign.

Saltash Foodbank held its annual coffee morning at Saltash Wesley Church in the beginning of September. It was well attended by the community, led by Saltash Deputy Mayor Cllr. Julia Peggs, and guests enjoyed cakes baked by Foodbank volunteers. Alison Humphries from the Recycling for Charity and Toy Swap schemes was selling surplus toys to raise funds for Saltash Foodbank. Together with the raffle, cakes and bric a brac stall, over £230 was raised for this volunteer-led charity that helps local people in food crisis.

Sadly, though, this money will be very much needed as Saltash Foodbank has seen a year-on-year food parcel increase of nearly 50% in the period from April 2022 to March 2023. "We expect this year to be similar if not worse, with the reduction in government energy support combined with the rise in the cost of food, clothing, rent, council tax and utilities," said Rika Chanter, volunteer Manager of Saltash Foodbank. "It will lead people to a negative budget they cannot get out of, however much they cut back on spending."

Sam Williams from Transformation Cornwall, who is supporting community engagement for the Trussell Trust in the South West, was also at the coffee morning to promote awareness about Pension Credit and to highlight the Trust's upcoming 'Essentials Guarantee' campaign. Nationwide, food banks in the Trussell Trust network have seen the highest ever level of need in the last financial year, distributing close to 3 million emergency food parcels - the most parcels the network has ever distributed in a single year. The worry is that this is just the tip of the iceberg as the Trust's research has found that one in seven people face hunger across the UK due to lack of money. The Trussell Trust is calling on the UK government to establish an 'Essentials Guarantee' where the basic rate of Universal Credit will be increased from the current figure of £85 to £120 to ensure that recipients have enough to afford the essentials such as food and clothing as well as basic household items such as cleaning products and toothpaste.

The struggle of surviving on Universal Credit is having an alarming impact on people's mental as well as their physical health, with many people scared, not knowing if they have enough money to get to the end of the month. A Foodbank client said: 'My brain is on fire all the time, and that's all just through the pressure of life. Really, I can't look beyond today. I'm treading water. My head is just above the water at the moment. Just above. It's a struggle'. Recognising the acute need for follow-up care but aware that lack of space at their premises means Saltash Foodbank is not able to operate a 'Drop-In' centre as some Foodbanks do, Saltash Foodbank has set up a dedicated Virtual Signposting team. "The team phones clients shortly after delivery of a food parcel to ask how they are doing and see if there is other help they need," said Richard Margetts, Chair of Saltash Foodbank. "This has been a great success, but there is plenty more work to do."



Pete's Point of View

Sometimes it makes you smile, sometimes it may make you frown, at other times it might make you downright angry. Such is the power of social media - instant publishing where sometimes opinion can be misrepresented as fact.

A recent local posting on Facebook decried the existence of a new pizza take-away on Callington Road, declaring it an eyesore. When the author of the post was challenged on this, it became apparent that the only issue was insofar as Callington Road was at one time a country lane. What made me smile was the irony that back in the day of the country lane, there would have been no social media to make such a comment upon. It's all about progress, something we all have to accept, whether we like it or not.

I did frown recently when the Town Council was accused of turning down a funding application for what appeared to be a worthy cause, when taken at face value, but the reality was that the application did not meet the criteria or satisfy the rules, of which some are enshrined in UK law. The Town Council has a duty of care when awarding public money and must show due diligence, but the undue online criticism that followed, caused anguish to several Town Councillors, who we must remember are purely volunteers who spend their free time working on behalf of Saltash and for the benefit of residents and businesses alike.

In recent weeks many of us spent time on the internet, trying to discover the identity of a BBC presenter at the centre of a media frenzy. I must confess that out of curiosity I also searched the net, finding a name that convincingly appeared on a large number of

postings. But when the true identity was revealed, it was not actually the person whose name had been besmirched by many.

What I do find abhorrent are the all-too-common instances of one person pursuing a vendetta against another, whilst going beyond the boundaries of honesty, decency, morality and perhaps legality. The effect of such poisonous postings can often be compounded when the identity of the author is known to a wider circle who may be tempted to believe what is being said. There have been well-publicised cases that have reached the High Court with substantial damages being paid out. Sadly, I have also witnessed at local level the attempts to destroy the reputation of persons who have attracted the ire of others.

Something that makes me smile and frown in equal measure, is coming across a social media page with a banner proclaiming 'be kind' or 'be considerate' when the content of the ensuing postings are clearly neither kind or considerate.

Social media can be very useful in keeping up to date with local news and events, when presented in an unbiased and factual manner. It's great to find out about the local church fete, a festival or performance that's up and coming, it helps us to plan our days and our weeks. But please do use social media with a degree of wisdom and care, pause to think about the effects your words may have, treat others as you would wish to be treated yourself and keep an open mind on what you read.

I'll be back next month, in the meantime take care and stay safe. **Pete Samuels**

Pete is a former Mayor of Saltash and past President of Saltash Rotary. Any views expressed are personal views and not that of any organisation with which Pete is associated.

Finding Yourself in Kerdroya

The Cornish hedgers are back on site, crafting a new labyrinth high on Bodmin Moor set against Colliford Lake. Expected to become the largest classical labyrinth in the world, Kerdroya is Cornish for 'Castle of Turnings', and is a remarkable piece of land art.

Cornish hedges form the building blocks of the labyrinth. "Hidden in plain sight, the Cornish hedge is a cultural treasure that unites geology, biodiversity and human endeavour while shaping our very landscape itself," says Will Coleman, Kerdroya Project Director and creator of 'Man Engine', the huge mechanical puppet that steamed across Cornwall in 2016.



Cornish hedges are not a load of leafy green bushes. They are not drystone walls either. They are a bit of both. Unlike 'English' hedges that are made of shrubs and bushes, Cornish hedges are built by placing huge stone blocks into the earth and packing them with sub-soil. They are then crowned with a vibrant array of plants and wildflowers. From the granite boulder hedges of West Penwith, to coastal hedges dressed in lichen, all the way to the green lanes of east Cornwall where hedges hold up coppiced hazel, Cornish hedges form a 30,000-mile map showing ancient boundaries and enclosing fields. Some date back to the Bronze Age and are said to be the oldest structures still in use on the planet, bearing weathered witness to Cornwall's history and agricultural heritage.

At the heart of Kerdroya lies its labyrinth. When it is finished, the artisan stonework hedges will guide visitors along a winding path, inviting them to embark on a transformative experience. Unlike mazes, which are designed to challenge and confuse, labyrinths offer a therapeutic and meditative journey. As visitors follow the single path through a labyrinth, they slow down, breathe deeply and reflect on their own life's journey.

At the heart of the Kerdroya labyrinth lies a bespoke sculpture created by Gary and Thomas Thrussell, father and son metal sculptors whose

studio sits on Bodmin Moor just half a mile from Kerdroya. Like the Brunel Bridge Bench the Thrussell sculptors created for Fore Street in Saltash, their Heart of Kerdroya sculpture invites visitors to stop and drink the air.

By reviving the traditional craft of Cornish hedging, Kerdroya aims to restore habitats for local flora and fauna. The Cornwall Wildlife Trust says that Cornish hedges support 600 varieties of plants, and that those plants provide shelter for a diverse array of birds, insects, and small mammals. With ancient woodland habitats in decline, hedges provide sanctuary and act as wildlife corridors.

The labyrinth, with its winding pathway and ancient wisdom, is itself like a corridor through time and space. "This project is about using art to draw attention to the interconnectedness of all things and to inspire a deeper sense of our place within the natural world," says Will.

Kerdroya will not be completed any time soon, though. The delivery partners still need to dig up additional funds for this piece of 'dreckly art', and are inviting the public to make a 'hedge pledge' or gift sections as memorials to loved ones. But as Will says, "When you are building something to last 4,000 years, everything is better off done dreckly."

As Kerdroya revives the traditional craft of Cornish



Photograph Tony Marsh

Saltash at War

On 4 September 2023 the Saltash At War group gave the illustrated presentation to the Saltash Blind and Partially Sighted (BAPS) Club.

This was the first presentation after its launch in June at Saltash library.

Lynn Marsh managed the illustrations and Barry Brooking delivered the script, which he enhanced by 'Painting a Picture' of the accompanying photographs and illustrations.

Mr Brooking said, "Lynn and I, on behalf of our SAW team, were determined that this special group would not be left out of learning about Saltash war-time experience.

The Saltash BAPS Club

hedging and celebrates biodiversity, it becomes a testament to the transformative power of art in curating heritage and fostering ecological balance. Visitors leave with a deepened appreciation for the significance of Cornish hedges and for the wisdom encapsulated in the phrase: 'In a maze you lose yourself. In a labyrinth you find yourself.'

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Friday 22nd September 09.30 - 16.30
Creative Craft Show

At Westpoint Showground, Exeter. A fantastic platform for craft lovers to showcase their creative talents: hands-on workshops, demonstrations and shopping opportunities.

Travel cost: £13

Sunday 24th September 11.00 - 16.00
Sunday carvery at the
White Horse Inn, Launceston.

This traditional pub offers excellent home-made food.

Travel cost: £7

Friday 29th September 10.30 - 17.00
Mystery outing:

The clue is in the name!!

Travel cost: £8

Monday 2nd October 10.30 - 16.00
Choice of Darts Farm for 'out of town' shopping, or Topsham on the Exe estuary for spending a quiet day.

Travel cost: £13

Sunday 8th October 10.30 - 16.00
Sunday lunch at Hewas Inn, Sticker, St Austell, Roast and other dishes at a traditional village inn with an enviable reputation for good quality home cooked food.

Travel cost: £10

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Dog Fouling Signage

Following the Town Council's dog fouling signage competition in March 2023 a further seven dog fouling signs are being erected in the town. The signage will be placed in the following locations all of which have been identified as hot spots for owners not picking up after their pets

- Entrance to Longstone Park
- Saltash Library • Saltash Waterside • Pillmere Green
- Pillmere Meadow • Pillmere Dartmoor View • Ashton Way Play Park

It is proposed that two further signs will be installed at St Stephens Church and North Road bus stop subject to landowner approval.

Residents can report dog fouling offences to Cornwall Council via the following link: <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment/animal-welfare-and-enforcement/dog-fouling/>

Or download the fantastic free mobile application 'Pooper Snooper' which encourages dog owners and wider communities to take responsibility for tackling dog fouling in their local areas.

Don't forget you can dispose of bagged dog waste in any dog bin, litter bin or general domestic bin.

Sustainable Saltash

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

Green Bathrooms

30-40% of total landfill waste by volume in the UK comes from our bathrooms. That includes important items that deserve separate attention- i.e. nappies and sanitary products, but that still leaves a deluge of wipes, brushes, bottles, tubes and plastic pots. Most of these are not recycled- despite it being very possible to do so. We now recycle the vast majority of our kitchen waste in the UK, but only half of our bathroom waste. One idea is to start rinsing out and recycling. That goes some way, but what about reducing it?

When we started looking at what was coming out of our bathroom, there were some easy fixes and some hard ones. Liquid soaps went early, they feel like an old idea that's had its day. Bars are cheap, they last an absolute age and they are barely packaged. You can use them all over, too. Worried about them going soggy? Get a magnetic holder like your mum had. Gorgeous. And no more dispensers to knock off the sink.

Shampoo and conditioner bars have come a long way. They used to be hideous things that turned hair to wire wool as you walked them to the checkout, but they are better now. They work well on my hair and my daughters. If they let you down (it will be the conditioner that is the sticking point), the good folks at Deli

Bazaar will refill your bottles and they will last forever.

Soap and a brush is great for shaving, no end of lather with soft Cornish water and the brushing lifts the hairs for a better result. My old school safety razor with its single metal blades (which cost nothing) is great.

The last thing to go has been skin and hair products. Tins and glass jars are a better than plastic. If you fancy a real adventure, there are loads of recipes online to make your own. I played about with this a lot, but I have now found an easy one with oil and beeswax, surprisingly good for my sandpaper skin and reassuringly few ingredients. Change the ratios and you get something lighter or heavier. Reduce the oil right down and you get lip balm or hair wax.

I've had my failures in this particular experiment, and most notable among them is toothpaste. I've tried all sorts of tabs and none have given results I am happy with. Am I doing it wrong? I'm also ambivalent on a lot of plastic free toothbrushes. Any ideas would be welcomed in the dental hygiene department.

I've also singly failed to give up my monthly contact lenses, so that's thing I'll have to deal with down the line. Maybe one day I'll find rain repellent glasses and all will be well.

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

Voice of Saltash Patients

Your Views on Healthcare will be Needed Soon

The Healthcare Action Group met on August 23, and is now drafting a progress report for the community to consider. It will be made public in early September, and your involvement in considering it will be invited. The Group may be able to put on an event at St Barnabas Hospital so you can give your views to everyone involved. That will inform Group members for the next stages in improving healthcare provision in the town.

Several of you have told us over the months that various elements of the NHS don't seem to work well together, and patients can fall through the gaps. As patients, we've made sure that this has been raised in the Group. The good news is that the progress report will have the unanimous support of the different members of the Group, that is

- The two GP Practices, plus the local NHS Primary Care Network
- The Community Trust that manages St Barnabas Hospital and all community health services,
- The Integrated Care Board that provides the funds for our services, and
- The community representatives - whether patient representatives, Friends of St Barnabas, or elected councillors

It is good news for patients that members of the Group can all share a vision of how healthcare can develop locally, and that they will continue to work together to put it into practice over time. We have no new money identified yet, but we are trying to build up a kitty to finance changes.

However, some things have already been put into practice as a result of the Group's work. To ensure that care for vulnerable patients is being fully coordinated, regular "huddles" of different community staff are now taking place. Also, we discovered that more out-patient clinics are available at St Barnabas than was first thought, and these will now be promoted more publicly by the Trust, and more of them provided over time. We hope that deals can be struck with

Derriford Hospital services to base more out-patient services here, including radiology. Finally, GP Practices are offering direct access to particular services to avoid the frustration of waiting for appointments.

One downside is that there are soon to be organisational changes in the Integrated Care Board (to reduce staff costs on government orders), and we know that such changes have gravely hindered developments in the past. However, the Group is treating this as a positive opportunity to pause and produce a progress report. So do help us now by telling us your personal experiences. Are things locally any different from the national picture we hear on the news? What help is lacking for you? What good services have you had?

Please do anything you can to help us press for services that seem to be needed. These will be considered in the next phase of our work, starting in October. We look forward to your engagement with us. Don't forget you can email us at any time, patient.voice@icloud.com or contact the Patient Group at your GP surgery.

One Hundred Days to Save for Christmas

'It's too early!' I hear you all shouting, but with all the wonderful things Christmas brings, it also brings cost. That's why starting to plan and create a Christmas budget 100 days before the big day can really help you avoid unnecessary spending, reduce stress and allow you to focus on the important things, like enjoying the festive period with friends and family when the time comes.

Decide on how much to save
Based on the number of payments you receive between now and Christmas, it's a good time to decide what you can save. Think about what is realistic and manageable to set aside each time you are paid.

Allocate your savings
Make a list of everything you want to buy for Christmas. Consider the decorations, food and treats, transport costs to see family or friends, as well as presents. Reduce your spending by checking what you can reuse. Once you've decided on how much you're going to save for Christmas, you'll be able to work out how you want to split this amount to spend on different things.

Spread your purchases out
Decide what you're going to buy and when. It can be as simple as buying one or two presents per month. Spreading the cost can give you peace of mind, plus you'll be able to take advantage of any special offers or bargains available in the run up to Christmas. Only buy what you can afford according to your budget. No one wants to start the New Year stressed and in debt, and

planning your purchases can help avoid that.

Sharing the cost
Families wanting to buy young children something special for Christmas may want to speak to relatives now about clubbing together to help cope with the cost, or even just recruit their help to manage their child's expectations!

Access free budgeting tools
An online search will lead you to lots of free budgeting tools which can help you plan, save and track your Christmas spending. If you could benefit from money coaching or want someone to have a look over your plans, contact me on:

07306 087632 or, by email, timsquires@capuk.org. You may never have planned ahead for Christmas before, but doing so can really take the pressure off, leaving you relaxed to really enjoy what matters.

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

TEA FOR TWO

‘Just tea for two, and two, for tea!’ So sang the famous Doris Day in one of the most enjoyable films that I had ever watched in 1950 as a small child.

Indeed, I would like a pot of Cornish tea for how many times tea for two and two for tea had been served in Saltash's stunning tea Gardens over many decades, now long gone; but such brewing reflections

for socialising in the outdoors during the warmer months of the year; usually between April/May to August /September and several mainly only opened on Sundays.

Popular Pursuit

Although tea drinking became popular in England in the 17th century, it was in the 1840s that afternoon tea as a concept came into existence. This is largely credited to Anna Russell, the seventh Duchess of Bedford who is said to have introduced this tradition as refreshment between lunch and supper.

Authors Scenarios

The idea caught on, and soon

drinking tea and indulging in a nibble or two. Historically, although there are records of aristocracy visiting these gardens, they were generally favoured by the middle class. It

town that embraced the tea gardens increasing popularity, and boasted very attractive tea gardens in the early 20th Century.

The most popular of which,



Apple Tree Cottage

became popular amongst the ladies, as it was the perfect place to socialise in an outdoor setting with the added bonus of having entertainment. Coffee houses which were also around at the same time were seen as being more in the men's domain. Some of the more popular tea houses of the time were Belvedere, Kensington,

was Apple Tree Cottage tea garden - which was a most picturesque and beautiful garden situated in the heart of Forder, a stunning conservation area of Saltash.

Apple Tree Cottage (Cot)

Apple Tree Cot, which until around 1906 had a thatched roof (which shortly after



Rustic

and Marlborough tea gardens, over 200 outdoor pleasure and tea gardens proliferated. Moreover, due to their success, these enterprises started to pop up on the outskirts of cities, and eventually spreading to towns and villages all over England. Consequently, the old Saltash Borough hosted attractive and popular tea gardens.

changed to a slate roof). Apple Tree Cot was the best-known of all the tea gardens in the Saltash area; the last proprietor being Hugh Seccombe, uncle of the late Sir Vernon Seccombe; Sir Vernon who became a Mayor of Saltash (and was also very proudly a great and longstanding friend of our family).

Saltash Tea Gardens
Saltash was a thriving Borough

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Avenue Slade Park Tea Gardens

Avenue Slade Tea Gardens, embraced unrivalled and panoramic views across the confluence of the two rivers Tamar and Tavy, over to St Budeaux pasture land and Dartmoor. Further, a glimpse of Landulph and its nestling Church. Visitors could also ramble around the beautiful gardens as well as enjoying tea and refreshments. The gracious serving ladies adorned in their mop caps and flowing period Sunday-best dresses were also a picture to behold.

Rustic Tea Gardens

The Rustic Tea Gardens, which were situated in Old Ferry Road, historically had different site uses before becoming a tea garden. The site is now Daw's Court apartments. The former building where the Rustic Tea Gardens stood was a beautiful stone structure and used for some sort of Industrial use up until the end of the 19th century. Most pleasingly, in the very early 1900's the site behind the building had been converted into a most attractive Rustic Tea Garden, run by the Newberry family. The gardens were attractively ornamental and were very popular with visitors and locals alike; the discerning visitors arrived by boat and ferry, mainly from Plymouth. The customers were treated to a range of teas, beverages and refreshments. The Rustic Tea Gardens closed in 1929 after Mr Newbury sadly took his own life; Mr Archibald Daw from Launceston was the next owner and turned the site into a very successful creamery business (Daw's Creamery). The Creamery employed several local people, many of which became great friends of mine and my husband John.



Avenue Slade Park

Antony Passage Tea Gardens

These beautiful tea gardens were situated at the picturesque hamlet of Antony Passage (next to the former Ferry House Inn, run by the Crossley's for many years) (both long gone of course). The tea gardens were within the



Antony Passage

curtilage of one of the old cottages with the backdrop of the River Lynher and overlooking Antony Estate across the other side of the river. Visitors came to the tea gardens via the Antony Passage ferry-boat or on foot as passenger of the nearby buses and trains.

21st Century Saltash

Saltash, with its historic photographs and postcards, such as ours (as featured in these Tamar Reflections) can still wondrously recollect its rural tea gardens in settings of times past. Moreover like many of our towns, villages

and cities, over the decades has evolved into a busy town of shops, offices, coffee shops, eateries and hostleries; together with a modern transport and parking system. Pleasingly, we can continue pictorially to reflect upon those delightful leisurely times past; and indeed reminisce that Saltash once boasted amongst some of the most beautiful tea gardens in England!

Time for a cuppa me thinks! I can smell the tea-pot!

Sue Hooper MBE

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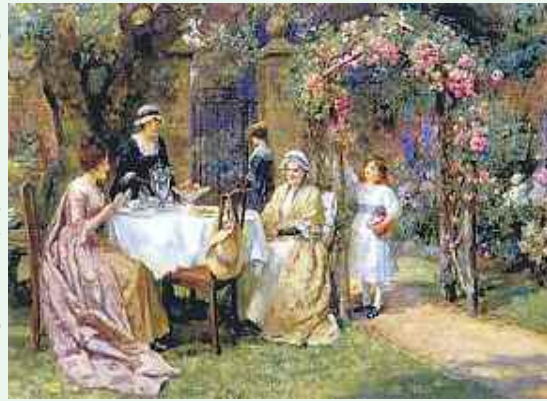


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will forever remain with many of us, of those past Saltash outdoor pleasures - (more on those later).

English Tea Gardens

Although tea gardens first started appearing in the 16th century, it was not until the 18th and 19th centuries that really saw the rapidly growing of tea gardens in England, starting with London. These wonderful green spaces provided respite from the congested, polluted city places and provided an opportunity

afternoon tea was a celebrated ritual around England. Authors such as Dickens, George Bernard-Shaw and Oscar Wilde often featured scenarios in their dramatic works featuring such pleasurable pursuits.

Indeed, the wide-spread enthusiasm for afternoon tea was instrumental in helping tea gardens become popular throughout the country. A smaller version of the tea gardens were ideal for a day of wandering about through lush flowering plants and fruit trees, meeting friends and of course,



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Harmonious Melodies Enchant on Saltash Forder Green Moorlands Mandolin Orchestra Delights

Photograph kind courtesy of John Hooper



On August 16th a picturesque scene in the tranquil ambiance of Saltash Forder Village, was graced by the enchanting melodies of the Moorlands Mandolin Orchestra under the direction of multi-talented David Faulkner, and boasting players from all over Devon and Cornwall. Well over a hundred local residents and neighbouring families, gathered for an evening that can only be described as idyllic.

The Moorlands Mandolin Orchestra, known for their skilful renditions and harmonious performances, proved to be a true delight for the senses.

Strumming all-time greats such as – ‘On the Sunny side of the Street’, ‘Allegro’ and ‘Love Letters in the Sand’ to add to ‘Polka’s and ‘Sonatina No1’.

Against the backdrop of the creek, with the hues of the setting sun, the orchestra members strummed their mandolins with grace and passion weaving a tapestry of emotions, resonating through the hearts of the attendees.

The serene atmosphere was further enhanced as the canopies of trees surrounding the gathering cast gentle shadows and reflections upon the creek.

Families lounged in the warmth of the evening: “It was a magical evening,” remarked Nigel Crabb, who organised the event.

“The music seemed to

blend seamlessly with the natural surroundings.”

The Moorlands Mandolin Orchestra brought together people from various walks of life, sharing a common appreciation for art and the simple joys of musicianship. Such gatherings serve as a reminder of the strength of a **Close-knit community.**

Special musical guests added to the wonderful musicality of the evening – talented vocalist, Andrea Cohen who lives in the village sang beautiful folk songs of her own composition and those of Joni Mitchell and Bob Dylan, to name but a few.

David Faulkner extended his repository by playing magnificently and with great dexterity, the Northumbrian Pipes; whereupon parents and children danced to the music enthusiastically!

Multi-instrumentalist Steve Wherly, a member of the Moorland Mandolins played with great aplomb, a medley of songs on his

Mandolin.

To add to the outstanding and varied programme, husband and wife duo Leith and Sandie Whittington played and sang together from their varied musical portfolio of the Mandolin and Flute.

As the sun dipped below the horizon and the last notes of the orchestra’s performance echoed into the night, the attendees dispersed, carrying with them the memories of a beautiful evening.

Saltash Forder will undoubtedly hold onto the echoes of this melodic night, a testament to the power of music to transform ordinary moments into extraordinary memories.

The concert was presented by the Forder Community Conservation Association to raise awareness and funds for its continued work, looking after the Conservation area in which Forder sits.

Sue Hooper

Just Thinking Aloud

Heaven forbid that I should bruise the sensitivities of even a few of the regular readers of these multifarious meanderings – so this month I shall desist from punishing you with my views on The Pathetic Politics of Poundshop Enoch Powells. In other words you are hereby spared from Bob in full rant mode.

Instead, just a few local bits that have wandered into my consciousness in recent days: Wouldn’t it be wonderful if our Waterside was a bit tidier, meaning that if the beach was such that it could be enjoyed by children instead of being stuffed with lots of boats which don’t seem to be in regular use - if at all? What about the Town Quay? Whose responsibility is it to ensure that it is kept in good repair? Go and have a look. But all is not gloom and doom – Ash Torre Rock has a splendid reputation as a community café run essentially by friendly waterside volunteers. It has a lot going for it.

When my family visit, that is one of the places they head for – not posh, not pricy, but deservedly popular.

Moving up the hill to Saltash Station, Alexandra Square, Lower Fore St and our town’s main drag: You have to hand it to Mayor Bickford and our town council – the station has been renewed, and the number of folk travelling annually from fair Esse has gone up to 137,000 (so CC Martin Worth tells me). Martin and I were both at Miss Wakeham’s funeral, after which he was off to a meeting with the Mayor and railway folk to ponder on boarding and alighting difficulties at the station.

Want to have your say? Look on the Saltash Town

Council website to find out where on Fore St and on which Saturdays of the month you can meet a selection of your councillors in the flesh. Don’t be shy. They are all eminently approachable. Back down to Lower Fore St and Saltash Heritage Museum and Local History Centre (which I used to chair for five years) – I hear that they would not turn away any volunteers who might want to man the museum on its opening days.

Indeed I am sure that anyone who wants to find out more about said organisation would be warmly received by its hardworking committee members. Details are online. Opposite its 17 Lower Fore St front door is a short tunnel that leads to Alexandra Square. Just to the right of the tunnel exit is the entrance door to the Saltash Essa Club. Contrary to rumour, this is not a pole dancing establishment, but a licensed social club with a friendly membership, a hardworking volunteer committee which also runs the good value bar, snooker, pool, music and so on.

Details are also online. When I first joined in 1975 it belonged to Saltash Sailing Club, having previously been the town jail in the 19th Century. These days I am its sole surviving life member!

Bob Munro

Focus on Environment in Library Autumn Line Up

Events to cater for all ages have been organised to mark Environment Month in September, including two major presentations highlighting the need to care for our local and maritime environments.

The conservation of our oceans, and in particular how sea grass planting in local waters can reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, will be the leading issue in a presentation by the Ocean Conservation Trust for Friday 22nd September at 2pm. This will be followed on Thursday 28th September, also at 2pm, by a presentation from Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, emphasising what is being achieved locally, with a focus on re-wilding and collaboration with local environmental producers.

Throughout Environment Month, Forest for Cornwall will be holding an exhibition and consultation on ‘Right Tree, Right Place’ regarding the greening of our environment. And Saltash Environmental Action are encouraging all to participate in their ‘End Fossil Fuels’ art competition and display. Any

form of art, including model making and writing in poem or prose, is welcome on the theme of fossil fuels. After being displayed, all submissions will be sent on to the most appropriate national or local body to give Saltash a voice in the larger debate.

There will also be the opportunity for children to enjoy explorations of the natural world through virtual 3D visits to the Ocean Drift, Nature Drift and Nature Trek worlds.

Looking ahead to Libraries Week from October 2nd to 8th, there will be the chance to meet authors including Graham Hurley and Sally Worth. Don’t miss the ‘How to Catch a Book Witch’ shows presented by Coppice Theatre on 6th October, when the Book Worm will need the help of children to uncover why words are vanishing.

Fire Station Fun for Young and Old



Katie Slade, who took 34 seconds to dress up in firefighter gear.

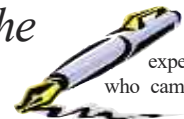
Every small child’s dream, to sit behind the wheel of a fire engine, could be realised at the Open Day held in Saltash Fire Station over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

Believed to be the first open day at the Fire Station in ten years, it pulled in the crowds, and while children were especially attracted to the bright red engines, the event held something of interest for everybody. As well as our local engines, an appliance brought up from Bodmin was also on display. One of just three in Cornwall and Devon, it is adapted specifically for serious road traffic accidents. Fire officers displayed the variety

of cutting equipment as well the bag which can lift a 36-ton truck. The turntable ladder fire truck alongside it also attracted great interest, as did the display of firefighting memorabilia courtesy of Saltash Heritage.

The fire station itself was filled with a wide variety of stalls, while at the concourse to the rear, there were plenty of games and dressing up activities for children. Other emergency services were represented, including the RNLI and the police, who supplied a ‘Black Maria’ van. The van was, in fact, a white one, in which children and indeed Saltash Mayor Councillor Richard Bickford volunteered to be imprisoned for a brief while.

Letter to the Editor



of novice and experienced embroiderers who came together a decade ago under the guidance of Andrew Triton to create a 100 ft long work of art which is now hung in the upper hall of Saltash Guildhall. It is well worth a look so if you haven’t yet seen it, do please contact the Town Council at 01752 844846 to arrange a viewing.

Denise Watkins

I always enjoy Saltash Freeman Sue Hooper’s column on the history of Saltash. On reading Tamar Reflections in the August issue, I was reminded how many of these historic events are depicted in the Saltash Chronicles Embroidery Project. The embroidery panels were created by local volunteers

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