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The May Fair Weekend

# SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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April 2011 - Issue 225

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

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## STATION BUILDING'S FUTURE UNCERTAIN

Although the tree which was growing from the chimney has been removed, Saltash Station building continues to deteriorate. While increasing passenger numbers are using the enhanced train services stopping in Saltash they are confronted with a dismal and ever deteriorating Victorian Station building which once sold more train tickets than any other in Cornwall.

"A unique opportunity to own part of Saltash's industrial heritage and bring tourists into a Brunel Heritage Centre in the heart of the town" is how your Saltash Observer described the Saltash Town Council's proposals to buy the station building in 1990.

The sale went through that year under the mayoralty of Councillor Colin Breed, with the aid of a £25,000 grant from Caradon District Council and

the Town Council making up the balance of the £35,000 purchase price. Negotiations then began with English Partnership and other sources to raise the £60,000 anticipated costs of renovating the building. Plans included a Brunel Museum and Heritage Centre with a conservatory café built on overlooking the bridge.

Sadly the next eight years saw little progress, with various applications for grant funding

meeting mixed success but no 'go ahead' given - as the building suffered.

A questionnaire seeking public views on the station's future was circulated by the Town Council in early 2004 and the results showed a majority still favoured the original plan for a heritage centre with adjacent café/bistro. Still no progress was made and the state of the building continued to cause concern to passengers, councillors, and townsfolk.

Ten years after purchasing the station building the Town Council gave up their own plans for its development and agreed to sell it off. Sealed bids were invited, there was considerable interest and in March 2006 the Observer advised that nine such bids had been received. All of those keen to buy it were invited to give a presentation to the Town Council which could then decide to sell to the bidder offering what was best for the

Town as well as value for money.

We were then advised, in June 2006, that the building would have to be re-marketed following an updated building survey and ground survey. Four further bids were considered and in July 2006 we reported that the Town Council had decided, subject to Caradon's agreement, to sell the station building to the highest bidder. What we described as 'the worst kept secret in Saltash' was the completion of the sale to a bidder who had given fine-sounding promises to restore the building to its former glory. News filtered through of sale to a property developer who intended to replace the platform canopy and bring back the character of the G.W.R. to enhance the first (or last) glimpse of Cornwall for rail passengers. Meanwhile, the Town Council negotiated with Caradon who were seeking refund of their initial grant a decade earlier. An amicable settlement was reached.

By October 2007 your 'Observer' was already reporting with considerable concern "following the sale of Saltash Station by the Council to a private developer the old building has been surrounded by boards. However, nothing else appears to have happened and the building continues to deteriorate."

'Station a disgrace to town' we reported in September 2008, advising as to the Town Council's concern at lack of progress and the unhappy vista offered to arriving train passengers during the approaching Brunel celebrations.

While it had apparently been a condition of granting of planning permission, following the Council's sale to a private developer, that renovation work started within six months there seemed to be no way the owners could be forced to continue that work.

So, fifteen years after the Town Council purchased the station building with grandiose plans for it as a tourist centre, five years after they decided to sell it on to a purchaser who promised to restore it to its former glory, the building remains a dismal and decaying 'Gateway to Cornwall' viewed by hundreds of Saltash passengers and thousand of travellers for whom it is a first, and unimpressive, glimpse of Cornwall.

## PIRATES PULL IN £700 FOR COMIC RELIEF



The girls, from the Hearing Room who described themselves as 'The Pirates of Mens' Pants' also adorned themselves with eye-patches, bandanas, nautical looking beards, hooks and even a large and colourful parrot. More photos and story on Page 12

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## Saltash Town Council – First in Cornwall

In light of the recent campaign to 'Keep Cornwall Whole' for Parliamentary Boundaries, Saltash Town Council has taken several steps to emphasise its Cornish identity.

In the week leading up to St Piran's Day the Council put up around 40 St Piran's Flags in Fore St, which will remain in the coming months. St Piran's Day itself also saw the Mayor's Ball being held with a Cornish theme, Cornish produce, and a heartfelt rendering of Trelawney to the strains of pipes just before dinner! The dinner was also partly sponsored by China Fleet and St Austell Brewery in the form of Cornish pre-dinner drinks!

The council has now also voted to include the Cornish for Saltash Town Council – Konsel An Dre Essa – after the English on its letterhead.

Saltash Town Mayor, Cllr Adam Killeya, who convened the Keep Cornwall Whole campaign, said "it's about making a simple statement that Saltash is in Cornwall and intends to stay that way – just in case anyone in government was in danger of forgetting!"

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For Observer readers

From Councillor Derek Holley

Pill Ward Saltash

You get all sorts of politicians; as you probably know big important ones like the Prime Minister and lesser ones like M.P.s, then at the bottom of the pile you get local councillors, like me, let's call them minor politicians. However the golden rule joining them all is that you never, ever say something that might lose you votes at the next election (or lose your party votes, if you have one, unlike myself). So here I go about to break that rule. This is going to be hard...here goes...right...there are some dirty, horrible people in Saltash. Done it!

**Dog Owners**

Fortunately for you, reader, you are unlikely to be one because you are reading this column and that probably puts you into the category of "responsible and community-minded person"; this is unfortunate for me, though, because those are the people I want to get at. Yes, it is all about dogs and dog mess, and it is a subject that we councillors hear about a lot. I like dogs, I always have, and I know a lot of people who own them; I also know that these are clean, decent people who carry a plastic bag, pick up their dogs waste and put it into a proper bin. Most dog owners are indeed like that but, sadly, a significant minority are not. These are the people I referred to above and I make no apologies for my description of them. The worst thing is that this small, disgusting group give the decent majority a bad name. Who are they? Why are they so filthy? Why on earth, for example, do some of them let their dogs mess on Warfelton Playing Field, Chapel Field and Moorlands Lane rugby field? What do they think when they let their dogs (who are not to blame at all) do their business and then they don't pick it up? I feel really sorry for the footballers and the rugby players because both

groups have asked us to do something about it. Do the dirty people realise that the children and adults have to form a line and carefully pick over the fields with gloves before matches? We have two dog wardens for SE Cornwall and no prospect of a better service, thanks to government cuts. Even then they are unlikely to be able to do much because these people slink out in the early morning and again at dusk, let their dogs mess and then slink back home again; you see them in the twilight, sometimes whistling, pretending not to be in charge of their dogs and looking around to see if they have been noticed in their acts. I think these people should be banned for life from owning dogs. And if one more of these dirty people say when accosted, "I haven't got a bag", I will scream!

So what can I, as a minor politician, do about it? Well, if you see and identify somebody behaving like this you can let me know either directly or via the Guildhall (844846) and we will take it from there. On the other hand this is one of those occasions when you, by expressing your disapproval, can do much more than mere councillors. You could politely say something like, "I don't think you saw but your dog has messed over there" or, "I expect you don't have a plastic bag, here is one for you", (if you have one). There is plenty of evidence from all walks of life expressing the view that a comment on a subject made to you from your peers is as important in changing your behaviour as a telling off by someone in authority. In other words what we say to our peers really counts. If you get a denial or an answering back, say no more, smile and leave; your worthwhile deed has actually been done by then, the point made and you need do no more, unless you want to contact a

councillor as described above.

I suppose, as a Cornwall Councillor as well as a Town Councillor I should be saying something weighty about the goings on in Truro, our glorious seat of local government. What does continue to go on in a large number of areas is the work to amalgamate and make sensible the different systems inherited from the late and sadly-missed district councils. This is taking a long time because it is so complicated to do. I continue to bat our end on the car-parking panel, not very successfully I am afraid, as the panel finds itself constantly up against a stated intention to use the car parks as a cash cow to make up the government deficit (and blow the viability of our town centres, that doesn't matter).

**"A life-changing experience"**

I have just come back from Zimbabwe as part of Wesley Church's partnership exchange. There is an over-used phrase, "a life-changing experience", but that is what it was, I think. Lots of experiences topped always by the warmth, kindness and resilience of the people in the face of an infrastructure that is in free-fall all about them. Put it like this: I will never complain about potholes in the roads again and if I complain about anything, actually, with the exception of this rant, please remind me of a wonderful people who are worse off than ourselves, and who just get on with their lives.

**Condolences**

Finally can I send, on behalf of the Cornwall Councillors, our condolences to our M.P. Sheryll Murray and to her family. Sheryll's husband Neil, a fisherman out of Looe, died in an accident at sea recently. When you next eat your fish and chips remember the fishermen who put their lives at risk every day to feed you. Sometimes, sadly, they pay the price. Our thoughts are with you, Sheryll.

Derek Holley  
Saltash Town and Cornwall Councillor

**Essa Road development Unsited to Historic Area'**

Residents in and around Essa Road joined together to oppose revised plans for two residences in an existing garden near the junction with King Edward Road.

Twelve letters of objection had been sent to the Town Council and seventeen had added their signature to a petition opposing the development.

"This would be totally out of keeping with a historic area and the development would result in loss of green space for future generations," a local resident told the Town Council.

There had been minor changes to previously rejected plans but they had not changed his views on the detrimental effect on Essa Road, Deputy Mayor Colin Oakes told the Council.

After debate it was agreed to again recommend refusal on the basis of the detrimental effect on the façade of the adjacent building and its character as well as on the whole historic area of Saltash.

"The design is poor and not in keeping with the historic area," it was agreed. Other grounds for objection included over development, the new gardens being too small, loss of green space and garden, loss of a historic wall, traffic issues on a dangerous corner and windows overlooking Port View intruding on privacy. There was also concern over the safety of the ancient Port View retaining wall from the digging of foundations.

**NEW DENTIST WELCOMED IN SALTASH**



Sheryll Murray MP was delighted to open the new NHS dentist in Fore Street in Saltash. The dentist is already treating 60 patients a day and 1300 local people are registered.

**Cornwall County cuts Include Grass**

Much has been heard over the past few months concerning Cornwall Council's cuts.

One cut which met with approval was that of the grass in Saltash four months earlier than usual. "Are we on to a good thing here?" a member of the public queried during the public question time of Saltash Town Council.

"I think it was an accident," came the disappointing rejoinder from County Councillor Derek Holley.

The plans were unanimously recommended for refusal to the evident relief of the local residents who had packed the public gallery.

**OBSERVER'S CONDOLENCES TO SHERYLL MURRAY M.P.**

The Saltash and District Observer joins with constituents in South East Cornwall and friends everywhere in sending condolences to our Member of Parliament, Sheryll Murray on the tragic loss of her husband Neil.

It was a sad irony that Sheryll had been addressing the Commons on Safety at Sea and urging the retention of the Coastguard Service hours before contact was lost with Neil who was manning his commercial fishing boat single-handed. By the time 'Our Boy Andrew' named for Neil and Sheryll's son, had been located far from her normal fishing grounds, Neil was found dead. It was apparently the result of an accident, the cause of which is subject to investigation.

As well as their son Andrew, a marine electronics engineer, there is a daughter Sally, serving as a Royal Naval Officer. The love of the sea was shared by all the family who were also all too well aware of its dangers.

Sheryll has been a good friend and supporter of your Saltash Community Newspaper, the 'Observer' prior to and subsequent to her election as our member of parliament last May. Our thoughts and prayers are with her and her family at this time.

Sheryll has campaigned for the NHS to keep dentistry in Saltash. She worked closely with NHS managers to ensure the gap in service was as short as possible following the closure of the old practice.

At the opening Sheryll thanked the Primary Care Trust for their commitment to Saltash. She also welcomed the location of the Dentist to encourage more people to use the town centre and the fact

the dentist was opening outside normal business hours for the convenience of working patients.

After the opening Sheryll said, "I am very pleased that Saltash has a new NHS dentist but unfortunately demand is already outstripping supply. I look at this as a promising first step in improving dentistry in South East Cornwall but will continue to campaign for sufficient services in this essential field."

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**FROM THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR...**

As I write this the Cornish Weather has just decided that it's time to start Spring – a very welcome development for all of us! With the start of Spring comes the realisation that I'll be handing on the chain shortly, along with a determination to enjoy and make the most of my last few weeks in office.

This month I have been fortunate to be able to attend a lot of very different but interesting events in Saltash. I attended the Saltash Rotary Club to speak about the Cornish Boundary; joined the festivities for the 20th anniversary of Ashtorre Rock; and went to the opening of the splendid new Fore St Dental Surgery – a very welcome and impressive addition to Fore St. Merryn and I also attended the Saltash Showcase, the 100th Birthday of Mrs Dorothy Kendall, the party to celebrate the Wedding of Milly Ormond and Geoff Johnson at Saltash Blind Club (the sight of the happy couple entering under an array of crossed white sticks will not be soon forgotten!), a booksale to raise funds for St Stephen's Community Hall, and a very enjoyable coffee morning at Abbeyfield Chichester House. We attended the 3rd meeting of the Mayor's Panel of Youth, welcomed the 2nd Saltash Cubs to the Guildhall, spent time with the Tamar Trotters, and enjoyed the latest production of the Youngstagers at saltash.net. We also attended the reopening of the Hearing Room in Fore St, and the Lord Mayor of Plymouth's Civic Service.

In addition this month we have been involved in several efforts to raise money for my main charity – the very worth Saltash Community First Responders. Our Mayor's Ball at the China Fleet Club on St Piran's Day was tremendous fun, thanks to all of those who attended or worked to make the evening so enjoyable. We also attended a splendid concert given by Perfect Harmony to raise money for the group and, in a slight contrast, I jumped out of a plane from 15,000 feet over Devon with the Red Devils. Many thanks to all of those who sponsored my jump including several of my students who got over their disappointment that I

'was' going to wear a parachute and contributed most generously. A very unusual but enjoyable experience!

Also this month the Saltash Gateway Community Interest Company, Saltash Town Council, Saltash Chamber of Commerce and Fore St traders have been working together to follow up the results of the public consultation on Town Centre regeneration. We have now got a new group – the Saltash Town-centre Improvement Group (The STIG) and several specific ideas based on the most popular ideas in the consultation including more planting, improved signage, repaired pavements and new markets. We will also be investigating what we can do to keep parking costs down in Saltash in light of Cornwall Council's disappointing decision to hike the charges.

I would like to finish by flagging up some upcoming Town Council events: on 16th April at Saltash Fire Station from 10-4pm we will be holding a service of remembrance and open day to mark the 70th anniversary of the Saltash Firefighters killed in the Plymouth blitz. Saltash Fire Station, Saltash Heritage, Saltash Scouts and Saltash Royal British Legion have all worked very hard to make this event happen. Later that day I will also be opening the new Cemetery Extension including 27 new allotments) at Churchtown Farm – many thanks to Cllr Bob Austin for leading on this very important project and to Bond Brothers for the job they have done.

On 29th April, the day of the Royal Wedding, Saltash will be hosting its own Royal Wedding Garden Party, organised by Mayoress Merryn, Councillor Hilary Frank and Denise Watkins – it will take place in Longstone Park from 2pm and will include fancy dress, maypole dancing, circus skills, a bouncy castle, face-painting and, most importantly, large amounts of cake. All are welcome for what promises to be a tremendous occasion. The next day of course will be the always excellent Saltash Mayfair, and I hope to see lots of you at both events.

*Cllr and Town Mayor  
Adam Killeya*

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The feast day of St Piran, patron saint of Cornwall, was celebrated in style in Saltash by those attending the Mayor's Ball.

A Cornish theme was promoted for the event by Mayor and Mayoress Adam and Merryn Killeya, beginning with a communal singing of Trelawney. Cornish brewed beer was enjoyed by the guests who assembled at the China Fleet Club, and the Saint who was supposedly fond of a tippie and a festive time, would have enjoyed the communal and convivial atmosphere that prevailed as guests sat down to a meal in which local Cornish produce predominated.

There was an excellent attendance, including our editor Mary with her own 'gang' of twenty-two ball-goers, all agreeing that it was among the liveliest and most light-hearted of such events as, following the feast, one and all danced to the live music of well into the St Piran's night.

## Train times on the right lines

The increasing numbers of passengers using Saltash Station for local and long distance journeys can now benefit from the latest in information technology showing actual times of trains due.

Passengers on the 'up' (Plymouth and London bound) and 'down' (Cornwall bound) platforms now have permanent access to 'help points' which offer full

screened information on the next five trains due. This shows not only the ultimate destination and intermediate stops, it also shows the train to be on time or, if delayed, by how many minutes. It shows the location of approaching trains and even the number of carriages which make up the approaching trains.

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Adam Killeya with jump partner/instructor L/Cpl Chris Davison;

## 70th Anniversary of the Loss of Six Firefighters

On Saturday 16th April several organisations in Saltash will gather together at the Saltash Fire Station to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the loss of six Saltash Volunteer Firefighters who were killed in the Plymouth blitz on 22nd April 1941.

Also being commemorated is Scout Donald Cummins who won the Cornwall Scout Badge, known as the 'Scouts' VC', for fighting fires in Saltash during the war as part of the 1st Scouts Auxiliary Fire Service unit in the country.

The service has been organised between Saltash Town Council, Cornwall Fire and Rescue Saltash, Saltash Heritage, Saltash Scouts, Saltash Royal British Legion and relatives of the men killed. It will be followed by an open day at the station where visitors can view current and past firefighting equipment and photographs and displays from the 1940s.

Youth organisations from the town have also been invited to take part in firefighting related challenges, organised by the Saltash Fire Cadets Saltash Town Mayor, Cllr Adam Killeya, said "Saltash is proud of all its servicemen and women who have given their lives, or put themselves in danger, for our freedoms. It is very important that during this 70th Anniversary of the blitz we acknowledge this sacrifice made by six Saltash men in one night, who died volunteering to help save lives"

### Additional Information

70 years ago a secret report stated that 'Plymouth as a

business and commercial centre has ceased to exist'. A call was made to all local firefighter units for help, and six men from Saltash went to the Aid of their City Neighbour: Francis Brooking Stanley Crabbe Alfred Crapp Bernard Jasper John Stanlake Leslie Tibbs

They travelled in a converted Packard Taxi pulling their trailer pump. Unfortunately in the Keyham / Devonport area their vehicle drove over a landmine and all six men were killed. The bodies were taken to Devonport Hospital then all six were buried together in St Stephen's Graveyard, Saltash. A commemorative plaque was made and dedicated in a memorial service in 2008.

## Rail Bridge Work commences

Renovations to the Royal Albert Bridge, to a value of £10 million have now commenced. Councillor Richard Bickford has reported to the Town Council.

The work will include replacement of bridge works, removal of redundant metal work and an eventual repainting of the structure.

## Plymouth's Civic Treasures shown to Saltash Guests

Historic regalia from the three towns that make modern day Plymouth were among the civic treasures shown to Saltash Heritage members when they visited the Lord Mayor of Plymouth, Councillor Mary Aspinall, in the Council Chamber

She first entertained her Saltash guests to tea while she and her Mace-bearer passed around the chains of office as well as the sparkling Astor diamonds, a priceless necklace spontaneously donated to the city by Lady Astor on her being made a freeman of the city. In the Mayor's parlour portraits of

buccaneers including Drake and Hawkins were admired, as were the mayoral robes.

An assortment of maces, including those from the ancient stannery town of Plympton, were among silverware which included a reproduction of Drake's sword and a wide variety of gifts to the city including Astor racing trophies.

The Lord Mayor then took her guests into the council chamber and described the traditions and practices of the city councillors who normally take the seats in which Heritage members were installed. Chairman John Parsons warmly thanked the Lord Mayor and her mace-bearers for their time and their hospitality to the guests from over the Tamar.

## Inner Wheel Report

### February and March

At our February meeting, we were entertained by our newest member Dianne Hobbs with stories and anecdotes about her "Life behind Bars" when she ran a pub with her late husband in West Cornwall. It was quite a revelation to hear what goes behind the scenes! The meeting was chaired by Carol Couch and the Vote of Thanks was given by Pauline Skinner.

On the 18th and 19th of February, one of our members opened her garden by special invitation to groups and individuals, raising a considerable amount for Inner Wheel Charities, both locally and Overseas. Visitors were able to view Snowdrops, of which she has some 70 plus varieties in her garden, some quite rare. They also saw Crocuses, Pansies and other spring flowers, also many early shrubs in bloom. Refreshments were served by members. We had a cake and preserve stall, also a plant sale. On Saturday evening we all met up at a local Chinese Restaurant, at The Rodney Inn, and enjoyed a well earned meal together. On Saint Piran's Day, 5th March we joined Lynn Marsh and members of The Ashtorre Rock Community Centre in their 20th Birthday Celebration. Carol Couch and her team produced an excellent six course meal, followed by Coffee and Cornish Fairings. Entertainment and music was provided by The Knocker and Wreckers.

Our March meeting was chaired by Ann Potter. Officers for the coming year were elected as follows; President Nancy Davy, Vice President Pauline Skinner Secretary Sandra Lamb, Treasurer Evelyn Dwelly, Overseas Service Chairman Ann Potter, Club Correspondent Mairead Lavelle Committee members Carol Couch, Linda Durbin, Jean Willcocks and Mary Brown.

## Longstone Loo re-opens

Mothers with children enjoying facilities at Longstone Park in particular will be pleased to note that the public conveniences there have re-opened.

There was concern when the toilets in the Bowls Club building were closed earlier this year with no reference to why or whether this was permanent. Enquiries through your 'Saltash Observer' ascertained that they were in fact closed for renovation and they have now re-opened.

The future of local public toilets is now an issue as Cornwall Council seeks to implement further cuts to save finances.

With three public conveniences out of seven already closed Saltash Town Council has been asked to advise how they wish those remaining to be financed. It was agreed by a majority vote that any money for refurbishment should be spent on Waterside rather than the Town Centre.

The £25,000 ring-fenced by Caradon Council to renovate the decrepit Belle Vue facilities has been lost to West Cornwall, Councillors who favoured a new toilet block here were advised. A public toilet at Longstone Park is essential for mothers with young children playing in the park it was now agreed.

Councillor Hilary Frank assured the Council, and it was agreed that these facilities, and at least one toilet in Belle Vue car park, should be retained. At present there is a general public convenience and a disabled facility in Belle Vue car park as well as the facilities nearby in the 'Brunel Inn' which are open to the public through negotiation with the Town Council.

## 'CROWNS AND CAKES' THEME FOR ROYAL PICNIC IN THE PARK

A right royal garden party here in Saltash, to which all are invited will mark the wedding of Prince William and Princess Catherine.

After watching the wedding glamour on television in the morning of the public holiday declared for 29th April a local celebration is planned by way of a Grand Picnic in the Park. Exciting events are intended to include all age groups in a special family celebration of a day for all to remember.

The fun will begin at two o'clock in Longstone Park, at the heart of Saltash. Should the weather prove unfavourable it will be diverted inside the nearby Wesley Church.

In the style of an English Garden Party there will be an array of red white and blue bunting and an opportunity to join, or watch others, dancing around the maypole.

All are invited to participate in a fancy hat parade and to join in community singing. There will also be a 'Right Royal Romantic Quiz' for public participation.

A grand celebratory cake is being cooked by the children of Bishop Cornish School and it is hoped that the cake will be cut by a couple who will be celebrating their own wedding anniversary that day, 29th April, and it will then be distributed to those in local residential homes. Any couple so celebrating is invited to contact Hilary via the Town Hall number 01752 - 844846.

'Crowns and Cakes' will be a particular theme of the afternoon and all are asked to bring their own cakes, and other food and drink, ideally to share with neighbours. Tea and coffee will be provided by the Bowling Club. Guests will also be asked to bring something suitable to sit upon.

It is hoped that the afternoon will in particular prove a right royal day to remember for local children. All are invited to gather at 2

O'clock for a 'sing-song time for pre-schoolers' to open the event. Children of all ages are asked to attend in fancy dress with a 'Knights and Princesses' theme, ready for a parade before the adult fancy hats are judged.

An art competition, organised through the schools, is to be judged, prior to a balloon release with the afternoon culminating in a grand community singing.

Throughout the afternoon there will be a variety of activities including face painting, a circus skills workshop, and cardboard crowns to colour in. All are invited to participate in group photos with a lifesize cardboard cut-out of the royal couple (taken on the day of their engagement). The writing competition, in which young people will have been invited to record memories of the wedding of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, will also be judged.

Saltash has celebrated many a special event in Longstone Park. It is hoped that as many as possible will join together, or on this joyous holiday, between 2 and 5pm to ensure that the nuptials of Prince William and his bride are shared here in Saltash as a family day of fun and laughter for all to remember.

## Children's Competition on Royal Wedding Memories

A royal wedding is traditionally a day for us all to come together and celebrate as part of our common heritage.

As part of Saltash's celebrations to mark the wedding of Prince William to his Princess elect Catherine, our schoolchildren are invited to interview their elders and research a past momentous royal wedding.

Saltash Library together with the Town Council are asking any children aged between 4 and 16 to record the memories of those who remember the wedding of our present Queen Elizabeth to Prince Philip. Such memories should be based upon interviews with grandparents, friends, or neighbours who were around and remember that joyous day that lightened the era of post-war austerity.

Entries should be submitted to the Saltash Library One Stop Shop by Wednesday 27th April and should be up to, but no more than, three hundred words typed or hand-written. Drawing may accompany the essay.

All entries may be displayed in the Library's Public Art Gallery as part of the celebrations, and prizes will be awarded for those judged the best at the Town's Royal Wedding Garden Party in Longstone Park on 29th April.

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*Best Wishes to the May Fair*

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# SALTASH MAY FAIR



Saturday 30th April and Sunday 1st May

*Put the date in your diary for a truly great day out for all of the family!*

## Saltash Mayfair promises again "The Best May Fair Ever"

**I**t is nearly upon us, that magical weekend that shows that Winter is truly behind us and one and all can come out and come together to share the May Fair fun. Each year since the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977 a hard working team has laboured since the previous Summer to ensure that the May Bank Holiday weekend has offered Saltash a chance to get together, meet old friends and new, and enjoy a variety of entertainment which promises something for everyone.

So much indeed that for the last few years the scene of the Saturday's action has stretched ever further from the podium at the foot of Fore Street to the Victoria Gardens and beyond. So much indeed that many families decide, so

as not to miss any of the fun, to make a day of it, bringing with them a picnic, stocking up with good things to eat and drink from the stalls lining the street, or taking the chance to patronise

our excellent pubs and cafés.

For the past few years the May Fair Committee has promised us 'the best May Fair ever' and each year many have agreed this to be

true. The same promise is being made for 2011. Will it be as good, or better than before? Well, have a look at

what your 'Saltash and District Observer' shows to be on offer, then come along and judge for yourself!

May Fair 2011 Princess & Attendants



Left to right: Louise May - Megan Furlonger - Natalia Cartmell

### A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF SALTASH

(Honorary President of the Saltash Mayfair 2010/11)



Dear Residents and Visitors to the Saltash Mayfair

I am delighted to welcome you to a highlight of the Saltash Calendar - the Saltash Mayfair, an event that Saltash Town Council is proud to support and help fund. This

year, as ever, sees a mix of long-established traditions: the charitable stalls, the entertainments and the Sunday fun-run and half marathon, as well as more recent innovations such as the Town Crier competition. As ever it lets us all enjoy a wonderful and sociable occasion, whilst helping our excellent local organisations to fundraise for their very worthy causes.

The Saltash Mayfair is widely recognised as one of the best in the region, thanks to the hard work of many different people and organisations - in particular the Mayfair Officers and Committee and the Mayfair Princess and her attendants. I would like to publicly recognise both the tremendous amount of work that all they have put in, and the essential support offered by all the helpers and sponsors of the Mayfair.

I hope and trust that you will all have a wonderful weekend and hope to see you there,

### Street Fair stall spaces

**A**s with every Saltash May Fair this year's street fair will be the focus for the day, drawing hundreds of people into the heart of the town.

An increase in the number of stall sites available means that, at the time of going to press, there are a limited amount of stall spaces available for Saturday 30th April.

It is expected that this year's event will continue the successful run of the previous few years, and any local schools, businesses, clubs, charities or societies wishing to book a space are urged to download the booking details from [www.saltashmayfair.co.uk](http://www.saltashmayfair.co.uk) as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

With support from Saltash Town Council and a number of other local sponsors a stunning array of entertainment throughout the town is promised for all of the family, offering a fantastic opportunity to get your organisation noticed by people from Saltash and the local area.

**Ashleys** Tel: 845705

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*We wish the May Fair a very successful weekend*

### Town council thanks Princess and Attendants for hard work

**S**altash Town Mayor, Cllr Adam Killeya, has presented the towns Mayfair Princess Corina Roissetter and her attendants Maxine Denton and Katie Syass with a framed certificate and commemorative photograph to mark their excellent service to the town.

The Princess and attendants are selected annually from amongst the town's young people to serve as both the Mayfair itself and at other community events, and to represent young people within the Town

Cllr Killeya said: "We greatly appreciated the effort that our Princess and attendants put it - it needs hard work and dedication and it's lovely to see that sense of community spirit: they are great ambassadors for the young people of the town"

### A Diary Date not to be Missed

Get in the know with everything related to May Fair 2011 at [www.saltashmayfair.co.uk](http://www.saltashmayfair.co.uk) put Saturday 29th April & Sunday 1st May in your diary as a date to look forward to, and have an enjoyable and memorable day out in Saltash.

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Saturday 30th April

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*Best wishes to the May Fair*

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Sue & Debbie welcome you to...

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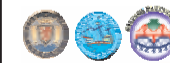
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Best wishes to the  
May Fair 2011

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Light refreshments can be supplied.

Call Saltash Town Council 01752 844846 or email

[townclerk@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@saltash.gov.uk)

For more information [www.saltash.gov.uk](http://www.saltash.gov.uk)

May Fair Saturday 30th April

Bring the family to enjoy a great day out



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 Visit the Saltash United stand outside our shop on May Fair Day  
 9-11 market way plymouth **We wish every success to the May Fair** 149 fore street saltash **01752 848818**

**Overwhelming Success for the May Fair over Recent Years**

Following the overwhelming success of the May Fair over recent years the 2011 event promises to provide another packed schedule, and truly offers something for everyone. Once again Saltash Town Council has supported the event,

The outdoor festivities begin at 10.00a.m. on Saturday 1st May with the Procession of Youth, led by the Town Band and the May Fair Princess and her attendants, which will pass the numerous stalls in the packed street fair to the bottom of Fore Street. Mayor Cllr. Adam Killea will then officially open the day, which consists of a variety of live music and entertainment, both in the main arena and Victoria Gardens.

**Cornish Wurzells**  
 The entertainment in Fore Street includes The Cornish Wurzells, a Penzance-based three-piece tribute band, who have built up a big fan base in the area having played at the Royal Cornwall Show and The Hall For Cornwall. Great Irish music including traditional folk, reels and jigs is offered by five piece band, Shoot the Crow. With authentic Irish musicians and more original folk instruments than you can shake a fiddle at, this band are sure to get your hands clapping and your feet stomping so come join the Craic! The Co-operative Big Band will contribute blues, funk, soul, and swing tunes and, the recently re-established Saltash Junior Town Band will also be playing. Regrettably, Longstone Park will not be hosting events this year. Amongst the many varied street stalls will be children's rides, the Town Crier competition and a chance to view the new all-electric Nissan Leaf car.

**"Teddy Bears Picnic"**  
 Younger children can again enjoy the "Teddy Bears Picnic" area in Victoria Gardens, whilst their parents relax. With refreshments from the Maurice Huggins Tea Rooms, why not bring a rug, and enjoy all the free entertainments on offer throughout the day. Saltash



Town Band will play a variety of well-known and well-loved tunes and the little ones can enjoy some traditional entertainment such as the well loved Punch & Judy show.

**Saltash Half Marathon.**  
 On Sunday 1st May at 10.00a.m. the gun will fire for the start of the challenging Saltash Half Marathon. Organised by local club Tamar Trotters, and sponsored by Active Alarms, it is known in running circles as one of the hardest events of it's kind in

**A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

I am pleased to welcome you all once again to the 34th Saltash May Fair celebrations and hope that you will be able to visit all the various venues and activities during the entire weekend.

Following on from the tremendous success of year's event, a number of new and most importantly energetic members joined the Committee at the start of the preparations for this year's event. The new members also brought many new skills to the Committee that has resulted in an enhanced two days of activities and entertainment for all ages.

If you feel that you would be able to join the team only during the weekend this year as a helper, then I would be very pleased to welcome you if you contact me on 01579 388969. The Annual General Meeting of the May Fair Committee will be held at the SHADO Centre.

Callington Road on Tuesday 19th July 2011 at 7.00pm and I would be delighted to meet you if you have some spare time to help organize the Saltash May Fair 2012. Alternatively please speak to one of the Committee members during the weekend or contact me direct on 01579 388969.

I am sure you will enjoy the programmed activities this weekend and thank you for supporting the local Charities that will benefit from this years May Fair.

**ITALIAN COFFEE SHOP**  
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*Best Wishes to the May Fair*

Cornwall, attracting runners from as far away as Oxfordshire. The less committed can dust off their old running shoes and compete in the two mile Fun Run at 10.15a.m.

**Harding's Hike**  
 If you fancy a slightly more sedate pace why not join Harding's Hike, which begins in St. Stephens and will take in the magnificent countryside to the West of Saltash on a leisurely walk covering a distance of approximately 4 to 6 miles.

Further updates on all events and entertainment are available at www.saltashmayfair.com, so put Saturday April 30th in your diary as a date to look forward to, and have an enjoyable and memorable day out in Saltash.



by kind permission of Marc E

**Win an Overnight Stay at the Jurys Inn**

**Mayfair Quiz - Where in Saltash?**  
 All you need to answer is...Where in Saltash can be found  
 Take a stroll around Saltash over the bank holiday weekend, or at any time, and discover the answers to our quiz - and links with our quiz past. Some are in and around the Town Centre, some in the countryside within Saltash.

- WHERE IN SALTASH
1. Is a dragon set above a shop a reminder of an old coaching inn?
  2. Did Sir John Carew-Pole open a Club on 30th May 1964?
  3. Does a rooftop Cornish Piskey make a gesture to those passing by?
  4. Was an entrance to the borough improved in the Mayoralty of J.H. Cook Esq RN in 1857?
  5. Is a memorial to which general killed in the Boer War at Talana Hill, Natal in 1899?
  6. Are a row of houses dedicated to the "glorious memories and illustrious favours" of Thomas Buller of Shillingham, dated 6th December 1726?
  7. Do the words "God increase this borough" appear below a building "repaired in the Mayoralty of Matthew Veale, Gent. in 1689"?
  8. Are there concrete blocks that anchored down a barrage balloon during World War II?
  9. Are there concrete blocks placed to deter enemy tanks in the event of a Nazi invasion?
  10. Is there a memorial to ship's cat Simon alongside a memorial to the men lost on HMS Amethyst?

For more information see page 8  
**www.saltashmayfair.co.uk**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**  
**Confirmation of road closures for May Fair weekend**

**Saturday 30th April 2011 (0730Hrs to 1800Hrs)**  
 Fore Street from Woodside Animal Rescue Shop to junction above The Guildhall  
 50 metres of Belle Vue Road from Fore Street  
 30 metres of Wesley Road from Fore Street  
 No entry through Traffic Lights into bottom end of Fore Street  
 Left hand lane of the slip road exiting the Tamar Bridge (Fore Street access)

**Sunday 1st May 2011 (0800Hrs to 1400Hrs)**  
 Fore Street from Woodside Animal Rescue Shop to junction below The Guildhall  
 50 metres of Belle Vue Road from Fore Street  
 30 metres of Wesley Road from Fore Street  
 No entry through Traffic Lights into bottom end of Fore Street  
 St Stephens Road from the junction with Fore Street to it's junction with Beatrice Avenue  
 Left hand lane of the slip road exiting the Tamar Bridge (Fore Street access)

**May Fair Car parking and travel arrangements**

Cornwall Council has rejected the May Fair Committee's application for free parking in the Council car parks during May Fair 2011, and therefore the usual charges will apply for Saturday 30th April. Participants in the Half Marathon and Fun Run on May 1st will not be affected, as there are no car parking charges in the town's Council car parks on Sunday.

However, Saltash is well served by both bus and train. Details on train times can be found at www.nationalrail.co.uk and the Saltash Rail Users Group recommends the use of 'GroupSave', which enables 3 or 4 persons to travel for the price of two adults. For example four adults travelling from Plymouth can get to May Fair for just £5.00 each, which includes the return trip. Up to four accompanying children are charged just £1.00 each. Full details are available at www.southwesttrains.co.uk/gro upsave.  
 Bus timetables are available from the local bus companies at www.firstgroup.com, www.westerngreyhound.com and www.plymouthbus.co.uk. At the time of going to press it was expected that passengers would be picked up on North Road but the public are advised to check with the relevant company before travelling.  
 It should be noted that on both days a diversionary route around Fore Street will be provided via Glebe Avenue.  
 No Parking cones will be sited on both sides of the entire length of Glebe Avenue to keep this route clear of parked vehicles to allow the free movement of large vehicles, such as buses etc. Following the instructions of the Police these cones will be put in place along Glebe Avenue from Friday evening (29th April) but will be effective from 6.00am to 6.00pm on both Saturday & Sunday.  
 Following the instructions of the Police, No Parking cones will also be placed on both sides of Callington Road, from its junction with Glebe Avenue to the end of Longstone Park and will be effective from 6.00am to 6.00pm on both Saturday & Sunday.

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**Jill & Pip wish the May Fair every success**  
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**Best wishes to the May Fair**

I am pleased to be associated with the May Fair, and wish the committee a very successful weekend. Please make sure you bring the family along and support all the hard work that has gone in to making this a wonderful weekend.

Editor **Mary Crawford**

**Steven Carey & Co.**  
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*Best Wishes to the May Fair*

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email: [steven@steven-carey.co.uk](mailto:steven@steven-carey.co.uk)  
[www.steven-carey.co.uk](http://www.steven-carey.co.uk)

CHARTERED TAX ADVISERS

**Throughout the Ages - Saltash comes to the Fair**

In coming together to share our May Fair celebrations Saltash is continuing a local tradition of fairs and feast day dating back to at least the medieval era.

Alexandra Square was the scene of markets, festivals and fairs from the thirteenth to the nineteenth century, with the first specific mention of a fair being 'in the Feast of St Faith with the vigil' (the 5th and 6th October) noted in 1337. By the time of the Tudors, Saltash was a flourishing borough with two annual fairs in the Elizabethan era, one from the day before the feast of the Purifications of the Virgin Mary to the day after, February 1st to 3rd and the other from the day before the feast of St James the Apostle to the day after (July 24th to 26th). This latter fair continued until the 19th Century, it being moved from

Alexandra Square to a field outside town around the site of our Regal Court, in the late 14th or 15th century. These fairs were grand affairs with visiting merchants selling their wares in addition to general merry making.

The St James Fair of the early 19th Century ran for up to five days with the first given over to cattle trading, the rest given to fun and celebration. Then as now stalls lined the street from the Old Guildhall, (around the Essa Club) to the turnpike gate (by the present 'Brunel'). There was gingerbread and lollipops for sale, sideshows, dancing and singing in the street, and Cornish Wrestling and single stick or cudgelling contests in the fields around.

All of this became too exuberant for the more staid Victorian era, though records show how Queen Victoria's Golden and Diamond Jubilees were marked with grand processions of schoolchildren, bands, and civic dignitaries, followed by carnival, dancing and concluding with fireworks.

The early twentieth century saw an array of pageants at Trematon Castle and, on August 20th 1930, the 'first revival of the Ancient Fayre and Civic Customs at Saltash.' Visitors packed in by bus, boat and train. Three thousand tickets were taken at Saltash Station that day. The

celebrations were repeated the following year and for a third revival in 1938!

The post war era saw the Town celebrate 'Winkle Fair' on the Waterside before the demolition of the ancient buildings there coincided with the end of that tradition.

It was our present Queen's request that local communities should share the joy of her Silver Jubilee in 1977 to come together in true community spirit, that led to the revival of the Town Fair celebrations throughout Fore Street and beyond. It was such a success that all who had enjoyed it agreed it should not be a 'one off' but should become an annual tradition. So the Saltash May Fair was to take place over the bank holiday weekend in 1978 - and every May Day Bank Holiday since then.

'Plus ca change.....' and if we were transported back to the rumbustious Saltash Fairs of the middle ages, Tudor times, or even the early 19th Century there would be much of the entertainment and the merchandise packing the stall, unfamiliar to our eyes. What would be familiar however, would be the never changing spirit of joy and pleasure with which Saltash people have come together on feast days and fair days to socialise and share the fun as a lively and caring community.

May Fair Quiz  
Win an  
Overnight Stay  
at the Jurys  
Inn Plymouth

Enter the May Fair Fun Quiz on page 7  
Put your answers on a piece of paper, marking them clearly 1 to 10, with your name address and telephone number.  
Post them to:  
Saltash May Fair  
70 Callington Road, Saltash  
Cornwall, PL12 6DY  
Or to  
[funquiz@saltashmayfair.com](mailto:funquiz@saltashmayfair.com)  
Or fill in answer form on website  
[www.saltashmayfair.com](http://www.saltashmayfair.com)

All Correct entries will be collected and one winner will be drawn, no correspondence will be entered into, after the decision has been made.

All entries must be received by Friday 20th May no later.

The winner will be announced along with the answers to the May Fair Fun Quiz in the June issue of the Saltash & District Observer, they can also be found by visiting our website at: [www.saltash-observer.co.uk](http://www.saltash-observer.co.uk) and [www.saltashmayfair.com](http://www.saltashmayfair.com)  
The June issue will be available from Wednesday 8th June the answers will also be on the website from that date.

Good luck & have fun.

**Saltash May Fair sponsors**

As the event grows bigger every year the volunteers that make up the May Fair Committee become more reliant on its sponsors to help bring the weekend together. Once again, a number of local businesses have helped to keep up the high standards of entertainment and organisation that the town has become used to over recent years.

This year the May Fair Committee would like to thank the following for their continued support.

- Saltash Town Council - Main sponsors
- Sanfords Suzuki - May Fair Princess
- Mr Sticker - May Fair signage
- Woodwindrepairs.co.uk - May Fair website maintenance
- Active Alarms - Saltash half marathon
- Saltash Self Storage - for storage of all May Fair equipment
- Thank you to all the businesses in the area who have so generously sponsored the space to allow this years May Fair pullout to be produced.

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**Saltash Video Club**

Owing to the Royal Wedding on Friday 30th April, this years Saltash May Fair film show will be re-scheduled to Sunday 1st May at Ashtorre Rock Community centre at 3pm.

Usual local films of interest will be shown by Saltash Video Club.

Refreshments will be available. Tickets £3.00 pay at the door

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## Youth Speaks

Once again January saw the start of the annual Rotary sponsored 'Youth Speaks' competition. The aim of the competition is to provide pupils with experience of public speaking.

This is a national competition that begins with local Rotary Clubs holding age group competitions in their particular town or catchment area where winners of these competitions progress to an area final that, in the case of teams from Saltash, includes all of East Cornwall. Winners from here take part in a District final against schools from Plymouth and the whole of Cornwall. The teams good enough to win their competition at this stage progress to a Regional Final held in Andover and then on to a National Final held, this year, at Cranleigh School in Surrey.

The local competition, sponsored and organised by the Rotary Club of Saltash, was held at saltash.net school on 26th January. There were teams entered in the junior and intermediate age groups from Burraton Primary school, Saltash; Sir Robert Geffery's Primary School, Landrake; and saltash.net community school, Saltash. The Rotary Club's thanks go to all schools and teams that entered and a special thanks to those at saltash.net school who put in a good deal of work in hosting the competition. Topics for discussion ranged from 'the Cornish pasty' through discussions about gaming and on to environmental issues such as 'should we take part in switch off fortnight'.

The teams comprise a Chair whose role is to introduce the teams and topic to be discussed, a main speaker

whose role is to put the case to the audience and then a third member who summarise the discussion. There are also opportunities for questions from the audience. All the teams in the local competition were adept at their roles and the judges had considerable difficulty in marking and arriving at a winner in the particular age group. After some deliberation the winners of the junior age group that progressed to the Area final were team 1 from Sir Robert Geffery's in Landrake (comprising Bronte Clark, Katie Martin, and Ellie Courts) with their talk on 'which is the best way to learn about a story, film or book'. The winners of the intermediate age group - Lauren Smart, Lowenna Rule and Rebecca Fowell from saltash.net - also progressed to the Area final with their talk on 'the Cornish pasty'.

The Area final was held at Callington Community College on 2nd March and both teams presented their talks in a professional manner. The competition, however, was strong and only the team from saltash.net were able to progress to the District Final at Bodmin College 3 days later. There they came up against very strong competition and were finally beaten by a team from Helston.

Once again The Rotary Club of Saltash thanks all those who entered the competition, the teachers who gave up time to coach and support the entrants, the schools involved, and the parents who came along and supported the teams and look forward to seeing you again for next year's competition.

## Conundrum Corner

Taking the initial letter to the one word answer to following nine questions can you re-arrange them to make a nine letter word?

1 What is the name of the Darlings' dog in J. M. Barrie's Peter Pan?

2 What type of fruit is a Laxton Superb?

3 How are the vertical sections between the treads of a staircase known?

4 Which river rises in Switzerland and flows through Lake Geneva before entering France?

5 In which area would you find the high point known as Dunkerry Beacon?

6 What nationality was Anne of Cleves?

7 In Beatrice Potter stories what kind of animal is Mr. Tod?

8 What was the name of the city that Frank Sinatra called 'My Kind of Town'?

9 Gibbons are apes native to which Continent?

Answers on page 11

## Sat-Navs cause Sticky Situation

**Lower Fore Street was totally blocked to traffic for half a day by a heavy goods vehicle unable to make the turn at the bottom, due to its size, or reverse up the hill due to its load related grip.**

It is understood that the vehicle had been directed to follow this route to the China Fleet Club by its sat-nav system. Signage to resolve this problem was discussed by the Town Council's Industry, Commerce, Transport and Tourism Committee.

Support was given by the Committee to a resident of Lower Fore Street who has written to the Highways Department seeking improved signage at the junctions of Lower Fore Street, Alexandra Square and Station Road.

## 'Don't stop believin' in our Young People's Talent

**S**ong and dance from shows, familiar and less well known were brought together for the twentieth anniversary production of the Saltash Youngstagers.

The professionalism of our young people, as well as their joy and exuberance, shone through in a remarkably polished performance given that their planned production had been pulled just six weeks beforehand. The show 'Don't Stop Believin' had been put together in that time.

The professionalism has led to some of our young stars going on to a career on the stage. Indeed the boys playing Billy and Michael in a number from 'Billy Elliot' had the benefit of coaching from former Youngstager Josh Fedrick who went on himself to star as Billy in the West End. It is a fascinating challenge for those who regularly support the 'Youngstagers' to spot future stars in the making. We have some ideas from this show.....

As well as the 'Billy Elliot' number other highlights included a superbly choreographed dance and song from the 'Wizard of Oz' with a beautifully danced 'Over the Rainbow' bursting into the exuberance of 'The Witch is Dead!'

'The Lion King' too gave the opportunity for excellent singing and dancing especially

in its finale 'Can't wait to be King.'

Senior cast members doubled as compères giving brief resumes of the shows from which they were performing.

The show concluded with a number often sung by the Youngstagers, 'Just one Person', in which a solo singer becomes a duet and gradually the whole cast are introduced to sing of how belief in oneself and in each other can grow. From this it was a speedy change of pace into the grand finale and title song of the show 'Don't stop Believin!'

Once again our Saltash Youngstagers have proved what a team of around forty children and teenagers aged 6 to 17 can produce bringing obvious pleasure to themselves and others while enabling an audience of all ages to share their youthful enthusiasm and joy of life.

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## Cassandra Runs for Local Charity

**Cassandra Langmead from Saltash has signed up to run on behalf of children's charity Chicks in this year's Plymouth Half Marathon.**

Cassandra said, "With two lively children under the age of five, I figured that if I joined together all the running around I do in a normal day, I wouldn't be far off a half marathon! Initially, I decided to participate with the hope of shedding the 'mummy tummy' but when I realised I could do it on behalf of a charity, I felt even more motivated to run, knowing it would make a difference to someone. Being a mum and a teacher has certainly made me much more conscious of the number of children who don't get dealt a good hand in life. Chicks is a fantastic charity which takes children away from it all, and gives them something they can really remember - for all the right reasons. I know when I'm dragging my feet in the last few miles, running for Chicks children will be all the motivation I need to pick up my heels!

Chicks (Country Holidays for Inner City Kids) provides free respite breaks to



disadvantaged children from across the UK (including Saltash); they receive no government funding and rely solely on donations from individuals, trusts and companies. Various running events provide vital funding and will help Chicks who aim to provide 1,200 children with a respite break in 2011. The children Chicks help come from a variety of different backgrounds, some are in care or suffering poverty, others are child carers, and in some cases victims of abuse, be it sexual, physical or emotional.

For more information about places in various running events such as this year's Plymouth Half Marathon or to find out about other ways to get involved please contact Mick Ryan on 01822 811124 or e-mail mick@chicks.org.uk

## The Bishop of Plymouth visits saltash.net community school



Pictured with the Bishop of Plymouth are students from Years 9 and 10 at saltash.net community school.

**The start of Lent was marked at saltash.net community school by a visit from the Bishop of Plymouth, Christopher Budd. The Bishop was met by Head of Religious Education, Jeremy Skelton, on the morning of Wednesday 9th March and taken to an assembly being held for Year 9 and 10 students.**

The Bishop had been asked by Mr Skelton to focus on the meaning of Lent and Easter from a Christian perspective and also to relate this to the start of spring and to the theme of the week at saltash.net which was a Chinese proverb stating that "Fragrance always clings to the hand that gives roses." It was certainly a challenge to combine all three topics!

Students, however, were given much to think about, not just from Bishop Christopher but also from the Reverend Mark Skelton from Dorset, Mr Skelton's brother, (who addressed years 7 & 8 on Tuesday) and from Reverend Doug Rix, Methodist Superintendent Minister from Plymouth, who spoke to Year 11 on Thursday.

Commenting at the end of

the week, Headteacher, Isobel Bryce said, "It is always good to be able to arrange for outside speakers to visit the school. We try to ensure that students are given every opportunity to reflect on the range of religious festivals throughout the school year. We would like to thank all of our visitors for the contribution they made to our assemblies this week."



## 'Engage & Inspire'

**S**taff at saltash.net community school were given an outstanding opportunity for professional development recently when 50 teachers attended a conference at the Bedruthan Steps Hotel. Entitled 'Engage and Inspire', and sponsored entirely by Microsoft UK, the event ran from Friday evening to Saturday afternoon on the 4th and 5th March.

The Conference commenced with two exceptional speakers: ex Marine Commando, Ben McBean and Professor Sugata Mitri whose pioneering work with a computer 'Hole in the Wall' project in the slums of Delhi was the inspiration for 'Slumdog Millionaire'.

Ben McBean's talk focused on the way his whole life changed the day he was blown up by a landmine in Afghanistan. Despite losing an arm and a leg he has gone on to run two London Marathons and walk to Everest Base Camp in the Himalayas. His message of 'Cheerfulness in Adversity' and of being a resilient learner was continued by Sugata Mitri who focused on the determination of young learners to succeed both in India and in the UK.

Everyone who attended the evening session agreed that the speakers had made a superb contribution to the conference, the main aim of which was to support teachers in their creative and innovative use of new technologies to support their students' learning.

During the Saturday of the conference, the staff attending were able to listen to ideas from Steve Wheeler, Associate Professor in Learning Technology from the University of Plymouth, Stuart Ball from Microsoft UK and Deputy Headteacher from saltash.net, Dan Roberts, before putting them into practice themselves with a series of workshop sessions.

All staff were encouraged to share, via a specially created Facebook page or on Twitter, how they would be using the new skills developed with their students back at school.

Commenting on the impact of the conference, Deputy Headteacher, Dan Roberts, who organised the whole event said, "Our staff are incredibly enthusiastic and creative in their approach to learning and teaching with new technologies. There was a real 'buzz' at the conference which will continue back at saltash.net for the benefit of all our young people."

Headteacher, Isobel Bryce added, "I would like to thank Stuart Ball from Microsoft UK Partners in Learning for the excellent support and encouragement given to our school. It was very exciting to hear from Stuart that films made by Microsoft about saltash.net are being shown to the Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove, this week to demonstrate the impact of new technologies and ICT across the curriculum in schools."

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## 'First Responder' Volunteers are first on the Scene to Save Lives

In the case of a sudden stroke or heart attack which can strike at any time, time is of the essence and minutes saved in treatment can make the difference in saving a life.

A fully trained team of local volunteers, taken from all walks of life, make up the 'Saltash First Responders' who are at the door of a potential victim within eight minutes of being called and can be providing life-saving treatment while the ambulance and paramedics are on their way.

Now our local First Responders are fund seeking so that with additional equipment they may enhance the service offered to the Town.

Waitrose have already awarded them £517 under their 'Community Matters' scheme and a further anonymous donation of £250 has already put them well on the way to providing a second complete life saving kit to include Defibrillator and C.P.R. equipment, costing in total from £1,800 for basics up to £3,000.

Many of those whose lives have been saved have been unaware, until their arrival of the existence of First Responders. Yet every 'Category A' emergency call to the Exeter Central Ambulance Control taken from the Saltash area results in pager or telephone contact to a local volunteer provided one is available and has the unit's kit ready to rush to the scene within eight minutes.

Volunteers come from all works of life and in Saltash include teachers, a nurse, an office worker and several retained firemen. All have undergone an interview with South West Ambulance Trust followed by three training weekends concluding in an assessment. Those who pass then go out on 'third manning' for three shifts with local ambulance crews and, when fully confident, are then sent out on their own with the group's equipment.

Since at present there is only one set of equipment between eight volunteers the group cannot be constantly on call as they would wish. Funds for further complete kits would help the Saltash Group towards providing 24 hour cover seven days a week, as is available elsewhere. With sometimes two or three calls a week received by the volunteers 'booked in' the opportunity for saving lives by saving vital minutes in speedy treatment is tremendous.

Saltash First Responder are delighted that Perfect Harmony's 'March into spring' concert has been dedicated to fund-raising for them. They are pleased and honoured to have been selected by Mayor Councillor Adam Killeya as this year's Mayor's Charity.

Ideally they would hope to have their own car, as some groups, such as that in Rame, possess. At present they use their own vehicles and have to pay enhanced insurance premiums themselves, being classed as 'emergency vehicles' though still having to obey traffic regulations. That may be for the future. For the present they are anxious to build on their life saving equipment in order to be empowered to save more Saltash residents suffering from the trauma of heart attack or stroke.

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Pictured: Sheryll, Eric and fellow Cornish MPs celebrate St Pirans by raising the flag



Also pictured: The Deputy Speaker, Nigel Evans, was one of the many MPs who tried Tribute and a Pasty

## Talk on Cornish Bees brings a Buzz of Interest

They have been around for eighty million years and cave paintings from 7000 BC show man seeking to rob their hive of honey. Bee keeping in general and in Cornwall in particular proved a fascinating subject for a talk given to Saltash Old Cornwall Society by Mr Peter Hunkin.

The traditional old black British bee had adapted itself over the centuries to our conditions and climate, earning a reputation for being tough, hardworking, thrifty and good tempered. They adapted to local conditions, those in Cornwall being able to fly in light rain, good at foraging, and slowing down in breeding during a wet spell. However, an epidemic following World War 1 led to the decimation of the species and to the subsequent import of bees from the continent. Cross breeding produced a rather more ill tempered hybrid. Mr Hunkin gave an account of how experts, including the renowned Brother Adam of Buckfast had been trying since then to cultivate the perfect British, and Cornish bee.

He also described the amazing life cycle of the bee and how human interference produces the jars of honey which vary so much in taste depending upon the plant on which the bee has been feeding. Members were especially interested in

## Westminster celebrates St Piran's Day

Sheryll Murray MP has joined both her Cornish colleagues and many other members to celebrate all that is Cornish.

Firstly the Department of Communities and Local Government raised a flag for St Piran's. Sheryll joined the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Rt Hon Eric Pickles, and some of her Cornish colleagues to fly the flag. Mr Pickles said, "I would like to wish all the residents of Cornwall a very happy St Piran's day".

Secondly she visited a reception with many colleagues in the Houses of Parliament to enjoy pasties and Cornish beer.

Thirdly she raised the fact that it was St Piran's Day in the House of Commons by asking The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (Mr Jeremy Hunt), "Is my right hon. Friend as pleased as I am that the great symbol of Cornish culture, the Cornish pasty, has been awarded protected geographical indication status? Will he join me and my Cornish colleagues in wishing my constituents in South East Cornwall, and indeed all the people of Cornwall, a happy St Piran's

day for Saturday?" Mr Hunt replied, "I have great pleasure in wishing my hon. Friend and her constituents a happy St Piran's day. I was in South East Cornwall on holiday the weekend before last, and the highlight of that weekend was an absolutely delicious Cornish pasty."

Sheryll commented, "St Piran's day is an excellent opportunity to show just how wonderful Cornwall is. I'm lucky. I live here. Our celebrations up in London do give us the fantastic opportunity to promote Cornwall and its produce to the wider population."



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examining the hive and other equipment shown around, all of which had been developed from an American clergyman's discovery, in 1851, of the ideal 'bee space' required for the making of the honeycomb. The talk provoked a number of interesting questions before the vote of thanks was given by Diane Shann.

## CUT IN CRIME OVER LAST YEAR – BUT BOAT OWNERS WARNED

Crimes reported to Saltash police fell by 7% over the last year, Sergeant Andy Dunstan reported to Saltash Town Council's annual town meeting.

He was currently serving as acting inspector for the area and his report was read by a Police Community Support Officer.

Community policing is likely to survive the current re-organisation aimed at reducing police costs, the PCSO also confirmed.

However, Saltash will lose its open access to local policing when the public desk at Saltash Police station closes on April 22nd.

The station will however, continue to be manned and the free phone outside will still be open for public use with its two lines, one for 'emergency' and one for 'general information' use.

While crime over the last month had also continued to fall, by eleven offences from the previous year, from 55 to 44, garage crime and marine crime remained a concern. Of five reported burglaries two had been to garages with 'up and over' doors being damaged.

The Waterside had also been targeted with marine theft on the increase, boat owners were warned. There had in particular been two recent thefts of outboard motors in the area.

### Parking Prices rise - but subject to review

Parking charges for shoppers in Saltash are doubling from twenty to forty pence for the first hour.

This was the bad news from our local County Councillors who have been pleading, at Truro, that Saltash is a 'special case' and parking prices need to keep low to boost local businesses in competition with the big city just over the Tamar Bridge.

They did receive a small concession Councillor Derek Holley advised, since elsewhere in Cornwall the cost of an hour's parking has gone up to fifty pence. "I tried to negotiate a compromise of thirty pence but the County Cabinet would not agree" he stated.

For the second hour costs will soar to £1.70.

Those who shop late will however be able to take advantage of one concession gained. Parking charges cease at 4pm so anyone wishing to call into the town after work may have free parking to do so. This is at the expense of Saturday afternoon parking for which there is now a charge.

The other possible good news for local shoppers and traders is that the council cabinet were persuaded that these new changes are subject to review. If they are shown to have had a dire effect on business in Saltash then after six months parking charges can be reconsidered and possibly reduced.



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## Praise for excellent work being done at Saltash.net school

Sheryll Murray MP is writing to the Secretary of State for Education, Rt Hon Michael Gove, to emphasise the need for more recognition of Design and Technology in the school curriculum.

On a visit to the Saltash.net school Sheryll met with Mr R J Blackwell MBE, a teacher at the school, to listen and see for herself the excellent work carried out by the students. The school has a long history in the Design and Technology field going back 25 years when it was the first school in East Cornwall to benefit from the Technology School initiative. Sheryll discussed many aspects of the subject including the effect of Academy status and the Baccalaureate.

After her visit Sheryll commented, "It was a fascinating visit to the school and I was particularly impressed by the high quality of work undertaken by the students which reflects so highly on the teachers who obviously care so highly about their subject. I was particularly interested in the academic rigor involved in this subject and am encouraging the Secretary of State to take notice of this."



Pictured: Sheryll looks at the children's work with Mr Blackwell

## CHAMBER INVITATION TO EXPRESS VIEWS ON LOCAL BUSINESS ISSUES

Have your say on matters concerning local business and trade including town centre shopping. This is the invitation from the Town's Chamber of Commerce and Industry which is extending the use of its website to all local business and those with an interest in the Town.

Saltash and District Chamber of Commerce and Industry have for some month's been running a 'blog' and inviting members, particularly those unable to attend monthly meetings, to use this as a way of airing their views on certain specified topics, which change to keep up with local issues. Now, with many hot topics on the Town's regeneration being up for discussion anyone may enter the website on [www.saltashbusinesses.co.uk](http://www.saltashbusinesses.co.uk) forum. The blog will continue to be monitored and views taken in by the Chamber Executive Committee.

Town Centre traders are also being invited to attend Chamber meetings as 'associate members' for a limited period. All those with business interest in the Town Centre are encouraged to come to the Chamber's monthly meetings held in the China Fleet Club on the first Monday of each month (varied if that falls on a public holiday) at 7.30 pm. Between now and the October Annual General Meeting such visitors will be welcomed as associate members, at no charge, and able to listen to guest speakers and to put their views on topics of interest to local business.

## PILLMERE SHELTER MOVE AGREED

Following a promise that the Pillmere bus stop would be relocated away from local houses to opposite the former 'Hippo' industrial unit, the council's 'Town Messenger' indicated that the shelter would stay where it was, a resident living opposite the present stop complained to the Town Council. "Where is the shelter to be?" she asked during Public Question Time.

"The plan is to ensure that the shelter is next to the bus stop," replied Councillor David Yates. "This might seem obvious but it does not always happen."

He was able to assure Pillmere residents that the plan is indeed to re-site the bus stop away from the houses towards the industrial site and he apologised for any ambiguity between the 'Town Messenger' and the Council Committee minutes.

The moving of the bus stop has taken much longer than would have been wished due to need to negotiate with landowners, Cornwall Highways and the contractor who provides the shelter. However, it was anticipated that the flagstones for the new bus stop site should be in place within the next few months with the bus stop itself and then the shelter to follow soon after.

## CHEAPER PETROL FOR SALTASH RESIDENTS

Saltash Town Council has negotiated cheaper fuel prices for Saltash district residents with both major filling stations at Carkeel on the A38.

The BP garage at Granada Services and the Texaco garage now both offer a discount of 2p per litre to holders of the SaltashCard, to help alleviate the ever-rising cost of fuel. The discount offer cannot be used with any other promotional discount.

The SaltashCard can be purchased for £2 at the Guildhall Saltash, Saltash Library or at the Bookshelf, Fore St, Saltash. The scheme was introduced over a year ago to benefit Saltash people and businesses, and is already a runaway success, with 1,200 attractive cards in circulation, and a wide range of discounts offered by about 25 local shops and businesses.

Cllr Joe Ellison says "Saltash residents can expect to save at least £1 on a full tankful of petrol or diesel purchased at Carkeel. Therefore, the initial cost of the Card can be recovered very quickly, in addition to making significant savings at other participating shops and businesses in the town.

The Town Council wanted to help our residents avoid having to cross the Tamar in search of cheaper fuel. As one of our major supermarkets would say "every little helps"

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## Answers to Conundrum:

1-Nana 2-Apple 3-Risers  
4-Rhone 5-Exmooor 6-German 7-Fox 8-Chicago 9-Asia Nine-letter word: Fragrance

South East Cornwall Conservatives Present

## Saltash Fashion Showcase

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## Race Night...

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**Members talks on Local Interest**

Fascist rallies in pre-war Saltash, an update on the Cornish language and a wartime childhood in St Budeaux and Cornwall, were the subject of talks given by Saltash Old Cornwall Society members to fellow members following the Society's sixty-fifth Annual General Meeting.

Traditionally, this is when, instead of inviting a guest speaker as at other meeting through the year, Society members are asked to come forward and give their own talks on matters of local interest.

The new standard written form of Cornish, a compromise between the medieval language and that last generally spoken, was explained by Cornish Bard, Wella Brown. Tony Otter then highlighted the excitements of the blitz, collecting wartime souvenirs, and meeting with American G I's and German POW's as seen by a schoolboy. Martin Lister described how a Rear Admiral led fascist rallies in Alexandra Square in the 1930's leading to the Borough Council banning such meetings.

During the preceding business meeting an excellent year for the Society with a steady membership, interesting talks and memorable visits was recalled by President Ernie Reynolds and Secretary Martin Lister. They were both re-elected with Sylvia McKenzie filling the vacant post of Treasurer.

The final indoor meeting of the season, before Summer visits, will be on Monday 18th April at 7.15 pm in St Nicholas Church Rooms. Mr John Parsons will be speaking on the Forder Mill and Tramway and visitors are warmly welcome.

**PIRATES PULLED IN CASH FOR COMIC RELIEF**

*Sporting Men's Pants the Teams Raised £700 for Red Nose Day*

Fore Street, Saltash swarmed with a colourful crew of pirates during 'Red Nose Day' doing 'Something funny for money.'

The 'Hearing Room' team, together with their colleagues across the road at the NHS Hearing Centre had decided upon a pirate theme in order to help Saltash raise its share of the massive £74 million collected across the country for children's charities.

The girls, who described themselves as 'The Pirates of Mens' Pants' also adorned themselves with eye-patches, bandanas, nautical looking beards, hooks and even a large and colourful parrot.

Food and drink was offered to all calling into the Hearing Room with a contribution requested towards the charity fund and a fine array of prizes donated by local traders tempted passers-by to enter a bumper raffle.

The Observer team was on hand to record the fun and to help shake a tin or two towards the raising of a goodly sum £265 00, which was raised in Saltash. A final total of just under £700.00, collected with the help of the Hearing Room's other branches around the country was then sent off as Regional Hearing's contribution to the national total.

The Hearing Room would like to thank the local traders inc Petit Pain, Images, Bargain Booze, Rachel at fun Fit, Moorland Auto Solutions, Cornish Farm Produce, and many others for their kind donations to the raffle



Paul was warned... Perhaps he will join in next time!



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**'PERFECT HARMONY' SANG FOR FIRST AIDERS**

Songs sacred and secular were enjoyed in Saltash Guildhall during a concert performed by 'Perfect Harmony' in aid of the Mayor's Charity

This mixed choir's repertoire ranged from Purcell to 'Porgy and Bess' and Bach to Bernstein. Especially fine was their rendering of Faure's 'Cantique' written by the composer of the renowned requiem when he was just 19, while a stirring contrast was the conclusion of the first half's rendition of Queen's rock classic 'Bohemian Rhapsody.'

They also included excerpts from 'Lux Aeterna' which the choir were to sing in a sacred concert at St Andrew's Church, Plymouth in April.

An added pleasure was the soloist Jade Pearce, a 'young musician' who after winning

local awards was about to start professional singing training. Her songs ranged from Purcell opera to West Side Story, with the full choir then joining to conclude the concert with a medley of favourites from that show.

Mayor Adam Killeya warmly thanked the soloist and singers for 'giving up their time not only to entertain us but to help raise money for a very worthy cause.' The concert was in aid of 'Saltash First Responders,' the local volunteer team of life saving first aiders selected by the Mayor to be the official charity for his year of office.

**INCINERATOR CONCERNS**

A new incinerator just across the Tamar from Saltash.net.school is of concern to Town Councillors.

Following the public presentation on the proposed incinerator at Barne Barton, in the north end of the dockyard, it was noted that fumes are likely to blow across the Tamar towards the school attended by most of our secondary school age students.

Enquiries should be made, it was agreed, of the Environment Agency and the Health Protection Agency as to the likely effect of such an incinerator on Saltash in general and in particular on our school and our hospital, given their altitude in comparison with the proposed chimney.

The council is also to ask Plymouth City Council whether, given the effect of such an incinerator on the town, Saltash will receive its share of monies given by the developer to boost local projects (Section 106 monies) should permission be granted.

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