



SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

August 2012 - Issue 241

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Our 21st year...

TWENTY YEARS OF YOUR 'OBSERVER' IS COMING OF AGE

The August 2012 edition of your Saltash and District Observer which you are now holding marks a historic and proud moment for the team which has been putting together your community newspaper for two decades.

Yes, we are now officially "Coming of Age" as we enter our twenty-first year of promoting local events, encouraging support for local businesses, and bringing to you what we have been so frequently told over the last twenty years is the local news that matters to you.

"The Observer intends to ensure that all Saltash and District is aware of what is going on in and around this lively town". This was our promise given in the front page editorial of our first edition back in August 1992, and so it remains today. Over those twenty years we have reported on countless local events, the regular seasonal pleasures and the exciting "one offs" including most recently the Olympic Torch celebrations and the Royal Diamond Jubilee party. We have also of course kept our avid readership up to date with the issues that matter to them individually and to the town as a whole.

of importance to the community as it has arisen, this too, we will of course continue.

Our anniversary edition is a good opportunity for us to look back and see what issues of importance there have been over the last twenty years and what has transpired concerning them. Over our twenty - first year therefore it is our intention to look back at some of the issues we have reported upon, some of the events which we have attended and enjoyed, and indeed some of the events, celebrations and charity fund raising events that we have organised ourselves. For the first such look-back we are reminding ourselves of the issues, important to Saltash, that we kept you informed upon is our very first year of 1992/1993.

Finally we cannot let this anniversary pass by without giving the warmest thanks to all of those who have supported us

over the years The Mayors and Councillors, the businesses that have ensured through their support that we can continue to provide you with your community newspaper, and to all of you, our readers, a very big thank you. And let us not forget our highly reliable and much prized delivery team who set out in all weathers one with a twenty-five minute walk to reach his "reader who lives off the beaten track" to ensure that your monthly 'Observer' reaches your doorstep. A big thank you also to all of them, many of them, we are delighted to say, also get their reward when their readers take the papers and say to them "Oh, The Observer I always enjoy reading that paper". With ongoing support from the community these readers will, we hope, enjoy their monthly Observer for another two decades to come.



Year 11 Prom, see page 7

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New Neighbourhood plan must involve full consultation

"Our only hope of influencing the planning of our Town is through our carrying out full public consultation in order to produce our own neighbourhood plan," the Mayor Cllr Martin Gee told the Town Council's July meeting. "Otherwise we risk being exposed to any developer being able to build where he chooses." "Such a plan, to be acceptable must be "capable of being interrogated by an independent

professional and must prove to him that there has been full public consultation and approval of all interested citizens," continued Cllr Gee. He quoted an example of a Devon town's neighbourhood plan that had been rejected because there was no evidence of consultation with those who worked in the town but lived outside.

Once there has been full consultation with residents and workers from all parts of the town, from children to seniors

and including those of every ethnic group, a plan can be put forward emphasising in particular where Saltash people wish to have placed their allotted number of new homes. As the 'Observer' has recently reported Cornwall Council is demanding that Saltash accept either a thousand or 3,500 new homes within the next twenty years. The Town Council has expressed a preference for the lower figure. There was considerable anger from Latchbrook Residents when they read in your 'Observer' that the valley adjacent to their homes was one possible site for housing development. A neighbourhood plan, such as Cllr Gee is putting forward, would appear to be the only way of ensuring that local residents views will be considered when new developments are allocated to sites around the Town.

Such a plan, once consultation has taken place and it has been prepared, will have to be approved firstly by Cornwall Council, and then by an independent planning professional person.

It must then be put to a public referendum of all local residents and only if it receives majority approval can it be put into effect.

The necessity for such a neighbourhood plan was unanimously agreed by the Town Council who agreed to take the first steps towards it, including registering with Cornwall Council that such a plan was in the pipeline.



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Latchbrook Neighbourhood Association

Latchbrook Neighbourhood Association is a newly established residents' association, formed to investigate and question the Core Strategy of Cornwall Council which plans the future housing needs of Saltash over the next 20 years. Their aim is to influence this decision and make the views of the people of Saltash known.

Our Association's main aim is to preserve the green fields of the Latchbrook valley area, but we are also keen to safeguard Saltash from over development. We feel that the option of building of 3500 new homes as outlined in the Core strategy for Cornwall would be too much development for our town to absorb. Even 1000 homes could represent an increase of nearly 20% to our town's population. We know that many other groups and individuals agree; our analysis of the Saltash feedback on Cornwall Council's own website dealing with the Core Strategy Consultation, shows over 88% wanted 1000 maximum new builds and over 83% were against any development in Latchbrook. This is despite the

fact that many people with similar concerns missed the consultation period. If you would like to add your voice to support our aims you are invited to complete the survey to be found on our Website www.latchbrookna.org or you could e mail us your views at latchbrookna@hotmail.co.uk Although there seems to be some confusion as to specific details, we understand there is to be a second consultation period on the Core Strategy's proposals for Saltash and we are endeavouring to keep abreast of changes and will make every effort to keep residents informed of developments and any opportunities to register opinions on the proposals for Saltash.

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Just about the most money ever put into a contract by Cornwall Council is about to be awarded by the Cabinet, the body of 10 councillors that makes virtually all the decisions which affect us. This is a £300 million affair to appoint a Strategic Partner to help deliver a range of health support and other services such as payroll, free school meals, one stop shops and library services to name but a few. The leader of the Council has gone to great lengths to point out that this partner from the private sector will be closely monitored, money will be saved and that jobs will be made, not lost.... I certainly hope that this is the case because, for example, the private firm Cory has not covered itself in roses with the management of the waste and recycling service in parts of the county. Two points: firstly this monumental decision, the biggest ever in this county, and which is based on the report from the "single issue panel" that has done the research is being made by this small Cabinet, a process which is entirely wrong in my opinion. There should be a proper debate, within the full council, to discuss and advise on this: democracy does not rule OK. I have changed my mind completely about Cabinet government for Cornwall and would now like to see a committee system restored so that decision making is more democratic and people like yourselves are more able to influence decisions by lobbying your councillor. The second point is that this is a ten-year contract which is likely to be awarded to a company, probably either BT (yes, BT)



CORNWALL COUNCIL



and our PL12 community
For Observer readers
From Councillor Derek Holley
Pill Ward Saltash

or CSC which you may have heard of but either of which will undoubtedly be less approachable and less easy to influence by your councillors. This is called progress. It basically continues to be part of the process to compensate for the enormous amount of money cut from the county's budget by the government. I have had an email discussion lately, instigated by a concerned resident whose daughter's annual membership of the Leisure Centre was apparently set to rocket from £75 to £286. Now the leisure centres in Cornwall are run by a separate company called Carrick Leisure. This is called progress, and is again a move by Cornwall to save money, which it has, but again it leaves us theoretically in a worse position when we want to comment or influence decisions; however, I am pleased to say that the company has put in place an Olympic junior membership for two months costing £20. I have lobbied the Managing Director, a responsive and clearly sensible officer, for this special membership to continue in some form: he has assured me it will be rolled on into the future until a new system is put in place for young people. I will continue to monitor this and I have explained the situation because the Olympic deal is still a very good one and I would urge you to consider it, if you have children of that age.

could re-invigorate your efforts or come up with new ideas to educate your pupils, and if you are a parent perhaps you could do the same with your children. Catch them young! I suspect the readers of this column are not litter droppers anyway but we can all play our part. One problem is the reduced amount of time the street cleaners have, and another, which I deal with all the time, is getting our litter bins regularly emptied by Cory. A litter example: about a month ago I was coming out of the Leisure Centre car park when a car with four young people, who evidently had been in the Leisure Centre or playing sport, drove off, a window came down and a bottle was thrown out. Incensed I followed the car to the Burraton traffic lights, seized the opportunity to approach the car and told them I had seen the action and if they did not turn around and pick it up I would report it with their details. To the young men's credit, and I respect them for this, they turned the car around and went back. I do not recommend you to do this: instead, if you see something similar (and have details) report it to me, or the Town Clerk, and we will try and do something on your behalf - sorry, on all our behalves. It is the casual nature of this litter habit that worries me, the "so what" attitude that plagues our society. Time to shut up.

Good news! The wet weather seems to have reduced the numbers of the Large White butterflies that maliciously target my cabbages and sprouts. Shame, isn't it? Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Derek Holley, Cornwall Councillor, Pill Ward, soon to be called Saltash East.

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A Day of Bliss

For Paula of "Bliss Beauty" April 2011 was a major month in her life, April 2012 maybe even more so. It was in April last year that "Saltash Maid" Paula, having returned from exile in the Midlands earlier that year, was thrilled to open her own business "Bliss Beauty" in Top of the Town Courtyard.

Three months later a friend persuaded her to "visit" on the internet Andy Townsend of Latchbrook and in April 2012 they were married in St Nicholas and St Faith Church. Andy will be familiar to many in Town as their local postie, he now still works for the Post Office in Plymouth.

The wedding was very much a family affair and Paula was proud to wear the ring first worn by her grandmother when married at the same church in 1944. Her head bridesmaid was her daughter Imogen (16) with Alannah (11), Evie (8) and Grace (3) accompanied by page boys Connor (10) Henry (9) Harley (7) and Roman (2). Photographer was Paula's other daughter Hollie currently studying for a university degree in photography. Best man was Andy's father Barry Townsend, and locally well-known guest of honour was Paula's mother Jenny of Intrigue Fashions.

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Before Parliament broke up for recess, I secured a debate about reforming Britain's adoption system.

The present English trend is worrying. Currently, only 58% of children on the register are adopted in less than 21 months. Furthermore, there is evidence to suggest that children in care do not have as good a start in life as those children who were adopted out of care. Barnardo's surveyed 66 young people aged between 16 and 21 who had been in care throughout their childhood, and 80% had no GCSEs on leaving school, half had been in more than 4 care placements and they were much more likely to be bullied or excluded from school.

The figures which I spoke of earlier clearly show that the Adoption and Children Act of 2002 Act has not been working as well as we would have hoped. The previous Government were ineffective in implementing the policies within the act, which were, and still are, entirely necessary. Statistics show that the number of children placed for adoption has fallen by 15% in 2009/10. This act is now 10 years old, and we really should have seen improvement by now. Communication between the Government and Local Authorities also needs to improve. The Local Authorities need to be making more use of voluntary adoption agencies, with experience in finding families for difficult to place children, to help reduce delay and break down barriers in the system.

On the 23rd February of this year the Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove, spoke about the Government's adoption plan and explained

SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...



what the issue was – He was concerned about “Low adoption numbers and delays and bureaucracy in the assessment process.”

I am very happy that we have a Secretary of State who is in touch with the public's concerns over this issue and is taking the necessary steps to tackle this. The Government have been very proactive in their approach to tackling this social issue. Local authorities will be required to reduce delays in all cases and will not be able to delay an adoption for the perfect match if there are other suitable adopters available. The ethnicity of a child and the prospective adopters will, in most cases, come second to the speed of placing a child in a loving home.

The current issue is that fewer people from ethnic minorities come forward to adopt children so there is a shortage, particularly among the black community. Social workers have previously put a high importance on placing children with parents of similar ethnic background if possible, but this Government recognises that placing a child in a loving and caring home is of paramount importance. Proposed changes to legislation will make it easier for children to be fostered by approved prospective adopters while the courts consider the case for adoption. This will mean they stay in one home with the same

parents, first as foster carers, and then as adopted parents if the court agrees to adoption. Furthermore, if a match has not been found locally within three months of a child being recommended for adoption, local authorities will have to refer them to the national Adoption Register so they can find a match in a wider pool of prospective adopters. The Department for Education has also published new adoption scorecards which form part of the new approach to address delays in the system. These set performance thresholds which make clear the minimum expectations for timeliness in the adoption system. These scorecards have also shone a light on the Councils who are slower than others and they have been told to accelerate adoptions or lose control. The Government has also urged Ofsted to give “outstanding” ratings for adoption only where children are placed within 12 months of being identified for adoption. On the supply side – the pool of people approved to adopt – it has been recognised that this process needs to become much quicker. It is going to consult on having a new “six month approval process” for people wanting to adopt.

Taking measures to speed up the adoption process will ultimately trigger a long term benefit for children who are in care and on the adoption register and I am very happy that we have a Secretary of State and Minister who understand the complexities of these issues and are prepared to fight hard for the children who find themselves in care.

These proposed reforms will also benefit wider society as more children in care will be raised in more secure homes and will be less likely to be lost in the system. I am proud to be part of a Government who is taking such a proactive approach.

From The Mayor's Parlour...

Saltash continues to be vibrant, and increasingly so on Saturdays and Sundays with the benefit of FREE Parking – the car parks are mostly full (please note Belle Vue East often has plenty of spaces) and some residents close to the Town Centre have noticed fewer cars parked on their roads.

There are still four shops empty, three of them are owned by people who live outside SW England and the owners / agents seem uninterested in leasing these even though Saltash Town Council has contacted them.

Cornwall Council has attacked the weeds in Fore Street and we await the results with interest.

We must praise the Police and the police support officers in their continuing actions to reduce crime by clearing cases and taking culprits to court. I am proud to say that we live in one of the safest places in Britain.

A group including SRUG and some town Councillors are investigating some possible funding regarding the railway station and its site. I will keep you informed.

The lease of the Maurice Huggins Rest Room will be transferred from the committee to Saltash Town Council and upon completion of all legalities future occupation will be considered.

The process for producing a ‘local plan’ for the development of Saltash has started but there seems to be a slow response from Cornwall Council to assist the Town Council.

The Celtic Cross which is to be erected in Elwell Woods pocket park is progressing well and members of SWRA have seen the fibreglass pieces at the

factory at Newquay Airport. The Cross is nearly complete and will be 20 metres tall. It will be delivered by low-loader to Saltash from Newquay taking the ‘long-way round’ via Exeter down A38 across the Tamar bridge for assembly and erection in early Autumn.

Seeing the Armed Forces at the start of the Olympic games reminds me of all the work done by the Air Cadets, the Army cadets and the voluntary attendants in the out of town car parks. I am pleased to note that there is a move to open a group that will cater for water activities and may develop into Sea Cadets later. (contact Mr Richard Fry Tel:849329)

The volunteers for Saltash make it a truly wonderful town to live in. I have seen so many of these volunteers and the spectacular work that they do. In particular, on this occasion, I would like to mention the organisers and families who hosted the children from Chernobyl with their leader Anastasia. The Fire Service provided a wonderful welcome party when the town was presented with a glass statuette of the ‘Madonna and Child’. This will be displayed in the Guildhall.

We all appreciate how fortunate we are to have a cottage hospital. More volunteers are needed to maintain the high standard of care. The Friends of St Barnabas have asked for more people to help them share their rewarding and fun tasks. (Please Contact the Guildhall Tel:844846)

I look forward to another month of sharing the concerns and successes of Saltash
Martin Gee
Mayor

Observer Telephone Nos
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Essa Files

I can't quite believe it's the summer holidays – the sun is shining! This month two councillors – our Deputy Mayor David Yates, and Hilary Frank, kindly came into the community school to talk to our sixth form students about the role of the council – they tackled a range of very good questions: from ‘should 16 year olds be able to vote?’ through ‘why are the dog bins not being emptied?’ and ‘can we have a KFC in Saltash?’ to ‘what exactly does the Town Council do?’.

It was heartening to see the level of interest that a supposedly ‘politically apathetic’ age group has. The reason we held this session at this particular time is the voter registration forms that Cornwall sent out a few weeks ago – I would encourage everyone to make sure they check these forms, and follow the instructions to confirm, change or add any information (including the names and birth dates of any 16 or 17 year olds in the house – hence the sixth formers!).

Not only do we have the Town and Cornwall Council elections next May, but also the Police Commissioner election in the autumn. Please do make sure that you are registered to vote and, no matter who you vote for, please make sure you either vote for someone or turn up to spoil your vote on principle!

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Saltash's Second Beer Festival Promises Real Ales and More

The taste for real ale, natural living beer lovingly tapped from the barrel or pulled by hand pump, proved so popular at Saltash's first beer festival last year that the Union Inn was drunk dry of several brews on the first evening and replenishments had to be ordered for the Sunday.

Encouraged by the undoubted success of this first festival Brian of the Union Inn is once again joining with Saltash Rotary Club to put on an equally impressive, or better, array of beers from throughout Cornwall and Devon and beyond on September 8th and 9th.

Once again there is a full programme of entertainment between the official opening at the festival at midday on the Saturday and shortly before closing time at eleven thirty that evening and again from midday on the Sunday until six – the festival will be followed on the Sunday by the ever popular Sunday Super Quiz. During the afternoons it is hoped that patrons can enjoy Morris Dancing while sipping their pints overlooking the Tamar. The highlight of Saturday night's live entertainment will be the very popular band 'Banana Thieves', while other varied music is expected to be performed from those including The Thomas Ford Blues Band, Louise Parker 'the west country's own diva' and with modern jazz from Tom Anfield and Friends. A canopy outside the Union if required will ensure that music

and beer can be enjoyed inside or overlooking the Tamar whatever the weather, Hot Dogs, Burgers and other accompaniments to the ales will be available outside the Inn.

Last year the special commemorative Saltash Beer Festival Mugs were soon snapped up as collectables. This year again visitors can purchase a commemorative mug filled with the first pint of the festival weekend for just five pounds. Once again profits from the festival will be shared between the various local charities of Saltash Rotary Club, the joint organisers, and Erme Valley Riding Club for the Disabled Group, Kelly

Pritchard, the disabled daughter of Brian and Barbara of the 'Union' has gained great skills in horsemanship as well as self confidence from the facilities. Erme Valley offer and Barbara and Brian are delighted to have the opportunity, through the festival, to pay back something towards them.

If the quality of the various beers, bands and general atmosphere of the weekend match last year's this will clearly be an event not to be missed. "If this first festival proves a success we will build upon it with an even better festival next year" was the quote from a Saltash Rotarian which we reported in last August's Observer. Now local

Rotarians with the town's free house "Union Inn" intend to ensure that they do exactly that

Safe Havens Sought for 'Special Needs'

Local shops and businesses are being asked to display a sticker indicating that they will offer a safe haven to those in need.

Men and women of all ages who have special needs are visiting the Town and being welcomed into the Wesley Church complex through the Morley Tamblin Trust. Some them like to walk, singly or accompanied, through the Town.

Unfortunately, there have been occasions when they have been picked upon or teased in the street, leaving them confused.

The Town's Chamber of Commerce and Industry agreed to co-operate in arranging for several businesses in Fore Street to show that unhappy persons with special needs could be assured of a welcome and a helping hand.



Our 21st year...

A Second Bridge and a Science Park...Saltash Concerns as Your Observer was Launched

What were the main concerns in and around Saltash when we tentatively put together your very first 'Saltash and District Observer' back in the summer of 1992? Many of those concerns have vanished into history, many have been realised, and some are still familiar within our columns over recent months.

In our very first edition following our editorial welcome to a "truly local newspaper, locally produced exclusively by Saltash people for the Saltash community" – which remains equally true twenty years on, we reported on a "commuter service still lost". We are delighted to note that in our last, July 2012 edition, we reported exclusively upon a meeting between Saltash Rail Users Group and Minister for Transport Theresa Villiers in which the Saltash train service was agreed to have been radically improved over the last few years.

In our second, September edition we reported on plans for a revival of the old Saltash market. Such a market remains very much on the agenda of our present STIG town centre regeneration group. The need for a town swimming pool and a

community centre, the latter to replace the recently lost Wesley Hall was also a concern reported upon in those early editions. After much controversy concerning its siting at Warfelton the leisure centre, with its pool, has proved a popular success, while we still await a community hall.

The prospect of a second Tamar crossing, either alongside the present one at Saltash with resultant property demolition, or further upstream to mar the Tamar and Tavy valleys, was causing consternation as we continued to report upon progress throughout that year. Caradon Council's planning officer spoke on an inevitable adverse impact on Saltash as the issue went to public consultation. As we now know the issue was resolved by the massive

widening and strengthening project of our existing bridge providing the additional traffic bearing capacity.

'Traders say Saltash favoured by shoppers' we reported as Christmas approached and the town's Chamber of Commerce also reported favourably on having the 'new Observer' to promote local trade. Parking charges then as ever have been an issue and the Chamber commented in support of the new short stay parking facilities. However by the following February we reported on empty car parks and street congestion as a result of built in resistance to paying long-term charges of sixty-pence. How pleased those motorists might have been with our new free weekend parking.

Two thousand mainly white collar jobs could be created in the town within the planned Science and Business Park at Broadmoor Farm, with a new hypermarket at Burraton. This was the promise at the end of December 1992 and the Caradon local plan published in spring 1993 supported the one hundred and eighty two hectare building scheme. Many proposals were put forward over the months and years before recession bit and Broadmoor remains open fields – but for how much longer?

A plan for a park and ride scheme at Carkeel was also put forward as reported in March 1993 and is not, we understand, totally forgotten.

Meanwhile the local policing scheme set up in 1993 based on a "Saltash District Community Team" has since evolved into a system including community support officers.

National policies had their effect on the town as a rally was held under the Royal Albert Bridge against rail privatisation. This was led by prominent local Liberal Democrats Paul Tyler and Robin Teverson. Both are now in the House of Lords while rail privatisation has long been a reality, with the local franchise shortly to come up for re-tendering.

Honoured visitors to the town included the Australian High Commissioner who planted a eucalyptus tree, sadly a subsequent victim of storm damage, and unveiled a plaque commemorating four Saltash men who achieved fame 'down under', still to be seen in our subsequently refurbished Guildhall. He was welcomed by Mayor Barbara Spring, whose deputy Mayor Mona Tomaszewska was elected as Mayor as our first year of service as a community newspaper came to an end. We were saddened to report on Mona's funeral in a packed St. Stephens Church early last year.

And so with a new Mayor, a new year for your Saltash Observer. So it goes on and so we hope, it will continue, with your support, for two decades of more to come.

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SEPTEMBER

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Sunday 9th September 12 noon – 6pm

£5 buys a commemorative glass and first pint

10 Real Ales
Music (Blues & Jazz) and Food throughout each day
Traditional entertainment 3-4.30pm each day

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Your Observer Continues to Support the Town...But We Need Your Support!

Over the past twenty years as a community newspaper your Saltash and District Observer has been pleased and proud to promote local organisations and their events. We have done this, for almost all of those twenty years, without expecting to make any charge for this believing this to be part of the scope of a true community newspaper – and for the most part we continue to do so.

However, as we reminded our readers in our eighteenth anniversary edition in August 2010 we do need your support to make this happen. We look forward to continuing to providing advance publicity of events as well as attending, with cameras ready to provide post event coverage.

However we do ask that, if you wish us to support you, you also if possible support us. We are increasingly aware of organisations that have an advertising budget which they spend on paid advertisements elsewhere on the basis that The

Observer will give them free support anyway. In the past this has been true but as we are all aware, financial times are tough – for us as for everybody. If an organisation has money to spend on advertising we do not think it unreasonable to ask that if they want us to support them they place some of this budget with us, in comparison with what they spend elsewhere. Please remember, as a paper delivered throughout the town with our compliments, we have no income other than advertising. “For those who do not have a budget for advertising with us or elsewhere we will, of course be happy to continue

supporting your not for profit or charity organisation with our compliments for the benefit of the Saltash community.”

With your support we will be delighted to continue to attend and support local events as well as promote local businesses.

Conundrum Corner

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

- 1 In which film does the character Oddjob appear? (10)
 - 2 Which cheese takes its name from the Italian for re-cooked? (7)
 - 3 What nickname links Margaret Thatcher and Mike Tyson? (4)
 - 4 In which city can the Parthenon be found? (6)
 - 5 Who is Winnie-the-Pooh's friend that likes to eat thistles? (6)
 - 6 What is the name of the range of hills that divide the Highlands and Lowlands of Scotland? (9)
 - 7 What nickname was given to the German V1 Flying Bomb during World War 2? (9)
 - 8 With which instrument was Benny Goodman primarily associated? (8)
 - 9 Of which flower is Damask a variety? (4)
- Answers on Page 7*

Observer Telephone Nos
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Saltash Firemen Welcome Children from Nuclear Disaster Zone

A ride round the streets of Saltash in a fire engine and a barbecue at the fire station complete with bouncy castle helped to welcome to Britain a group of excited children from a land still suffering from radiation fallout twenty-six years after a nuclear disaster.

Each year Saltash welcomes a group of children from Chernobyl in Belarus, a community that hit the headlines when it was part of the USSR and a nuclear reactor malfunction spread death and destruction throughout a wide area. Local children are still suffering the effects and their four week visit to Cornwall, breathing fresh air, eating non-contaminated food and enjoying healthy outdoor activities can add years to what is otherwise likely to be a limited life.

Following the welcoming party thrown by Saltash Firemen at their station the children aged nine to fourteen went home with their various local host families, eager for the excitement of the four hopefully sun-filled weeks that lay ahead. Especially exciting was the promise of a sight, and possibly a swim in the sea, most of them never having encountered it in their land-locked homeland. Generous local businesses and tourist concerns had also promised that they would open the Cornish Maize Maze as well as a visit to The Eden Project, Tamar Donkey Park, The Woodlands and Quay West theme attractions, and this year for the first time experience camping out near the beach on a scout camp site. Specsavers also promised



free eye tests and glasses for those who needed them and had not been able to be tested in their home county.

The group was accompanied by Anastasiya who was making her third visit to Saltash where she now has many friends. Born in Latvia Anastasiya moved at age seven to Belarus where she studied English and has now taught the language for six years. Fluent in Belarusian, Russian, English and also Italian, she is interpreter, guide and friend to her eager young charges and described to your Observer reporter the excitement shown by each individual child when told, early in the year that they

have been selected as part of the group to visit Saltash. This year nine children were welcomed, all on their first visit, and more could come of it if more families were to volunteer to host them. The 'Observer' was delighted, as every year to involve itself in the welcome party and this year to make a donation towards treats for the children from our charity fund.

If anyone is willing to help ensure that even more children can enjoy a few summer weeks of fresh air and fun in Britain next year, and can offer accommodation next July and August would

be most appreciated. Couples with or without children of their own are invited to come forward to host a child for either two or the full four weeks. Children can share a room with same sex children from the host family. All that is asked is accommodation, food and a ride to connect with the transport taking the children on the daily outings. Fluency in Belarusian is not required! Anyone interested in helping out next year can contact Vanessa on 01752 848033 or 844434 or call in and see her in Van Essa Menswear Shop, Fore Street, Saltash.

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Community Use Sought for Former Rest Room

The future of the Maurice Higgins Rest Room in Victoria Gardens is open to offers from the community following its closure at the end of July.

The Rest Room was built by the former Saltash Borough Council in 1967 at the instigation of the former Mayor and Saltash shopkeeper Maurice Higgins who noted that the elderly often needed to rest in his shop before walking home from the Town Centre. Funds were raised to provide a shelter where the elderly could sit and enjoy refreshment in the public gardens. In more recent years it has been open to all age groups.

However the committee who have been running it have decided reluctantly that with fewer volunteers coming

forward they can no longer operate it. It has recently been breaking even and following closure any funds remaining will be distributed to similar organisations.

There is already much local interest in taking over the room which was restored and re-roofed and has full heating facilities. An Arts and crafts and Ecology Centre was proposed by a member of the public at the July Town Council meeting. This, she said could be a useful adjunct to the work Saltash Environmental Action are carrying out in the adjacent gardens. The council has also

received letters showing interest in taking over the rest room from Saltash Live at Home Group and from Saltash Lions (who would hope to continue offering teas and coffees with outside seating.

The original lease from the 1960's is missing and currently being sought. Meanwhile the Town Council has agreed to take over the lease from the Maurice Higgins committee, carry out a structural survey of the building and consider any applications for its future use as a community asset.

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No New Homes for Parkesway

Angry residents from Parkesway have protested at plans for substantial new dwellings on land to the rear of their road.

Letters of objection were read and a resident voiced objections at a Saltash Town Council Meeting. Parkesway was described as a narrow road with narrow access to the site and with parking problems likely to arise from further development. There were also complaints from existing residents about overlooking and overshadowing were plans to proceed.

Permission had always been given for one new dwelling but Town Councillors agreed to recommend that Cornwall Planners refuse permission for two more. The reasons given include over development of the site, overlooking, privacy and traffic issues with access on the street.

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A Falcon Flew Over the Football Field

A rare falcon hovering over Warfelton Field might have excited any eager twitcher around on a July Saturday morning. The gyr/saker cross falcon had in fact strayed from Churchtown Farm where it was part of a falconry display and was later recovered thanks to its transponder.

The display was part of the Churchtown Farm awareness day when a number of adults and children visited a number of displays and enjoyed activities designed to show that our own local nature reserve is a priceless asset and far more than just a dog walking area.

As well as the falcons there was a display of rescued owls, many road accident victims nursed back to health. Other organisations were represented including the newly formed Churchtown Allotment holders selling their fresh produce, and other stalls sold amazing wood carvings, as well as locally produced works of art. Children enjoyed face painting, colouring in and a nature scavenger hunt. Local businesses had donated generous prizes for the raffle including passes for The Eden Project, Theatre Royal, Wookey Hole and Dartmoor Zoo.

This was just one of the events organised by the Friends of Churchtown Farm who also organise monthly themed walks around the reserve, the varied habitats of which offer homes to a wide variety of flora and fauna.

Brunel's Statue is a Shoddy Disgrace to Saltash

The statue of Isambard Kingdom Brunel, unveiled in Saltash to make the two hundredth anniversary of the great engineer's birth, is crumbling apart just six years later.

The state of the statue was raised during Town Council public question time by Observer Reporter Martin Lister, the matter having been drawn to his attention by former Mayor Baz Gregory.

The statue was originally commissioned for the 2006 anniversary by Ashtorpe Rock Community group and paid for by Awards for All, Cllr, Joe Ellison told Mr Lister. It was firstly placed in Huntley Gardens, directly under Brunel's bridge. It had been moved twice due to vandalism and its current position on the green near the "Union Inn" was considered a more prominent and therefore safe, position. Unfortunately, the statue suffered in the two moves and though there has been no more deliberate vandalism the glass fibre moulding, described by Cllr Ellison as "not brilliant" had crumbled badly and continues to do so. The Saltash Waterfront Residents' Association had taken on responsibility and had paid for repairs, including £1,000 when the back had corroded badly. However, the voluntary residents' group was unwilling to take on further expense. The designer apparently disclaims all responsibility.

It is in a prominent position, much visited by tourists many of whom have their photographs taken alongside it, Mr Lister told the Council. In its present shoddy state it does Saltash no credit.

The general opinion appeared to be that the statue will fall apart sooner rather than later and rather than spend more money on repair, consideration should be given to obtaining a replacement made of a more lasting material.

More news from saltash.net...

TESSA Success

saltash.net community school was absolutely delighted to hear that it had become the first recipient of the new Times Educational Supplement School Award (TESSA) for ICT Visionaries. Ex Deputy Headteacher, Dan Roberts, had been nominated for the Award by another of saltash.net's teachers, James Edwards, who felt that Dan totally deserved the national award for all that he had done to shape the school's ICT Vision and Strategic plan.

Now working abroad, Dan Roberts had returned to the UK last week and was able to attend the TES Awards ceremony held on Friday 6th July at the Hilton Hotel, Park Lane in London. Accompanying Dan to the ceremony were three of his teaching and support staff colleagues from saltash.net – Ben Rowe, Jen Dunkey and Ben Alton – as well as the Head Students for 2011-12 – Adam Riglar and Hannah Burtwell. The ceremony was compered by Welsh actor and Comedian, Rob Brydon, who kept everyone entertained and engaged in good humoured banter with Dan Roberts when he collected his ICT Visionaries Award.

Speaking after the event, Dan said, 'What an amazing day. I really can't believe I won. It's brilliant for saltash.net to have won this national award and reflects so well on the quality of the students' learning experience.'

Isobel Bryce, headteacher, added, 'It was a great week for the school as Dan's Award came on the back of Science teacher, Anna Lucas, being runner up in the South West Digital Educator of the Year Awards last Tuesday. We are extremely proud of the ethos of creativity and innovation that exists at our school and it is rewarding to have it recognised on a national level.'



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Year 11 Prom

Contending with one of the wettest summers on record did nothing to dampen the spirits of the Year 11 students from saltash.net as they arrived for their Prom night at St Mellion International. In line with tradition, choices of transport were inventive and entertaining and included Go Karts, golf buggies, VW Camper Vans, Cadillacs, performance Motor Bikes and Rolls Royces. saltash.net students certainly know how to make an entrance!

Over 200 Year 11s attended the Prom which had been organised by a committee led by student, Josie Leigh Webb, supported by Assistant Head of Year,



On Thursday 28th June, saltash.net was delighted to welcome a very special visitor into school as part of a series of Olympic related Maths lessons. Sophie Elvin was an official LOCOG Olympic Torch Bearer who ran locally with the torch and was kind enough to spend the afternoon working with a year 7 tutor group, 7WP.

In preparation for the visit students across mathematics classes have taken part in a variety of Olympic themed sessions. Some students have been finding distances the torch has covered; others have looked at how maths has played an integral role in the Olympic Games and others looked at the surface area of the torch, and how it was constructed.

The visit was organised by Enrichment Coordinator for Mathematics, Scott Wieprecht. Speaking after the event he said, "This was a

fantastic opportunity for the students to engage in some real life Mathematics and understand how it's so important and essential in everyday life. We looked at things from the cost of staging the whole Olympics, to how time is used to record records and how accurate it needs to be".

The event was more than just about Mathematics though and enabled excellent group work in the classroom. "As part of the lessons, after dealing with the maths the students then wrote their own nomination letters of who they would like to 'carry the flame'. These were then passed to Sophie who picked several winning pairs who were then given the chance to be photographed holding the torch. It was an honour and a privilege to meet one of the local heroes and we would like to thank Sophie for the time she gave up to come in and visit us."

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Mrs Eileen Sloggett, as well as other teaching and support staff. The banqueting suite at St Mellion had been beautifully decorated by the Prom Committee and included 200 handcrafted biscuits in the shape of Prom outfits which had been made by the school's PACE team (Pupil Data, Attendance, Cover and Exams team – Karen Crook, Sarah Moss and Debbie Hobbs).

The students and Year 11 tutor team, led by Head of Year, Mr Dave Stokes, enjoyed a delicious sit down meal before it was time for live music, dancing and some farewell speeches, which included one from Year 11 tutor and teacher of Maths, Mr Pete Cook, who is retiring from saltash.net this summer.

Headteacher, Isobel Bryce, said, 'I would like to say thank you to St Mellion for giving our young people the red carpet treatment and helping them to have a superb night to remember.' She added, 'It was such a privilege to be in attendance at the Prom with impeccably behaved students who were a credit to their families and to the school.'










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Reprieve for Cornish Boundary

“Kee Cornwall Whole,” a cross-party group that fought against the creation of a cross-border ‘Devonwall’ parliamentary seat, has welcomed the announcement that the parliamentary boundary changes may now be rejected by Parliament.

Nick Clegg, the Deputy Prime Minister, announced on Monday that his party would not support the proposed changes, which would have included a seat that crossed the Devon-Cornwall border.

The proposed changes, which in draft form included a ‘Bideford and Bude’ seat linking North Cornwall and North Devon, will still be put to Parliament by the Conservative led coalition. However if they do not pass it

is likely to mean that the 2015 General Election will be fought on existing boundaries, which include six MPs wholly within Cornwall.

The group is now calling for the Parliamentary Voting Systems and Constituencies Act, which includes a rule that currently forces the boundary commission to include a cross-border seat, to be repealed or amended to protect Cornwall’s status for the future.

QUOTES

“It is excellent news for the Keep Cornwall Whole campaign that there will now probably not be a cross border seat at the next election. However the fight is not over - there will be another boundary review at some point and we will be fighting to get the rules changed so that Cornwall’s status is protected. We call on all of the Cornish MPs to join this fight” Cllr Adam Killea, Convenor of Keep Cornwall Whole and former Mayor of Saltash

“The Parliamentary Voting Systems and Constituencies Act should never have been passed in the first place, or should have been amended to protect Cornwall. Still, no Devonwall seat for 2015 is a definite improvement on where we were”

Cllr Dick Cole, Leader of Mebyon Kernow – the Party for Cornwall and KCW Steering Group member

“The boundaries issue is an important part of our fight for greater status and recognition

Young Chef Competition



“The annual Rotary Club of Saltash’s Young Chef competition took place on Thursday 5th July in the Trematon Area Resource Base at saltash.net community school. Four of the fifteen students who attend the ARB took part in the competition which required them to plan, prepare and cook a selection of items suitable for a Jubilee tea party. They all did exceptionally well, producing a delicious range of cakes, buns and sandwiches, and giving the Rotarian judges a very hard job to decide on an overall winner. All the students were presented with framed certificates and medals, with the overall winner’s trophy going to Kieran. Also taking part in the competition were Jago, Joe and Connor.

for Cornwall – this announcement gives impetus to our fight for a Cornish Assembly and for more central government awareness of Cornish issues”

Bert Biscoe, Independent Cornwall Councillor and KCW Steering Group member

“This is potentially excellent news. We must now ensure that the boundary cannot be threatened again – that Cornwall’s unique culture, history and circumstances are properly safeguarded”

Jane Howells, KCW Steering Group member and co-ordinator of a number of Cornish Cultural Organisations

COTTON'S MINI COACHES

Telephone
01752 841300

Look out for our Special Feature in the September issue of your Observer



Saltash Leisure Centre

Welcome to a great way of keeping fit, staying healthy & most importantly, having fun!

into fitness

Summer Holiday Activities
Book Early to Avoid Disappointment

Places still available for...

Wednesday 15th August	Art Attack (4-7)	Maximum 20 places	Cost £5.00	
Friday 17th August	Pool Party 10am-12pm	Maximum 100 places	Cost £3.50	Food £1.50
Monday 20th August	Street and Zumba Workshop (6-12) 1.30pm-3.30pm	Maximum 15 places	Cost £5.00	
Tuesday 21st August	Activity Day (4-7) 1pm-3pm	Maximum 20 places	Cost £3.50	
Wednesday 22nd August	Activity Day (8+) 10am-4pm	Maximum 24 places	Cost £10.00	Food £3.00
Thursday 23rd August	Inflatable (8-15) 11am-12pm	Maximum 40 places	Cost £3.90	Food £1.50
Friday 24th August	Introduction to Paddle Board (8+) 1pm-3pm	Maximum 15 places	Cost £7.50	
Tuesday 28th August	Snorkelling (8+) 1pm-3pm	Maximum 10 places	Cost £10.00	
Wednesday 29th August	Art Attack (4-7) 1pm-4pm	Maximum 20 places	Cost £5.00	
Friday 31st August	Pool Party 10am-12pm	Maximum 100 places	Cost £3.50	Food £1.50

Normal activities will continue throughout the summer period

Daily classes include...

Zumbatomic classes **Zumba** **New juniors class**

Children’s Kickboxing classes

Swimming lessons

Public swimming sessions.

Breeze Memberships

Our new Breeze memberships now include use at All 15 Carrick Leisure sites.

Call us and see how much you can save.

Visit your local leisure centre

Telephone
01752 840940

www.cornwall.gov.uk/leisurecentres



CECILY BAKER CHARITY

Registered No 280830

Contact number
07855628154



saltash.net community school is a thriving, highly successful 11 to 18 mixed, community comprehensive school. On April 1st 2011, the school achieved Academy status, another significant milestone in its history. Becoming an Academy means the school can continue to strengthen and develop all areas of the curriculum, including its specialism of Science, Maths and Computing.

Situated in an area of outstanding natural beauty our school secures high levels of academic success as well as many outstanding sporting and other extra curricular achievements. It offers excellent ICT facilities, state of the art science labs and has an on site farm with world famous pigs and chickens! It also has a brand new, All Weather Pitch.

The school works very closely with its seven partner primary schools to ensure Year 6 students have a smooth transition to secondary school. We strive to provide the highest quality education for all children in our care. We are proud of what our young people achieve and we look forward to welcoming you to our school soon.

Open Evenings for 2012

Wed 3rd & Thurs 4th October
6.30 p.m.

saltash.net community school
Wearde Road, Saltash
Cornwall
PL12 4AY

For a Prospectus or more information please contact:

Tel: 01752 843715

enquiries@saltash.cornwall.sch.uk

www.saltash.net

