

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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August 2023 - Issue 375

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Tamar Bridge March Calls for an End to Tolls!



Over 300 people gathered to protest the Tamar tolls on the Saturday of the Regatta weekend. The crowds marched peacefully across the bridge answering the call by The Tamar Toll Action Group supported by AUOBK (All Under One Banner Kernow) for direct action as a response to continued toll price hikes and the threat of even more to come.

The protest started with rousing speeches by Cornwall Councillor Armand Toms, and Phil Hutty (Liberal Democrat candidate for North Cornwall), to the crowds congregated at the Alexandra Square car park. Phil Hutty asked, "Why is it that you are worth less than people in London, in Manchester, anywhere in this country... I ask you today as you walk across to think about that, that we are worth that bridge being free!"

Protesters filled the pedestrian cantilever of the Tamar Bridge as they walked over to the Plymouth side to chants of 'What do we want - Abolish the tolls, When do we want it - Now!'. Banners proclaiming End the Tamar Toll Tax and Scrap the Tolls were brandished much to the delight of passing traffic who blew their horns in support!

There were impassioned speeches too on the Plymouth side by Cornwall Councillor Andrew Long, long-serving councillor on the Joint Committee which directs the management of the joint crossings over the Tamar, and Plymouth City Councillor Stephen Hulme who reminded protesters that while politicians have influence, it's the people who have the power. Colin Martin, Liberal Democrat candidate set to

stand in SE Cornwall also spoke and pointed out that the people of SE Cornwall are not a priority for the government, while Andrew Long vented his frustration at the lack of progress to resolve this long-standing situation.

After reading out a statement sent to the group by local MP Sheryll Murray, TTAG's Vice Chair Scott Slavin finished proceedings by thanking all who had come for their ongoing support and participation in the march.

Mel Priston, Chair of the Tamar Toll Action Group said the committee were delighted with the high turnout and even more determined now to get some movement on the tolls. "It is a particularly crucial time for our Councillors and MPs to fight for a fairer deal on our behalf, as the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee prepare a business proposal to take to the Government to ask for funding for the Tamar Crossings (due to be made public in September). We urge all local people to join our campaign and increase public pressure on our MPs and Councillors for the tolls to be abolished."

Find out more by following Tamar Tag Action Group on Facebook or on their website at www.tamartollactiongroup.org.

JustPark App

Saltash Town Council encourage residents to use JustPark app for parking in the town.

Following Cornwall Council's consultation on car parking charges Cornwall Council has made the decision to increase car parking charges in car parks across the county. This includes charging now on Sundays, with 4pm - 9am remaining free of charge in all Saltash car parks.

Saltash Town Council is urging residents who regularly use the town's car parks to consider using the JustPark app to purchase multi use tickets. Multi-use tickets are for 24 hours parking and can be used on whatever day they are required. Tickets purchased in this way can save users £4 per day at Alexandra Square and Belle Vue East who both offer long stay parking.

For more information on this please visit <https://www.justpark.com/season-tickets/cornwall>

EV Charge Points

New public access electric vehicle charge points in Culver Road car park are now fully live as part of the Drive EV2 Project, funded by the European Regional Development Fund and Cornwall Council.

The UK Government has banned the sale of new petrol and diesel cars from 2030, and the Drive EV2 Project is part of Cornwall's response to supporting the switch to electric vehicles.

The charge points have been installed by traffic technology company SWARCO, who will also maintain them. Users will pay to use the points, with the cost of charging being set by SWARCO to cover the operation and maintenance.

With transport being our largest single source of carbon emissions, charge points are an important part of efforts to tackle climate change and improve air quality.

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Town Messenger

Working for the People of Saltash

News from Saltash Town Council
Konsel an dre Essa



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

From the Mayor of Saltash

Regatta weekend lived up to all expectations with so much going on, both on our beautiful part of the river and on shore. The Saltash Regatta is one of the oldest of its kind in the country, having started almost 200 years ago, reflecting the influence of the River Tamar on Saltash life for all that time. The Gig racing, Flashboat rowing and Dinghy racing were run impeccably by the Caradon Gig Club, Saltash Rowing Club and Saltash Sailing Club, and I have seen the praise heaped on them for running great events. It is only in the last 20 years that the 'Waterside Festival' part has really taken off, and now the onshore activities provide something for everyone.

I am lucky to have been part of the organising committee for several years, although my input has been lower this year due to other commitments, but I really do know how hard the small team work to bring this event to the town. Karen Lilley took over as Chair of the Regatta Committee from me several years ago and continues to grow and develop the event year on year. If you have an interest or desire to keep the long running event going then please get in touch through Social Media or the regatta website.

The Town Council continue to support our town events financially as well as

Meet Your Councillor

*Cllr Jean Dent
Tamar Ward*

I have been thinking recently about how much has changed in the nearly 10 years I have been a Saltash Town Councillor. There was a short break in my service, but I couldn't stay away!

I have seen Councillors come and go, but I have always been amazed by how dedicated they have always been. All volunteers, all prepared to give their time and energy for Saltash.

Recent training on Employment Law showed us how much that has changed, planning always seems in a state of flux and new possibilities for changes within Saltash funded externally are coming on stream. It is a good time to be a Councillor.

Finally, one of my interests is the Town Council Library. Since the transfer from Cornwall Council to ensure its future, it is now a Library Hub, not only for any book you may want to read, but also for a huge range of events and activities for all ages.



allowing the rowers to utilise the pontoon on Jubilee Green for crew changes and berthing, but there are multiple other partners and local sponsors for all these events. Please look out for them and thank them when you can.

Back in the Guildhall the Town Council continue to plan for the town's future. The Green Open Spaces project consultation has now closed, and we await a final report. I am confident that the views and concerns of residents and businesses will be listened to. Notwithstanding all the work going on to make our town centre better, I am pleased that new businesses continue to open and show interest in opening their doors in our town, keep shopping on our doorstep and the trend will continue.

On the Waterside, the consultation on flood defences and public realm improvements has also closed for now, and the team will assess the responses. This is a



Come along and see what we have for you. You can even ask one of our lovely library staff to arrange delivery of books to you if you can't make it in.

Saltash Town Council Service Delivery Department Update

Following No Mow May the Service Delivery Department are now continuing with the normal grass cutting schedule. All sites are on the rota and will be cut by the middle of June. These areas will now be maintained over the summer months. A review of No Mow May will be undertaken to consider the need to ensure areas remain usable and pathways accessible next year. Spring and summer bedding plants have been installed in Fore Street and the Waterside by the Service Delivery Department in April. These are being maintained and watered to ensure an attractive display for all who visit these areas.

The Town Council are investigating sustainable bedding and shrubs which require less maintenance but are attractive to all.

long-term project and inevitably will take years to deliver. Pulling together the large amounts of funding from multiple sources takes time to get through budget processes, but rising sea levels will continue to highlight the problems on every Spring Tide, made worse depending on weather conditions.

There are more plans afoot though, we have a project to improve connectivity and to look at ferry links along the

river coming along very soon, and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding, CIL allows Cornwall Council to raise funds from new developments and pass this on to community projects making a real difference. Saltash Town Council CIL Working Group have been successful in their expression of interest and are now looking at ways to improve some Pillmere play parks to make a difference to children and young people in the area,

watch out for further information.

Sarah and I were very pleased to attend the 30th birthday party for GLL, the 'Not for Profit' Social Enterprise that runs Saltash Leisure Centre and many others across Cornwall and throughout the country. Since our battle a few years ago, to keep our leisure centre open, I have been very impressed with their approach and willingness to work with the local community. Town and

Cornwall Councillors continue to meet with them on a regular basis to try and ensure we never go back to that precarious position and to support and help them to provide a great local resource for the future. I thoroughly recommend you pop in to meet Ben and the team and see if there is something for you.

*Councillor Richard Bickford
Mayor of Saltash 2023-24*

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Council Continues Offer of Home Library Service

Saltash Town Council has approved to continue the Saltash area Home Library Service from the Saltash Community Library Hub following Cornwall Councils decision to not provide the service across the Cornwall.

The service is open to residents of Saltash, as defined by the town's border who are unable to access library service whether from the Saltash Library Hub or outreach library services. Residents might not be able to access any provision on a temporary or permanent basis due to health, transport or caring duties. Each request to use the service will be considered. It is hoped that the service will ensure that people who may be isolated have access to a wide range of reading materials delivered to the place they reside based on their personal preferences and will also provide an important opportunity for social contact. The service also provides access to e-books, e-audio books and

e-magazines. The service relies on volunteers to deliver and collect the books from residents' houses. If you are in need of the Home Library Service or are interested in being a volunteer, please contact Saltash Town Council on 01752 844846 or via email enquiries@saltash.gov.uk

Five-Year Lease for Town's 'Jewel in the Crown'

Saltash Town Council are delighted to confirm that it has been agreed to sign a five year leasehold for the Maurice Huggins Room and Victoria Gardens, subject to the Personnel Committee identifying additional work levels to efficiently discharge works required by the Town Council; The Town Council has also accepted a grant £5000 from Cornwall Council to undertake repair and maintenance works to the historic railings that border the gardens. Friends of Victoria Gardens have already been working hard to bring the 'Jewel in the Crown' back to its former glory by weeding and replanting the gardens. The five-year lease will enable the group and the Town Council to develop Victoria Gardens and promote it as a space for the whole community to enjoy.

Town Council Submits Expressions of Interest for Community Infrastructure Levy Fund

The Town Council's Play Park Working Group has submitted an expression of interest to Cornwall Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Fund.

This fund is available to support local infrastructure projects which help to either:

- alleviate the impact of development on an area
- or help development to come forward
- and focus on supporting children and young people

The application is to create an interactive play park to suit all ages and abilities of young people in the town. It would create a tactile and multi-sensory experience for children being able to have exploration through toes and hands, especially designed for those children who are not able to use the more conventional play areas. It would have a nature zone with canopy to encourage children to learn about the environment and give them the opportunity to be "hands on", learning with interactive play about nature and the environment. This area would include a pleasant, covered seating area to accommodate both parents and carers for the children using the space, as well as supporting wildlife with some pollinator friendly planting.

Alongside this would be a more traditional area of climbing frames and rope play areas as well as play panels to encourage imagination and creativity to assist with the development of important

social and emotional skills.

If successful the working group will be invited to submit a full application, with successful applications being announced in early 2024.

Council Team for Youth Working with Youth Organisations

Saltash Team for Youth are working closely with youth organisations LiveWire and The Core for the delivery of professional youth work. The Saltash Town Council working group consists of four councillors who meet regularly with the organisations. Following on from the Town Council's award of £29,938 to each organisation the working group will be working with them to develop the impact measurement tools used to support funding bids. These tools will measure how much impact the organisations have had on the lives of young people through outcomes, surveys and youth voice.

The Town Council are pleased to be supporting the youth of Saltash and the organisations that support them to ensure their voices are heard and that every young person in the town has the opportunity to achieve and thrive.

Planning Starts for 2024 Festival

When we created the first Saltash Songs & Shanties Festival back in 2022, the idea was to put on concerts as a one-off weekend to bring some fun back to the town after the covid years. The positive response from artists and audiences was overwhelming and now, in just two years, Saltash has a music Festival which attracts people from across the South West.

The original programme of 'a few shanty groups' has also blossomed, and we now have a full week celebrating all of the music and musicians of South East Cornwall and the Tamar Valley, and what a rich celebration this is! From the folk musicians of the moors to town brass bands, classical composers, rock groups and choirs – the festival features excellent visiting professional artists alongside musicians from the region's wealth of amateur music groups.

At our 2023 Festival, nearly 1,800 people took part as audience members or workshop participants and 111 musicians (aged from 8 to 80+) performed. We also visited 10 venues ranging from the Social Club to the Saltash Swimming Pool and audience spent an estimated



£20,000 in the town while attending Festival events. We are also delighted that we now have five Festival Patrons who have pledged to support next year's event.

If you would like to join our mailing list or support the Festival by becoming a Patron, all the information is on our website www.songsandshanties.co.uk. If

you would like to discuss commercial advertising and sponsorship opportunities, please email info@songsandshanties.co.uk

As we turn our thoughts to 2024, it is slightly too early to announce any performers – but please do put the dates 15-23 June 2024 into your diary. We look forward to seeing you there.

Saltash Songs & Shanties Festival 2023 was supported by Arts Council England through its open access National Lottery Project

Grants, FEAST Cornwall, Cornwall Council and Saltash Town Council, plus all our lovely audience members and artists.

Chamber Chairman Peter Ryland Keeping us Updated ...

The Chamber meeting on 3rd July had much to discuss. The first significant topic covered the presentation by Dr. Mel Priston and Scott Slavin of the Tamar Toll Action Group, detailing their efforts to make the bridge and ferry toll free. Members reported how the tolls were detrimental to trying to do business out of Cornwall as it either meant their costs were higher or their margins tighter. It was agreed that the Chairman would write a letter of support and that the wider membership of the Chamber would be asked to support the work of TTAG

Secondly, much discussion took place as to the future of the Christmas Festival, which has been organised and run by the Chamber for several years. While it remains a hugely popular event, there is a considerable cost involved along with many hours of organisation by a small team of members. We face an urgent need to secure additional grants and sponsorship for this year's Festival, but the decision was taken to run it for a further year while the long-term funding of the event is reviewed, and its future could be assured.

The third item of discussion centred around how the Chamber represents its members and communicates with them. It was agreed that the committee will review this over the coming months and come back to members with thoughts. While traditional monthly meetings are valued for the interactions they provide, the benefits of modern technology such as the internet, social media and online meetings are also recognised, presenting the opportunity for change.

Other items noted were an update on the situation regarding CCTV, and a report on the work of the Town Team covering the progress of the Vitality Fund

consultation.

Throughout the lively discussions, the common focus was on taking actions that would benefit businesses in and around Saltash and the whole PL12 community. The Chamber remains committed to fostering a prosperous business environment in the area and would welcome new members to help us achieve these aims.

Calls for Government to take Action on Sewage Discharges

Saltash Town Council have joined calls for the Government to take action on sewage discharges in Cornwall. Councillors discussed the issue at the full Town Council meeting held in June where it was agreed that there is a need to look at the issues of why this is happening, how to prevent it and to put pressure on water companies to address the issue immediately. The Town Clerk and Chairman will write to Cornwall Council, MP Sheryll Murray and the water companies to urge them to take action.

Meadow in Town Flourishing with Unusual Orchids



The wildflower meadow at Pillmere is thriving this year with two types of unusual orchid being found. The orchids are the sainfoin and the bee orchard. Both flowers are mainly found here in the South West and are signs of a well established wildflower area.

The meadow was established in 2019 by local Pillmere residents, Saltash Environmental Action (SEA) and several Saltash Town Councillors.

Initially wildflower seeds were sown including yellow rattle seeds which weakened the grass and give the opportunity for other flowers to grow. This year many wildflower seeds were taken from other Saltash sites including Salt Mill to sow the meadow.

Saltash Town Council would like to thank SEA for their continuing work on the wildflower areas in the town.

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Forder Village Tirelessly Working on Behalf of the Local Community

The sun was shining, the colourful gaze-bos were erected the barbecue was fired up and the people arrived at the 56th annual Forder Fete in their droves. It was a perfect afternoon of traditional fun of the fete and river activities.

The village of Forder situated on the outskirts of Saltash and surrounded by ancient monuments, dwellings and the 10th Century Trematon Castle, was the perfect setting for this outstanding dramatic event.

The Saltash Town Band led the parade into the village green and played all afternoon with traditional music as fitting for such occasions.

The Fete was opened by the Forder Community and Conservation Association Patron Mrs Sue Hooper MBE.

Visitors to the fete enjoyed all the traditional treats of cream teas, ice cream, home baked cakes, tombola, raffles, and stalls of white elephant, plants and face painting. Many folks tried their skills on 'splat



the rat', but the toy rat outwitted the gamesters on every occasion, much to the delight of all those participating!

The Saltash Sailing Club Racing Cadets arrived into the creek in their Toppers and Picos and the winners were presented with their awards by Mrs Hooper.

A bouquet of flowers was presented to Mrs Hooper by Taylor Philps, and the Band

concluded the wonderful day at the Forder Fete playing 'Standard of St George'.

This wonderful and historic fete followed the Forder Village community party which took place on May 7th in honour of H.M. King Charles 111 in honour of his Coronation on May 6th.

By the time this article reaches our readers another event organised by the Forder Conservation and Community Association an outdoor Mandolin concert - 'Gentle on the Green' featuring the Moorland Mandolins and guests, staging folk songs and Northumbrian Bagpipes will have taken place, we will be able to report on it in a future issue.

Sustainable Saltash

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

If global food waste were a country, it would be the third largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the world following China and the USA. That is according to the Waste and Resources Action Programme (wrap.org.uk) whose website goes on to report that in the UK alone, food waste from households and businesses currently stands at close to 9.5 million tonnes per year. And all of that wastage costs us money, believe me.

Thus, reducing the amount of food we each waste at home represents yet another example of how helping to save the planet might immediately translate into a more affordable option than continuing to trash it. So here are a few ideas to be getting along with to just to do with bread alone, which wrap.org reports is one of the top three foods most frequently thrown away in British households. (The other two are milk and potatoes, apparently.)

First off, maybe as much as 70-80% of the bread that comes into our house has already been rescued once by the ever-wonderful folk at Community Enterprises PL12's Community Fridge. Regular attendance at the Community Fridge allows us to welcome a fantastically wide range of ever-so-slightly-past-its-sell-by date bread into our home whilst helping to reduce supermarket waste and keeping our own food bills in check. The fact that we can pick out whatever we need and bring it home in our own reusable bag even works to reduce the amount of plastic that commonly accompanies visits to the supermarket. What's not to like about all of that then?

Of course, as with so many other close-to-expiry-date foods, the freezer is very much our friend. Rolls can be packed up whole whilst larger loaves are often best sliced up prior to freezing. Thereafter we take out whatever number of slices we expect to be able to eat and defrost them only just prior to eating, either in the microwave or directly in a toaster or under the grill so as to ensure the freshest tasting result possible.

In the event any bread does accidentally become stale, we convert it into crumbs, either for immediate use or, if not,

into a sealable plastic bag to be kept in the freezer for up to 3 months. Alternatively, there are a surprising number of recipes available - for soups, puddings, meatballs, and more - that actually call for slightly stale rather than fresh bread to be used and are then freezable themselves as finished meals. Or, on the day it happens to manifest itself, stale bread cut into cubes and fried makes for a delicious topping either for soups or for salads, good for any time of year then.

Sadly, not everyone has the time or the freezer space to manage exactly as we do, but I do still tend to believe that wherever there is a will to reduce food waste then there are plenty of new ways that might yet be found.

If readers have ideas of their own they would like to share, do please feel free to email and I will try to incorporate the best of them another time.

Elizabeth Gay

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

The Environment and Budgeting

World Environment Day, Ocean Day and Refill Day all happened in June, with an ever-increasing focus on caring for our world. There are a host of ways we can all play our part actively cutting costs and saving money! Here are five eco-friendly tips on how to care for the environment through budgeting well.

Learn how to budget

Not only will a budget be kind to your bank account and stress levels, but it will be kind to the environment too. It can help you confront unhealthy spending habits such as buying new things when you could perhaps reuse, repurpose or fix items you already have. Take some time to look through your expenses; you'll soon see where you're spending your money.

Don't buy fast fashion

Producing clothing requires enormous amounts of energy and resources, with many using chemicals and toxic fabric dyes that contaminate local communities' water sources. If you're looking for a new outfit, perhaps organise a clothes swap with friends - it costs nothing and saves garments from going to landfill.

Set a timer for your shower

You may already know that a shower is supposed to be cheaper than running a bath, but who hasn't stood under the hot faucet for longer than they intended? Help yourself save water and keep that shower short by setting a timer or perhaps use your favourite song as a timekeeper.

Store food properly

Did you know that over 30% of food is wasted every day across the globe? Discover how to

store food properly through a simple online search. Did you know that some food will fare well in airtight containers whereas others keep better in dark and well-ventilated areas? See how much further you can make your pound go through learning some helpful tips.

Acknowledge you can't do it alone

The idea of 'saving the planet' through our own individual efforts is overwhelming and unrealistic. We can all play our part in making a difference but we need help across governments and communities. Locally SEA and Saltash C.R.A.P. AND W.I.S.H. play an excellent role and always deserve a mention and a thank you!

Similarly, we often need help from others if we're struggling financially. If you or someone you know is struggling with debt or other financial challenges, Christians Against Poverty (CAP) offers free budgeting and expert debt help. Visit capuk.org to find out more or call 0800 328 0006.

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

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Tamar Reflections

Looking back from 1086

Readers of Tamar Reflections within the Saltash Observer may have read several of my contributions of historic reflections featuring Saltash - and indeed, mirroring stories going back several hundreds of years.

I have been able to ponder upon these historic events due to the fact that I am an unshakable and avid reader, collector and hoarder of Saltash artefacts, periodicals, books and memorabilia which has given me great pleasure enlightening the readers with interesting past imageries.

Talking of hoarding, when I was dusting (me dusting?) my overloaded dusty bookshelf recently, I came across a 1996 Saltash Heritage newsletter, packed with Saltash pastimes.

There was a specific article of interest to me written by the Heritage Curator at that time David Coles. David was, and still is, a wealth of researched knowledge and information; so I gladly put down my duster, and made myself a cuppa and sat down to, after 27 years, re-read David's most interesting article casting back from 1086 forward to 1996 (date of 10th Anniversary of Saltash Heritage).

I would like to share these musings with the Saltash Observer readers.

Backscattering the 1996 newsletter, David had reflected upon various happenings in Saltash's History which occurred when the final digit of the year was a 6 - thus

1086 Domesday Book

records that the Manor of Trematon was held by Reginald de Valletot, and makes the earliest reference to Trematon Castle, then newly constructed, but in a more primitive form than we see today.

1356 William Lenche, who fought at the Battle of Poitiers under command of the Black Prince, Duke of Cornwall, granted Saltash Ferry rights for life.

1646 Ince Castle surrendered to Parliamentary forces and Royalist troops withdrew from Saltash as the Civil War came to an end.

1696 Two large maces, hallmarked for that year, presented to the Borough of Saltash by Francis Buller of Shillingham, then one of the Members of Parliament for Saltash.

1716 John Ford elected Mayor of Saltash but refused to serve and was fined.

1726 Buller alms-houses erected at Burraton Coombe.

1786 Entries in the St. Stephens Church vestry minute books commenced.

1796 A bicentenary. This year saw the birth of Saltash's most notable lady, Ann Glanville. Her experience as a champion rower, and her physical strength, emanated from years of handling the market boats, carrying goods to and from Dock (later Devonport).

Frigate "Amphion" accidentally blown up off Saltash with loss of 300 lives.

1846 Forder Chapel erected.

1866 The third steam-driven ferry-boat came into service, replacing the vessel which had sunk the previous year. Built by Plymouth Foundry Co., the new boat utilised the engines salvaged from its predecessor.

1876 The three arched bridge, spanning the Lynher near the Inn

at Notter, was replaced, but not in the same position. A third bridge to carry traffic on the new A38 was opened in 1961.

1886 New Charter granted to Saltash under the Municipal Corporation Act. Our Court of Quarter Sessions and Office of Recorder were abolished, the Borough Council became the Urban Sanitary Authority - and the right to collect tolls from vessels entering Plymouth Sound ceased. The election of Councillors by ballot was introduced.



1896 Captain Henry Jackson became the first Briton to use radio for practical communication, making a series of pioneering transmissions from the R.N. Torpedo School aboard H.M.S. Defiance, stationed at the Lynher estuary off Wearde Quay.

1926 To improve the reliability of the fresh water supply to the higher parts of the Saltash Town area, a water storage container, capable of holding 35,000 gallons, was erected at Longstone. Popularly known as the "Green Tank", it was replaced by another of 80,000 gallons capacity in 1960. Demolished in 1964.

1936 Building of Warfelton Crescent commenced.

1946 Building of Alamein Road estate commenced.

1966 Plymouth Brethren Chapel at Burraton rebuilt.

1976 Saltash Y.M.C.A. closed. Building demolished in 1981.

1986 In this year Saltash Heritage was born in April, so

this was the first decade completed.

These most interesting historic reflections of David Coles are firmly filed in the Saltash Heritage archives for posterity. For further interest, I have echoed a few of my own references for readers thus ...

1996 Terence Cuneo, born 1907 died in 1996. Cuneo painted stunning pictures of I.K Brunel's 'Royal Albert Bridge' including one to commemorate its opening 1859.

2006 A Saltash Gateway Area Community Strategic Action Plan was set-up through the Market and Coastal Town initiative (MCTI) with a 20 year plan; and expertly chaired by the late Liam Bradley. This group of people and supportive stakeholders were visionaries with inventiveness working on plans for the future of Saltash and hinterland. The personnel were laced with imagination and wisdom. Many of their ideals are evident in today's Saltash almost two decades on, further, embracing new initiatives led by Saltash Town Team, the new drivers of vision, that are consulting with the local community on ideas of providing a 'New Green Community Space For Saltash'.

Saltash Town Council working on behalf of The Saltash Town Team has been successful in securing Town Vitality Funding from Cornwall Council to undertake a feasibility study for developing a new green multi-use community space in the retail heart of the town centre. This is ongoing.

2016 Saw the opening of Phase 2 of the Saltash Town Council's Saltash Memorial Peace Garden at Alexandra Square (Phase 1 was opened in 2015). This stunning Memorial Garden was initiated with the purpose of commemorating, remembering and paying tribute to the valiant Saltash fallen during Warfare and conflicts.

2026 We shall wait and see! However, I would have picked-up my duster by then to resume the dusting of my over-burdened bookshelf lined with fine particles of matter!

In the meantime, may I pay tribute to all the personnel at Saltash Heritage who so generously give so much of their valuable time to our local community and further afield.

The object of the Association is to advance the education of the public in Saltash, Cornwall and the surrounding area by the provision of a Museum in Saltash housing a collection of items relating to the history of Saltash.

Thank you one and all!

Sue Hooper MBE

Telephone 01752 843073

Email: suehcf@msn.com

There is a building just off Oaklands Green to the side of Tincombe Park that is owned by Cornwall Housing. Since 1985, it has been managed by a volunteer committee that has been at the heart of fostering a sense of community for Oaklands Green residents, organising a range of events including coffee mornings, bingo sessions and memorable themed parties.

Earlier this year, though, Diane Knight, who has selflessly served as Chair for two decades, decided to retire. After struggling to find someone to take on the role as Chair, the committee took the difficult decision to disband, donating their remaining funds of just under £3,000 to Cornwall Air Ambulance, a testament to the committee's commitment to helping others.

In the wake of this transition, Cornwall Housing saw an opportunity to build on the legacy left by the Oaklands Green Committee, and has worked to help form a new association, to be known as the Oaklands Community Centre. "We want to create a sustainable hub for the local community, building on the successes of Diane and her team, and fostering an atmosphere of togetherness," said James Jenkins, newly elected Chair of the Association.

Together with Vice Chair Shane Gilbert and other committee members, James is

Playpark Match Funding Awarded

Saltash Town Council is pleased to award the Friends of Summerfield £10,000 from the new Play Parks Match Funding.

This is the first award from the match funding which was set up to offer up to £10,000 as match funding to enable local groups and organisations to enhance and improve play park facilities in their area.

The Friends of Summerfield group have tirelessly fundraised for the play park with support from the community.

Saltash Town Council look forward to seeing the play park improved and open for the community and visitors to enjoy!

Further details on all the grant funding offered by the Town Council can be found on the website - <https://www.saltash.gov.uk/grants.php>

Oaklands Community Centre: Building on the Legacy

gearing up to continue the traditions of coffee mornings and bingo sessions while introducing new events such as a book club and a monthly One Stop Shop to support local residents with issues. "We want it to be a welcoming space where people can come together, share stories, make new memories, and build lasting friendships," said James,

"and we are actively engaging with residents to understand their needs and requests."

Driven by the shared commitment of residents and the support of Cornwall Housing, the Association is eager to make the Centre a focal point for the community, a place that will continue to bring people together for many years to come.

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Climbing to New Fundraising Heights Three Peaks Climbathon Charity Fundraiser

Between 12 noon and 4pm on Saturday 16th September, members of The Core and The Ginger Prince Challenge Team are facing one of their biggest challenges yet: to climb 3400 metres on the indoor climbing wall at The Core in their own Cornish version of the Three Peaks Challenge.

The Three Peaks is a trekking challenge to climb Snowdon, Scafell Pike and Ben Nevis, the highest peaks in Wales, England and Scotland, one after the other. To cover the equivalent vertical ascent, 485 climbs will need to be made on The Core's wall, but members are determined to complete the challenge to raise funds for two charities that are close to their hearts: The Core Youth 7 Community Centre and The Motor Neurone Disease Association.

The Core Youth 7 Community Centre is a new initiative that will be opening a community workshop space at The Core, behind St Stephens Primary School, to share practical skills and repair items, enabling young people to learn essential life skills and practical knowledge as well as promoting sustainability.

The Ginger Prince Challenge Team was set up 13 years ago to raise money for the Motor Neurone Disease Association in memory of Simon Adams, a popular head teacher in Plymouth who was an avid rugby player and extreme skier. Simon was 46

when he was diagnosed with MND. Within a week of the shocking news he had made his bucket list and determined to enjoy every day he had left. Top of his list was to raise not just awareness of MND but also £1million to help fund research so that in the not-too-distant future the words "you have motor neurone disease" would be followed by the phrase "it is curable."

In the six months before getting around became too difficult, Simon skied in France, swam with sharks in South Africa and trekked around Ayres Rock in Australia. He reached a third of his target before he died in October 2011, just two weeks short of two years from diagnosis. At his funeral, his friends vowed to continue, and in the years since have reached over half of the ambitious funding target, forming the Ginger Prince Challenge Team to help achieve their goal.

Members of the Challenge Team will be climbing all afternoon on 12th September - they have had some practice having already completed the Three Peaks Challenge an impressive total of seven times

as part of their fundraising efforts. But 485 ascents within four hours is demanding, so organisers are appealing to the public to join in and help reach the goal. Charlotte Carpenter, lead youth worker at The Core, says: "You don't have to be an experienced climber as our qualified team will be on the other end of the billet ropes with support and words of encouragement. And if you'd like to just come along and support these two great causes with a cup of tea and a piece of cake our café will be open for refreshments all afternoon."

The Saltash and District Observer is lending this event our full support as we remember our gifted photojournalist Ian Robinson, who we lost to this devastating illness last year.

It will be £1 for one climb, £3 for up to five climbs and £5 for unlimited climbs. Any contribution you can make will make a difference in empowering young people locally and in the fight against MND, paying tribute to Ian, Simon and all those whose lives have been thrown in to turmoil by this cruel illness.

Last Bank to Close

Saltash which until a few years ago had five "high street" banks, will have none next year, as Lloyds have announced the closure of the last bank branch in the town.

This follows close review of how people choose to do their banking. Lloyds have informed local customers. The bank is scheduled to close in April 2024. The nearest Lloyds bank branches will then be in Plymouth Royal Parade and Liskeard, as the St. Budeaux branch is also marked for closure.

The slightly better news is that it is intended to set up a "banking hub" in the town. Customers of Lloyds and other leading banks will be able to use the banking hub, to pay in cheques and cash, pay bills, check balances and make free cash withdrawals. Lloyds anticipate that a community banker will attend the hub one day a week to talk to customers about banking issues.

They have also advised that they may delay the closure of the Saltash branch to July 2024 if needed to enable the banking hub to get into full action

Just Thinking Aloud

I'm a dead loss at deadlines. Always have been. Just as well that Editor Mary sends me a gentle monthly reminder which I promptly put in my diary. It's not that I forget (although that is not unknown). It's more a matter of putting things off. I am indebted to my daughter Joanna for explaining my problem and simultaneously making me laugh. My problem is apparently known as procrastination, which she describes as "a hardening of the oughteries". I have known for a while what three topics I "ought" to scribble for you this month, but here we are on the last minute yet again.

Those masochists among you who turn to page 8 every month may recall that in July I waxed lyrical about our town and its community activities. I take nothing back from that. Indeed, in my forty-seven years here I have personally been involved in community activism as an unpaid volunteer at various times in over thirty organisations. I was one of many. Most of them had no problems in recruiting a band of helpers. However, from recent conversations I discover that - while we still have such bodies in super numbers - a lot of them are struggling to attract folk prepared to give freely of their time. Never mind the reasons why - they could be many and various. That said, if you are free, active and community minded, do put your hand up. I suspect that our Community Enterprises PL12 could point you in suitable directions, as could any local councillor.

Talking of the town council, I am becoming marginally hacked off with fellow citizens who grumble/mumble about it but appear to be clueless when asked for facts to support their criticisms. Do complain by all means but check before so doing. The council's website is a mine of information. Look it up. Committees for all its areas of responsibility, agendas, minutes, a Freedom of Information section (fascinating!). As a keen member of Saltash Library I keep an eye on the relevant sub-committee, but that's just my thing. Your thing - whatever it is - will be lurking on the

website for you to unearth. Go for it!

To conclude, a brief follow up to the final two sentences from July's offering. This an extract from a letter I spotted in my Sunday paper:

"The complex challenges of the 21st century are not going to be met by any single party, but by an alliance that mobilises every progressive in the pursuit of a good society... Neither the Labour party nor anyone else is going

to impose a better future on us; that can only be negotiated by all of us".

We have just had three by-elections. I am unsure about what we can believe from the results. You can check percentage turn-out compared with the 2019 general election. You could even identify the only successful candidate to win over half the votes cast in her constituency. It made Sir Ed smile

Bob Munro

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