

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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August 2025 - Issue 396

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Brunel Builders Yard Grand Opening

Sparks Joyful Creativity at Brunel Primary and Nursery Academy

A brand new chapter in outdoor learning and creative play was officially opened today at Brunel Primary and Nursery Academy, with the grand unveiling of the much-anticipated Brunel Builders Yard — a dynamic space dedicated to imaginative loose parts play.

The initiative, which centres around using everyday items and recycled materials for open-ended, child-led construction and creativity, has been made possible through the generous support of Saltash Scrapstore. Thanks to a grant provided by the Scrapstore and their ongoing supply of exciting scrap and loose parts, the school has been able to create a

vibrant and inspiring shed space where children's imaginations can run wild.

At today's ribbon-cutting ceremony, Headteacher Darren Woolner, Rosie from Saltash Scrapstore, and Kerrie Williamson, the passionate driving force behind the project, came together to celebrate this exciting milestone. Rosie had the honour of cutting the ribbon, officially opening the Builders Yard to the children.

Speaking at the event, Headteacher Darren Woolner praised the impact of the Scrapstore's involvement:

"Saltash Scrapstore has truly revolutionised play at our school.

The loose parts have transformed how children collaborate, sparking their imagination, creativity and oracy skills in incredible ways. It's been a game changer for our learning environment."

The Builders Yard is just one of several exciting projects underway at Brunel Primary and Nursery Academy. In the coming weeks, the school will be transforming its pond area, thanks to funding from both the CO-OP and the BFA, creating another enriching outdoor space for exploration and learning.

Next week, work will also begin on an outdoor classroom in the garden area, designed to provide

a dedicated space for environmental studies and nature-based learning — an exciting step in further expanding the school's outdoor curriculum.

Earlier this year, the school gained national recognition when it won a prestigious TerraCycling competition, resulting in the installation of a brand new playground — complete with a play frame constructed entirely from recycled plastic. This win highlighted the school's commitment to sustainability and innovation in education.

Looking ahead, the summer holidays will bring even more transformation as the school teams up with Early Excellence to create a brand new Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) classroom, setting the stage for enriched early learning experiences in September.

The continued growth and development of the school has only been possible thanks to the incredible support from the local community, whose generosity, time and enthusiasm have helped transform the school grounds over the past twelve months.

As Mr Woolner proudly reflected:

"We are creating not just spaces, but experiences — and none of this would be possible without the belief and backing of our amazing community. The children at Brunel truly have an incredible learning environment to grow and thrive in."

With the Brunel Builders Yard now open and more projects on the horizon, the future of creative, outdoor, and sustainable learning at Brunel Primary and Nursery Academy looks brighter than ever.



Photo Mary Crawford

New Chair for Committee that Governs Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry

Councillor Andrew Long is the new joint chair of the committee governing the Tamar Crossings. His appointment representing Cornwall Council on the Plymouth City Council and Cornwall Council joint committee was confirmed at their first meeting since the May local elections.

The councillor who represents the Callington and St Dominic for Mebyon Kernow has been a long serving member of the Joint committee, and outspoken advocate of abolishing the tolls. He said in a statement: "The Tamar Crossings are incredibly important for communities on both sides of

the river who rely on the bridge and the ferries to get to work, school and access services.

"We recognise the challenges recent increases in tolls have created for local residents and businesses and I am determined to work with partners to find a viable and sustainable future for the services in Saltash and Torpoint.

"I've never hidden my desire to see tolls removed on both the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry and for National Highways to pay their way in the future and I will be working towards that end which will benefit the people of Plymouth and South East Cornwall.

"This has not changed, and I will continue to press for a solution that does not penalise

the residents who have to use the Bridge and Ferry - those who have no choice."

A spokesperson from Tamar Toll Action Group said: "Congratulations to Councillor Long on his re-election to the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee, and elevation to the position of Joint Chair. His aims are certainly ones we share, and we look forward to developments in this regard."

Cllr Long will co-chair the committee alongside Plymouth City councillor Anne Freeman.

The Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee is made up of ten councillors, five from each authority, and oversees the governance and strategic direction of the crossings.

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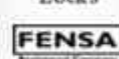
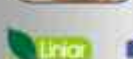
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educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk

Housing Department

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Email: info@cornwallhousing.org.uk

Social Services Department

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Email: children@cornwall.gov.uk

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adultcare@cornwall.gov.uk

Highways Department

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Email: customerrelations@cornwalllimited.co.uk

Transport Department

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Cornwall Councillors/ Wards

Saltash Essa ED

Cllr Hilary Frank
cldr.hilary.frank@cornwall.gov.uk

Saltash Tamar ED

Cllr Keith Johnson
cldr.keith.johnson@cornwall.gov.uk

Saltash Trematon & Landrake ED

Cllr Paul Cador
cldr.paul.cador@cornwall.gov.uk

Cornwall Councillors

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Highways
Waste & Recycling
Tamar Bridge

From the Mayor of Saltash

Summer in Saltash is now in full swing, and the weather so far hasn't been too bad! July has been a busy month in our town, sadly for bad reasons as well as good. The unauthorised Travellers' encampment on Warfelton Field caused major disruption to our town, especially to the nearby Saltash Leisure Centre and Saltash Football Club. Saltash Town Council had worked diligently behind the scenes with key stakeholders, including Cornwall Council, to accelerate the process.

We were aware of the unpleasant incidents occurring in our town and took proactive steps to address them swiftly within the powers we have. Following a Notice to Leave from the police, the Travellers left that Sunday evening. Saltash Town Council continues to work closely with these stakeholders to explore ways to improve the process further, should a similar situation arise in the future, and to review preventative measures.

Meet Your Councillor

Cllr Jane Sutor

I joined Saltash Town Council in May, and have spent the first couple of months undertaking a range of training, including Planning law, Local Government Finance, Code of Conduct, Employment Law, and how to Chair meetings.

The training is very much needed as a new Councillor. I have been quite overwhelmed by how welcoming and approachable the other Councillors have been, which is very much appreciated. I have a lot to learn.

I felt very privileged to take part in the VE 80 commemorations very soon after becoming a Councillor, and I am looking forward to taking part in the VJ 80 commemorations. It is so important to honour the sacrifice made by so many.

It is evident how much time and commitment is provided by both Councillors and Council Officers. Whilst Councillors do not always agree on the proposals being considered, it is a model of how to disagree agreeably. Everyone is given a chance to have their say and vote on the proposals.



Also, in the early hours of Sunday 27 July, two large branches of the Monterey Pine tree in Victoria Gardens broke off, landing on St Stephens Road and damaging the park fencing. Luckily, this happened at night, not during the day. This lovely pine tree is very old and sadly nearing the end of its life. The tree is currently the responsibility of Cornwall Council, not Saltash Town Council, but we will be working closely with Cornwall Council to see the best way forward with regards to the future of this beautiful tree, the crown of our town.

Moving on to more positive things: on 5 July, my husband and I, along with the Deputy Mayor and Consort, attended the Saltash Library Summer Reading Challenge, which had a really positive uptake. On the



I have lived in Saltash since 1989, raising a family in the town. Since retiring from a career in financial management in the not-for-profit sector, I have become more active in the town and volunteer with the Community Larder and Kitchen run by Community Enterprises PL12. I enjoy spending time with my two children and their families who all live locally.

I was actively involved in the 2024 General Election campaign. I decided to stand to be a Councillor as I was moved by the issues residents raised on the doorstep, including the impact of the cost of living crisis, the difficulty accessing health care and the cost of dental treatment. These issues will remain in my memory as I contribute to the decisions made by the Town Council.

Please contact me at J.Suter@saltash.gov.uk if there is anything you would like to raise with me.

same day, the four of us also attended Oaklands Summer Fête, where we were entertained by the superb Memory Box singers. Oaklands Community Centre has been lovingly restored, with a large, beautiful garden. The community centre hosts many weekly events, so please pop by to visit if you haven't yet.

On 6th July, I returned to my old running club, Tamar Trotters, where I had the honour of starting their Mag 7 race and handing trophies out

to the winners. My husband Matt was in attendance too, as lead bike for the race, which he enjoys doing.

On 19 July, we held our monthly "Meet Your Councillor" event. Saltash Town Council decided to change the date of this event to coincide with the monthly street market and our next session will take place on Saturday 16 August. We'll be based outside the former Bloom Hearing building, but please check our Facebook and Instagram pages for the most up-to-date

information in case anything changes. Do pop down and say hello!

Saltash Town Council paid their respects on 22 July to the council caretaker of 14 years, Grahame O'Donahue, who sadly passed away. His beautiful service was held at Bodmin Crematorium and was followed by a wake at the Ploughboy. Grahame was a lovely man and will be sadly missed by all the staff and Councillors at Saltash Town Council.

27 July was Saltash Fire Station Open Day, which I

attended along with the Deputy Mayor and Consort. It was a well-attended event, with representatives from all emergency services in attendance.

The month ended with our Saltash Town Council Tamar Ward election on 31 July. Seven candidates stood for this one seat, with the elected councillor being Cllr Mark Johns. Congratulations to our new councillor!

Cllr Rachel Bullock
Mayor of Saltash 2025/26

Your Town Council & Wards

Saltash Essa:

1. Cllr Richard Bickford
r.bickford@saltash.gov.uk
2. Cllr John Brady
j.brady@saltash.gov.uk
3. Cllr Rachel Bullock
r.bullock@saltash.gov.uk
4. Cllr Lisa Mortimore
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5. Cllr Pete Samuels
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6. Cllr Alice Ashburn
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Saltash Tamar:

1. Cllr Sarah Gillies
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2. Cllr Sarah Martin
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3. Cllr Julia Peggs
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4. Cllr Lisa Suter
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5. Cllr Peter Nowlan
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6. Cllr Mark Johns
m.johns@saltash.gov.uk

Saltash Trematon:

1. Cllr Steve Miller
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2. Cllr Brenda Samuels
b.samuels@saltash.gov.uk
3. Cllr Brian Stoyel
b.stoyel@saltash.gov.uk
4. Cllr Gordon McCaw
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Mayor:

Cllr Rachel Bullock

Deputy Mayor:

Cllr Brian Stoyel

Town Clerk:

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

**Councillors' Telephone
Numbers can be obtained
at The Guildhall.**

**Saltash Town Council, The Guildhall 12 Lower Fore Street
Saltash PL12 6JX Tel: 01752 844846
E: enquiries@saltash.gov.uk W: www.saltash.gov.uk
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Headstone Safety Inspections at St Stephens Churchyard

Saltash Town Council, in collaboration with St Stephens Church, will soon begin a Headstone Safety Audit in St Stephens Churchyard to ensure the site remains safe for all who visit.

Burial authorities have a general duty to inspect all headstones in their cemeteries at least once every five years, to ensure any dangerous or unstable memorials are identified and made safe. Over time, memorials can become loose or unstable due to natural wear, ground movement, or weathering. Sadly, there have been serious accidents, including fatalities, across the UK where unsafe memorials were not addressed in time.

The Town Council's Service Delivery Department will begin inspections from 18 August 2025, and each headstone will be assessed to identify any that are unstable or pose a risk. Where necessary, memorials will be temporarily made safe, either by being laid flat or secured with supportive equipment, and details of the inspection will be reported directly to the Church.

We recognise this is a sensitive matter and wish to reassure the public that all inspections will be carried out with the utmost care, dignity, and respect for the families and visitors of St Stephens Churchyard.

Please note that the process may take some time, as it is essential to ensure all headstones are assessed and confirmed to be safe. Therefore, we are unable to provide an end date at this stage. Please contact our Service Delivery Manager if you have any questions on the details provided below: Email: services@saltash.gov.uk or Phone: 01752 844846

**Observer Contact Details:
Mobile: 07971 484872
E: maryecrawford@hotmail.com
W: www.saltash-observer.co.uk**

Gracenotes Acapella in Concert with Launceston Male Voice Choir

GraceNotes Acapella is a registered charity who are based in Saltash. We will be performing a joint concert with Launceston Male Voice Choir on

Friday 13 Sept, at 7:00pm at the Wesley Methodist Church, Callington Road. Tickets are £10 on the door, doors open 6:30pm.

GraceNotes Acapella were established in 1991 (as Brunel Harmony) and have been singing and entertaining at local events such as the May Fair, and at the Christmas Tree Festival for many years. We are delighted to be hosting Launceston Male Voice Choir in Saltash in September following a similar joint venture in Launceston a couple of years ago. The evening promises to be a mix of choral and acapella singing of both modern and traditional compositions. An evening of entertainment not to be missed.'

Stronger Safeguards for Warfelton

An unauthorised encampment on Warfelton in late July disrupted local football practices and prompted reports of littering, intimidation and damage to property. Partner agencies moved to clear the site as quickly as possible through established legal processes, and are now focused on strengthening safeguards to reduce the risk of future incidents.

Cornwall Council is pursuing legal options such as court injunctions, and is considering practical measures for vulnerable sites such as Warfelton and Saltmill, including bollards or locked gates. Police are also gathering evidence about how Warfelton is used, which could help speed up the legal process should another unauthorised encampment occur.

Residents are strongly encouraged to make their voices heard by completing the annual Safer Cornwall online survey, which is open until 31st August. While there is no specific question on unauthorised encampments, comments can be added in the free-text boxes: <https://safercornwall.co.uk/have-your-say>

Pete's Point of View ...

It is little more than a year ago that Labour came to power, arguably by default, as the right of centre vote at the General Election had been split by competing parties.

We surely remember Ms Reeves claiming to discover a £20 billion black hole in the nation's finances, then seeing the newly formed government promptly giving away multiple millions in eye-watering pay rises. But now, guess what, there is yet another black hole to be dealt with, this time reportedly to the tune of between £40 to £50 billion. So, on whose watch did that occur? With a wrecking-ball being driven through the economy, businesses struggling with the burdens imposed on them, the farming industry devastated and job creators being driven out of the country, should it come as any surprise that income to the treasury is not sufficient to meet spending commitments?

Do we also remember the pledge that the 'working person' would not pay a penny more in tax? Who are we kidding, the Autumn Budget is likely to hurt us all, if the pundits and experts

are to be believed.

We also surely remember the pledge from Labour that they would solve the people smuggling, small boats issue. Oh yeah? The problem is now at record levels, as we hear almost every time we turn on a news broadcast.

It came as absolutely no surprise to me, that in the recent election for a Town Councillor in Saltash Tamar ward, the Reform UK candidate was the winner. I look forward to working alongside Mark Johns at Saltash Town Council. It would be fair to say that Reform have not yet had a spell in government, so have thus far not been able to show what they are capable of, whether they can solve the major issues that concern most of us, or otherwise. Methinks only time will tell.

In the meantime, the worry is that the protests and unrest we are witnessing on the streets, will increase, with so many people concerned that they are simply not being listened to.

If I were asked to write a school report on the current government, it would not be "must do better" it would be more along the lines of "this pupil should be expelled" (but there would be no private schools left to take them).

Pete Samuels.

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

Drop in Speed Limit Welcomed by Campaign Group

The speed limit in two villages along the A38 in South East Cornwall is to be reduced. A 30mph limit through the villages of Landrake and Tideford will go live on August 20 with fixed speed cameras installed to ensure the safety of residents.

Part of a wider package of safety measures along the A38

from Saltash Carkeel to Trefulefoot, the new limit will replace the 40mph stretches on the road.

A spokesperson for Devon and Cornwall Police, said: "New signage will be going up over the next couple of weeks and painted roundels placed on the road surface.

"The extents of the order are

exactly the same as the current 40mph limit. The aim here is provide clear warning to ensure that the numbers detected speeding are significantly reduced."

Safe38 has long campaigned for safety interventions on the A38 including a reduction in speed through the villages.

James Millidge, Chair of Safe38 said: "Reducing the speed limit to 30mph through Tideford and Landrake will make life safer for local residents and we welcome this latest safety measure on the A38.

"However, in the longer term we want to see these villages freed from the 25,000 daily vehicles altogether by the provision of a relief road, and we will continue to campaign for the delivery of a road that is fit for purpose."

Chamber Chairman Peter Ryland Keeping Us Updated

We last met on the 7th July but due to various commitments the number of members attending was depleted.

We took the opportunity to pass on memories of Roger Dymond who had been a stalwart member of the Chamber until having to move his business R. D. Industries away from Saltash when the business outgrew its premises and larger premises were not available locally. Roger had passed away since our last meeting in May and Bill Cotton had represented the Chamber at the funeral.

Members were then updated on the work of Town Team and complimented the seating/planters/signage that had been installed in Fore Street. The Chairman then explained that Town Team was looking at ways to progress their work and the availability of funding opportunities for

such. The Chairman also explained that he had been re-elected as Chairman of Town Team for a further year.

Hilary Frank then gave a detailed account of the Christmas Lights switch on event. She explained that Saltash Town Council were renewing the feature lights this year and the idea of a switch on in mid-November allowed a 6 week period for Christmas shopping with a Christmas atmosphere in the town centre. It had been decided that the event would be centred on the area outside of Superdrug (i.e. where the monthly markets are held) but it was hoped that traders would stay open until 7.30 p.m. The date for the switch on was 14th November.

Other matters raised included a question as to the legality of paying for the toll on the bridge by way of the mobile phone. It was noted that using the phone while driving was illegal and therefore was it illegal to use it for payment. It was undertaken to look into this further.

It was also mentioned that works would be starting shortly on creating a roundabout at Stoketon Cross to give access to the far end of the Treledan Estate.

Members were pleased that

Smarter Smiles at Brunel Nursery and Academy

Brunel Primary and Nursery Academy in Saltash, recently received the Smarter Smiles gold award which recognises schools who support children and families to adopt good oral health habits. Mrs Grinstead (assistant headteacher) was presented with the certificate from Vickie Robinson from Smarter Smiles. We are the first school in the country to receive the gold standard award! To achieve the gold standard, we have worked with 'The Big Brush Club' which enable us to give our early years children the opportunity to brush their teeth at school daily. We also invite Key Stage 1 children to have fluoride applied to their teeth at school by a dental nurse twice a year. We are committed to only having healthy food and snacks in school have a water only Policy for drinks.

Cornwall Council had reversed the previous decision to privatise Belle Vue West car park along with other car parks in Cornwall. The members also congratulated Sam Hammond on the planters in Gilston Road which were now in flower.

The next meeting 1st September

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Regatta Fun in Rain and Sun

The strident sounds of Cornish band Kelliwick Golowi leading a civic procession down Fore Street to the Waterside, with newly elected Mayor Rachel Bullock in full robes and all followed by excited children set the scene for a full weekend of fun on and off the water. Saltash Regatta and Waterside Festival 2025 was under way!

Overcast skies and occasional drizzle could not dampen the spirits of the crowds who turned out on the Saturday to patronise the stalls that lined the street connecting Waterside Green and Jubilee Green. Both greens were a hive of activity with a constant succession of live bands booked to play all day. Especially popular were The

Sultans and The Morzim, enjoyed particularly by those in the adjacent beer tent.

And for those who did not mind getting even wetter the wild swim to England and back proved an ever popular attraction for swimmers and spectators.

The sun returned for Sunday as did the crowds. After an open air service with Saltash Churches Together, the Rock Choir was followed by a children's' creative workshop on the Waterside stage, while local folk band favourites Barrett's Privateers proved popular at Jubilee Green.

There was constant action on the water as hosts Caradon Gig Club welcomed rowers from throughout the Southwest and beyond as men's and women's teams competed in traditional gig racing.

A boat was not necessary for waterborne competition as fun was shared, in particular by young boys, in the Regatta

challenge 'Can you walk on water?'

However, the highlight as ever was the Cardboard Boat Race and there were more boats and more imaginative designs than ever for this nautical fun. After a blessing in verse from the Reverend Laura Bushell Hawke the fleet set sail and our pictures show some of the wide variety of fancy dress and craft on the water. Crews included our mayor and ex Mayor as teletubbies. Captain Jane Roe of HMS Raleigh had the hard though pleasurable task of judging winners for such awards as 'the most spectacular sinking'.

With the warm sunshine truly set in the crowds remained into late afternoon with Disco Caravan closing yet another successful event in the history of what is claimed to be the longest established regatta in Britain with records going back to show it bringing competition and fun to Saltash from at least 1835.



All Photos Mary Crawford

Saltash Scrapstore & Too

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Essa Voices

Cornwall as the Fifth Nation

In July, Cornwall Council passed a motion with a clear and confident message: Cornwall should be recognised as the fifth nation of the United

Kingdom, alongside England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

This is not about independence. It is not about cutting ourselves off from England. It's about making sure Cornwall is seen, heard and respected in the current, fast-moving reorganisation of local

government.

Council Leader Leigh Frost put it perfectly: "A nation isn't just a border or a flag. It's a people. It's a voice. It's shared history and a shared purpose. Cornwall has all of that and more."

Cornwall is not a brand or a slogan. We are a Celtic nation already legally recognised as a national minority under the Council of Europe's Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, a status we share with the Scots, Welsh and Irish. This grants us legal protections for our identity, rooted in our heritage, culture and language. Yet, despite this recognition, the UK system still treats us as a county. That disconnect needs to be addressed.

The motion comes at a pivotal time. The Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill now before Parliament promises the biggest overhaul of local government in half a century, creating a new category of council called a Strategic Authority. There will be three levels, starting with Foundation then moving up through Mayoral and Established Mayoral, with Established Mayoral Strategic Authorities receiving the greatest powers and funding. Cornwall Council is already at the Foundation Strategic Authority level thanks to earlier Devolution Deals and its unitary status with a directly elected Leader. With neighbouring local authorities likely to grow bigger (and perhaps a little noisier) under their own devolution deals, we need to ensure Cornwall's voice is not drowned out but heard clearly and distinctly.

By passing this motion, Cornwall Council has committed to working across all parties to build support in Parliament. But this needs to be a movement across Cornwall. And it's not just for people born here: it's for everyone who has chosen to make Cornwall their home and who cares about its future.

Nowhere is that sense of place more tangible to me than here in Saltash. Every time I cross back into Cornwall and the black-and-gold shield on the pillar of the Tamar Bridge comes into view, I get that unmistakable feeling of homecoming. It feels like the Tamar is a border of the heart.

With big changes to devolution ahead, now is the time to hold our ground. If you believe, like me, that Cornwall should gain its proper place in the decisions that affect us, please sign the official petition to Parliament.

It takes less than a minute, but it sends a powerful message to Westminster that Cornwall will stand its ground.

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/711355>.

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

St Stephens CP Saltash Hosts Inspiring Whole-School Art Exhibition: 'Under the Sea'

St Stephens CP School in Saltash has made waves this week with a stunning whole-school art exhibition themed 'Under the Sea'. Over the course of three creative and collaborative days, every child in the school contributed to this inspiring project, which focused on using recycled materials to create incredible and thought-provoking works of art.

Throughout the process, St Stephens proudly showcased its six core values: Creativity, Trust, Aspiration, Enjoyment, Collaboration, and Kindness. These values were clearly reflected at every stage of the event:

- Creativity flourished as children explored a wide range of artistic techniques and materials.
- Trust was placed in the process, and in each other, as students experimented and shared ideas.
- Aspiration ran high, with children striving to produce their very best work.
- Enjoyment was evident in the smiles and enthusiasm of everyone involved.
- Collaboration played a key role as pupils worked together across classes and year groups.
- Kindness shone through as children supported and encouraged one another throughout the creative journey. Parents were invited in to view the final exhibition and were blown away by the creativity and quality of the work on display. From detailed sea creatures crafted from bottle tops and packaging to large-scale collaborative murals, the exhibition celebrated not only artistic talent but also environmental awareness and teamwork. Headteacher Mrs Laws said: "We are incredibly



Photos Mary Crawford

proud of our children and staff for the effort, imagination, and teamwork that went into this project. The exhibition has been a true celebration of our values in action, and the

feedback from parents and visitors has been fantastic." The event stands as a wonderful

reminder of the power of creativity, collaboration, and community within education.

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The newly formed Saltash Area Ministry Choir practice on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm at St Mary's Church, Botus Fleming and look to sing at the Saltash combined churches services on the 5th Sundays of the month.

Recently we sang Evensong at Botus Fleming, presided over by Bishop David, the new Bishop of Truro to a full church; and at the funeral of much loved Botus Fleming congregant Jill Mingo.

Upcoming services we will be singing at are:

The combined morning service at St Michael's, Landrake on 31st August;

The Pet Service at Botus Fleming on Saturday 4th October at 2pm; and Harvest Evensong at Botus Fleming on 16th October at 6:30pm.

If you'd like to join us, please contact
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SALTASH STUDIOS

August:

Fri 27th, 6.15-9.15pm, £40

WORKSHOP: Willow Weaving. Learn the ancient craft of creating beautiful objects from pliable willow.

Fri 29th, 7.30-8.50pm,

Sat 30th, 2-3.20pm, £8 / £7

FILM: Ocean with David Attenborough (PG). A journey through the breathtaking wonder of life under the seas.



September:

Fri 5th, 7.30-8.35pm,

Sat 6th, 2-3.05pm, £8 / £7

FILM: The Phoenixian Scheme (15). Wes Anderson is back with espionage, assassins and scheming tycoons in this visual masterpiece.



Fri 12th, 7.30-9.25pm,

Sat 13th, 2-3.55pm, £8 / £7

FILM: The Salt Path (12A). An exhilarating, challenging and liberating 630 mile trek along the West Country coastline.



Fri 19th, 7.30-9.00pm, £8 / £7

FILM: Wild Coast Warriors (12A) How the indigenous people of South Africa's Wild Coast took on Shell, in order to protect their ocean and culture.



Tue from 16th or Sat from 27th, £80-£90

WORKSHOPS: Colour & Tone Painting Course with Mark Fielding. Learn how tone and colour work to produce three dimensional space. 6 sessions per course.

Sat 20th, 10am-1pm, £45

WORKSHOP: Dartmoor Landscape Art Paint your own beautiful Dartmoor scene.

Sat 20th, 10am-3pm, FREE

Makers Market. A beautiful range of locally made gifts and homewares.

Tue 23rd, 7-9.30pm, £14

WORKSHOP: Mountains from the East Printing. Use hands, leaves and delicate brush strokes to create an imposing mountain scene.

Fri 26th, 7.30-9pm,

Sat 27th, 2-3.30pm, £8 / £7

FILM: Savage Waters (12A) A tantalising passage in a 19th-century treasure hunter's journal inspires modern-day adventurers. A true story of surfing, sailing and the power of a united family.



Buy tickets in advance at:
www.saltashstudios.org
Or on the door from 30 minutes before events.

Just Thinking Aloud...

When my friends (I do have some!) are thinking of monarchists of their acquaintance, mine will not be the first name that comes to mind. They will therefore be surprised to learn that I believe it to be unfair – even cruel – to subject their Majesties to a second dose of Trumpy in the autumn, with all its egocentric and dangerous buffoonery. I have a better idea. Why not have him and his gang as invited guests of our Prime Minister and Mrs Starmer at No. 10? That would surely test to its limits (and hopefully beyond them) what has loudly been trumpeted as a special relationship. I live in hope.

Another idea I have come up with in recent days is to share with you my solution to the problems of the Middle East. Alas, that will not happen. Having listened to those whose opinions I respect and having taken on board legal advice, I shall not take risks – at least not the sort which might have me dodging and weaving in front of the strong arm of the law.....

Therefore, pro tempore, I shall restrict myself to raising matters of a mainly local nature. Once upon a time, like back in the 1940s, I communicated with others via conversations, the occasional special 'phone call

from the nearest street kiosk, or a painfully scribbled epistle which meant paper, envelope and stamp. Like most of you, over the years we progressed to the wonders of email, internet stuff of various kinds and even more recently a private little WhatsApp group. I pick up weekly gossip with a couple of pals in our Waitrose café, or sometimes in the Essa Club, or monthly with fellow retired pedagogues in the Garden Centre. I don't miss too much. And if I want to ensure that a particular piece of news gets round the town, there is always – and always has been – at least one person to whom I can tell something “in absolute confidence”. I guarantee that it will go through fair Esse like a dose of salts!

I did try out LinkedIn, but that brought me unwillingly back in touch with those who I had forgotten and wished to stay forgotten by, so I managed to let that die a natural death. From time to time – albeit very rarely – I have been the recipient of anonymous mail, but that is just a risk you take if/when you are in the public eye. Only one of them was a bit horrid, and when I identified the perpetrator my feeling was one of pity for her. Anyway, long forgotten until my memory just dredged it up.

Social media? Let me surprise you. I do not instantly fly into a tantrum at its very mention, though I am not

Fixing our Education System as Part of Labour's Plan for Change

September is a time of adjustment for many of us. Changing classrooms for younger ones, moving away from home for university, or getting used to the kids not being home anymore for parents. As summer slides away, for us MPs, it's also an important time to reflect on what has been achieved so far and where we must do more in the future.

On the topic of education, we are teaching future generations so that they can shape our world for the better. That's why education and breaking down barriers to opportunity is one of my top priorities as your MP for South East Cornwall.

This starts by making sure that no child goes to school hungry, and we are delivering this through the free breakfast club programme. In South East Cornwall, we already have three of these clubs up and running, with more to come. I was really pleased to have the

signed up to any of its Saltash manifestations. Yes there are some unbalanced people who simply use it just to be cruel, nasty and hateful, but most are admirably positive.

Bob Munro

chance to see this in action at Luxulyan School. It was a wonderful to spend time with staff and pupils and to see so many happy faces.

I know that more funding for education is desperately needed so that our schools have the resources they need. I welcome the commitment of £4.5 billion a year for the Core Schools Budget and an extra £2.3 billion a year to fix crumbling classrooms. Extra funding from the Government is at the core of providing a world-class education for our children. We can't expect them to build their knowledge in rooms that are falling apart.

After school, I know that young people also need to be more active in the physical world. We all know the dangers and mounting pressures our young people face online today. So, I am pleased that the Government is taking bold action to tackle this problem, including investing £8 million in Cornish youth services as part of a pilot National Youth Strategy. This much-needed funding will upgrade existing services, develop new ones, and expand extracurricular activities in schools.

I also know that our national education system needs to be responsive to the passions, interests and aspirations of local people. My Cornish Language Bill, currently making its way through Parliament, will allow local residents to learn Kernewek at educational institutions should they wish to do so. This is a historic step towards integrating Cornwall's

Back-to-School Money Saving Tips

With kids off for the school holidays, there's added pressure on parents to pay for additional summer activities as well as the financial burden of the back-to-school expenses.

As a debt help and budgeting charity, Christians Against Poverty (CAP) understands the strain parents are under to find extra funds to purchase uniforms and new school supplies, so here are a few money-saving tips that might help:

Have a sort-out

Go through what you already have and identify what can be reused for next year. Can you upcycle any hand-me-downs

unique cultural identity within our education system.

Entering this new academic year, there's a lot to reflect on, but I will always keep my eyes fixed on the future we need to build together and keep pushing for changes that reflect the needs of South East Cornwall.

Anna Gelderd MP

to make them look like new? Make sure to keep anything that your child might grow into, which will save you some money in the future.

Write a shopping list

Make a list of all the things you need to buy showing which things are essentials, and which are 'nice to haves'. Your child may have their heart set on something that they don't really need and you can't afford. If so, chat through other options with them, such as asking them to contribute towards the cost if they have pocket money saved, or if they have a birthday coming up they might want to add it to their wish list.

Research costs

Before you hit the shops, do your homework by doing a little online window shopping to find the best prices. This is especially good for high cost items like electronics, as some online retailers offer price-match guarantees that could lead to significant potential savings.

Find cheaper alternatives

Online isn't always cheaper, but at least being aware of the costs before you go to the shop will make it easier to spot a bargain. Consider your options for finding the best price: try supermarkets and

charity shops as well as online sites.

Create a budget

Knowing what you need and how much it will likely cost will make it easier to create a budget. Talking about what you can afford with your children can help manage expectations and prevent any potential disagreements. There are some useful budgeting resources for kids and youth on the CAP website, and information for adults on how to create a budget.

Ask for help

If you are really struggling with back-to-school costs, put a request out on the WISH site on Facebook. Also, your school might well have clothing that has been given to them or resources they could help you with. The back-to-school shop doesn't have to be stressful, but if you are struggling financially, please don't suffer in silence, I am also here to help! Just email me at timsquires@capuk.org and I will reply as soon as I can.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a UK charity working with over 1,000 affiliated churches to deliver debt help, budgeting guidance, support to find work, life skills education and more. Visit capuk.org to find out more.

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Tamar Reflections

The Saltash Chronicles Embroidery Project

Once again, in thanking the folks that so kindly sent kind messages regarding part two and three of 'A Stitch Back in Time' of which I reflected upon events up until the 20th Century in previous issues of the Saltash Observer. In association with Andrew Tritton's supporting booklet, I continue within Tamar Reflections the historic journey of the Saltash Chronicles Embroidery which hangs majestically at the Saltash Guildhall.

Green Dragon Inn/Co-op

The Green Dragon Hotel was once Saltash's principle coaching Inn and was demolished in 1935 and replaced by the Cooperative. The Cooperative Grocery store is still there today and on the front of the building you can still see the emblem of the Green Dragon.

The Rustic Tea Gardens

There were many tea gardens in Saltash in the 19th and 20th centuries - of which I have featured before in Tamar Reflections - one of which, was the Rustic Tea Gardens. The gardens were situated where Daws Court (former creamery) stands today on the Saltash Waterside; there now are very smart homes overlooking the River Tamar. The Rustic Tea Gardens (long gone) were opened in 1906 in a disused quarry opposite Sand Quay and welcomed thousands of visitors over the years.

Brunel Green

Swimming Pool

By the end of World War 2 the Waterside was no longer a hive of industry, but its popularity as a tourist destination continued. In 1931 plans were drawn up

for a swimming pool which opened in 1936 adjoining Brunel Green. The swimming pool was accidentally demolished by an American Landing Craft on exercise at the Waterside leading up to D-Day Landings.

First World War Army Training Camp at Wearde (Wearde Camp)

Following the 1914-1918 war, Saltash played an important part in aiding the many WW1 wounded - with the former Army Camp at Wearde converted to the Queen Alexandra's Convalescent Centre - and closed during the late 1930's

Saltash Working Mens' Club

For nearly 100 years Saltash

Landing Craft during WW2

From 1943 to 1945 the shore just north of Ashtor Wharf was deployed as a sub-base of the United States Naval Advance Amphibious Base (USNAAB) at Plymouth. One of its most significant roles was to service the landing craft in the run up to the D-Day landings and the remains of the landing craft maintenance gridiron built on the foreshore can be still seen at low tide and has been listed by English Heritage as an historic structure.

Saltash Football Club

Football in Saltash was first played as long ago as 1893. Teams played under several names Essa, Saltash Stars and Saltash Town among them. The



Social Club was known as the Saltash Working Mens' Club - it began life in the aftermath of the First World War and was formed at a meeting held at the Saltash Guildhall on the 12th of April 1919. The mayor of Saltash Councillor Lang became the Club's first President.

Scout Troop - and Saltash Auxiliary Fire Service

Saltash played an enormous part in helping Saltash and Plymouth during World War 2 enemy Bombing Raids. Six valiant members of the Saltash AFS lost their lives at Devonport (April 1941) in Plymouth's time of need, they were tragically all killed together in voluntary action. In addition, in April 1941, the 2nd Saltash Scout Troop was the first Troop in the country to form an official Auxiliary Fire Service Unit. Their efforts were truly heroic - and made national news when one of their members 18-year-old Donald Cummins lost his life while on active service. The Scouts were attempting to douse a blazing shed and coal dump at the Saltash Railway Goods Yard, when two bombs fell nearby. Donald Cummins was fatally injured, and two other Scouts were seriously wounded by shrapnel: Bernard Doidge in the back and Sidney Cummins (Donald's younger brother) in the arm and leg.

Saltash team disbanded with the onset of the Second World War but a new club Saltash United was formed for the 1946/47 season playing in the Cornwall Senior League Eastern Section. Saltash football club was the founder member of the Southwestern League in 1951.

Saltash Wesley Methodist Church

Following severe bomb damage during the Saltash Blitz - Saltash Wesley church was built anew in the grounds of Well Park House at the junction of Callington Road and Glebe Ave. The first services were held there on Easter Day 1953. The more recent Saltash Wesley Methodist Church was built on the same site in 1988.

Tamar Road Bridge

In 1959 the construction of the road bridge between Saltash and Plymouth began and opened in 1961. In stark contrast to the building of Brunel's Railway Bridge many buildings in Saltash were lost. In 1961 the last ferry crossed the Tamar.

Painting of the Union Inn

The history and heritage public art mural completed by local artist David Whiteley in 1999 depicted characters and events from the town's 800 years of history and adorned the side of Union Inn at the Saltash Waterside.

Tragedy To Triumph

Saltash U3A's recent meeting held at the Wesley Church was treated to an inspirational talk from David Follett, who suffered a life-changing spinal injury at the age of 18, leaving him with tetraplegia and having to come to terms with living the remainder of his life in a wheelchair. Eighteen days after his 18th birthday, he was playing football with his friends and looking forward to going to university when he was hit by a car and his life changed forever.

David gave us details of his long recovery and how his disability has affected his life, but it has not stopped him from achieving some amazing things. He successfully went to university and gained a degree in coaching and fitness and has developed a passion for badminton. He has been to 6 world championships and has risen to 24th in the world in singles and 26th in doubles, is the current UK champion and he hopes to be picked for the next Paralympic team. He was awarded the honour of carrying the Olympic torch in Great Torrington at the 2012 games and was allowed to keep the torch as a memento.

He explained how travelling with a wheelchair has its difficulties, with air travel being the worst. He has travelled extensively to 26 countries in progressing his badminton career. Still, he can be left feeling humiliated and in pain from how disabled people are treated by the airlines, or the baggage handlers can damage his wheelchair. He has to self-fund all his travel, as he receives no monetary support

Saltash Tunnel

The 1980s saw the construction of the A38 Saltash By-pass which involved digging 1/4 mile of tunnel underneath several residential streets to link the Tamar Bridge with a new dual carriage way road to the North of the town. The excavation for the tunnel approach required the demolition the 18th century Mansion House and the old North Road School buildings, which had already been damaged by fire, and the Saltash Working Men's Club, which was re built just a few yards from its old location.

Saltmill Park

2001 saw the long-awaited opening of Saltmill Park. Originally the location of a tidal mill and mill pond and later a municipal tip. The site lay derelict from 1983 until the Saltmill Millennium Project began to transform these 17 acres of landfill into a park and recreation area. Public artworks including three major sculptures commissioned especially for the site, are interwoven with landscape

Saltash Model Club's 'Model' Charitable Donation

At their recent meeting the Saltash Model Club, moulded their yearlong fund-raising efforts into the Sue Hooper Charitable Foundation's Trust fund.

The club had worked tirelessly fund raising for their chosen charity over the past year organising various events within the club's thriving activities - with some of the members taking on additional tasks towards the club's fund-raising aims.

The Saltash Model Club was established in 2018, and since their formation, it has grown steadily to around 30 full time members. The club, situated at the Ashtorre Rock Centre on Saltash waterside, is all inclusive of age, gender, skills and subjects. Members build a vast kit range from military aircraft and armour, to sci-fi and fantasy, cars, model railways, radio-controlled aircraft, trucks and tanks.

The Saltash Model Club

from the sports authorities for this purpose.

David is married with two lovely children and Tessie, who was his "Canine partner" who helped him with things such as picking objects off the floor or removing his socks! Tessie is now 12 years old and retired from active support work but remains a much-loved family pet.

David has truly embraced the motto told to him by his mother, "Shoot for the moon - even if you miss, you will land amongst the stars"

I think that he is an inspiration to us all at the U3A, that he has not let his physical limitations restrict his goals, which is the same as our ethos to "learn, laugh and live" and embrace life to the full.

proudly presented a cheque for £1,100 to Sue Hooper, chair of the Sue Hooper Charitable Foundation (SHCF) in recognition of the practical support that Sue had personally given to the club over the past few years, and further acknowledging the important work that the Trust undertakes for in particular local young people - and also the additional support it gives to promote and fund projects in the disciplines of music, drama, composition, dance and the performing arts genre.

In her vote of sincere thanks to the club for such a

generous donation, Mrs Hooper stressed the importance of the Trust to the local community in this its 25th year- and moreover the benefit, appreciation and promotion it continues to give in the science of creative and musical education.

Saltash Model Club welcomes new membership and meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm - with workshops on the remaining Wednesdays at 6pm.

Further details can be found on the SMC Web and Face Book pages.



Photo depicts Sue Hooper receiving cheque from SMC chairman David Parsons (right) and members of the club at Ashtorre Rock

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Lisa Tamblyn Head Teacher Retires

Lisa Tamblyn, Head-teacher of Burraton Community Primary School is retiring after 37 years working at the school. The children at Burraton were given the opportunity to come up with interview questions

to ask before she left. Here’s what they asked:

Alisa asks “How long have you been headteacher and have you enjoyed it?”
I have been the headteacher since September 2012. Although it’s a very hard job, and takes lots of time to do all the jobs that a headteacher has

to do, I have loved my job. I love my job so much that it has been a very hard decision that I had to make to retire.

William and Victoria ask “What’s the hardest thing about being a headteacher?”
One hard thing for me is feeling sad when children are feeling sad or have big worries in their minds. The thing that helps with that, is that I know we can help children at these times, supporting and reassuring them to help them feel better. Another really hard thing is not being able to spend as much time with my family and friends as I would like, because I have to work lots of hours to make sure everyone at school is safe, happy and doing well with their learning.

Emily asks “Where is your favourite holiday destination?”
I love travelling, and that is one of things I hope to do a lot more of when I am retired. I love New Zealand - the scenery is wonderful and the culture of the indigenous people - the Maoris - is just

fascinating. New Zealand is definitely at the top of my list of favourite destinations. If you ask me the same question next year, I might answer differently...once I retire, I am off to travel across Canada and a bit later, am visiting the Norwegian fjords. I am also planning a tour around the north coast of Scotland - it’s called the NC500 because the route is 500 mile long! So, who knows, maybe one of those places will take over my top spot by this time next year!

Instead of a question, Henry L wanted to say “Mrs Tamblyn is the best headteacher ever!”
Aww, thank you Harry! And we all know that team Burraton is the best school team ever! I am going to miss you all so much .

And something we would all like to know...Do you have any big plans for your retirement?
As I said, I am off on some exciting travels.....Besides that, I am going to enjoy having more time to spend with my family and friends, and to have some long walks with Bramble in new places. I

am also looking forward to not having to get out of bed at 5.00am every morning to do everything I have to do before starting a day at school!
I love cooking, and so will enjoy spending more time trying out some new recipes (and then eating the resulting outcomes!). I also love reading but don’t always get the time to do very much of it. I have lots of lovely books sitting on my shelf at home, calling out to me to read them, so I am looking forward to being able to open those covers, smell that new book smell, and then get stuck into a good novel or two!
I think I will also like to do

some voluntary work using my skills that I have developed as a Headteacher - maybe helping children through a charity like Barnados or the NSPCC. I think I would really enjoy that.
One thing I do know - I will have to keep myself very busy so that I don’t spend all my time thinking about, and missing, Team Burraton all the time every day!

The Children came up with so many wonderful questions, unfortunately we could not print all of them ... see the Observer Facebook Page for more.



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WINDY RIDGE CAFE

Licensed

- * Just off Trerulefoot Roundabout — Open 7 Daily from 9am —
- * Stunning Views *Children’s Play Area * Dog Friendly (Well behaved only)
- * Coaches & Large Bookings Welcome (Booking advised)

BREAKFAST + LUNCH + DINNER

Sunday Carveries

Homemade Delicious Deserts

— from 12 noon —

Plus, Main Menu *Specials Board Served Daily*

Brand New Menu with Veggie Options & Lite Bites, to see more delicious new dishes... *Visit our FB Page for more details*

Serving a Variety of Alcoholic Drinks & not so Alcoholic Drinks

Join us every Saturday for our very popular ...

Buffet Breakfast

See Our FB for More Info

Breakfast Menu Available

Monday – Saturday Served until 11.45am
Sunday served until 11.30am

Afternoon Cream Teas
£25.00
Sharing

FISH & CHIPS *plus*

TAKEAWAY MENU AVAILABLE

Windy Ridge Chosen Charity for 2025
Help the Heroes
10% Discount for Military Personnel

For Bookings & Information

Telephone 01752 851146

Trerulefoot Nr Saltash
Cornwall PL12 5BJ

Our Spacious Restaurant & Garden Seating Areas
Offer Comfort & Safety at all Times - We welcome you to join us...

Gift Ideas!

£10 Vouchers Available

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