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SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER



December 2022 - Issue 368

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The bells of the Church of St Nicholas and St Faith rang out merrily as the town's Lantern Parade weaved its way up a Fore Street bustling with market stalls and people, signalling the conclusion of another joyful Christmas Festival rooted in the community and overflowing with Santas, carols and good cheer.

As Tiny Tim said in A Christmas Carol: 'God Bless Us, Every One!'

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Worritob



Photo Mary Crawford

Festive Cheer on Fore Street



Photo Mary Crawford

Lucas Sweeney and his younger brother Jacob, enjoying a well-deserved rest after taking first and third places in the Santa Fun Run across the Tamar Bridge and back.



Fireworks lit up the skies to end the Festival

Photo Mary Crawford

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E: maryecrawford@hotmail.com

Town Messenger

Working for the People of Saltash

News from Saltash Town Council Konsel an dre Essa



Education Department

Telephone: 0300 1234 101
Email: schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk

Education Welfare:

Telephone: 0300 1234 101
educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk

Housing Department

Telephone: 0300 1234 161
Email: info@cornwallhousing.org.uk

Social Services Department

Telephone: 0300 1234 101
Email: children@cornwall.gov.uk

Social Services Department

Telephone: 0300 1234 131
adultcare@cornwall.gov.uk

Highways Department

Telephone: 0300 1234 222
Email: customerrelations@cormaclimited.co.uk

Transport Department

(Schools Transport)
Telephone: 0300 1234 101
(Bus Pass) Telephone: 0300 1234 222
Email: schooltransport@cornwall.gov.uk

Roads, Transport and Parking

Telephone: 0300 1234 222
Email: roadtransportandparking@cornwall.gov.uk

Waste Department

Telephone: 0300 1234 141
Email: via contact form on website only.

Cormac Solutions

Telephone: 01872 323 313
Email: customerrelations@cormacitd.co.uk

Fly Tipping:

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*Town Messenger
news is supplied
by the Town
Council*

Cornwall Councillors/ Wards

Saltash Essa ED

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

Saltash Tamar ED

Cllr Sheila Lennox-Boyd
cldr.sheila.lennox-boyd@cornwall.gov.uk

Saltash Trematon

& Landrake ED

Cllr Martin Worth
cldr.martin.worth@cornwall.gov.uk

Cornwall Councillors Cover such services as:

Housing – Education
Social Services
Highways
Waste & Recycling
Tamar Bridge

From the Mayor of Saltash

It's been another very busy month at Saltash Town Council, with extra meetings to determine our budgets or Precept for 2023-24. At the Full Council on the 1st December we agreed all the details, and what impact that will have on the Saltash Town Council portion of your Council Tax. Despite inflation being in excess of 10% and spiralling energy costs, town council staff and councillors have looked carefully at the budget sheets, making genuine savings where we can, and in some cases holding off on some areas.

The result of this is that from April 2023 the Saltash Town Council portion of our Council tax will rise by 4.15%, this means for a Band D property a 3.66% rise, which will equate to an increase of 16p per week.

Over the coming year, I know that we will continue to work on efficiencies, especially energy saving measures, which will help our budgets and the environment at the same time.

Remembrance 2022

A big thank you to our community for the way they commemorated Remembrance this year, there were so many moving tributes across the town, both physical and virtual. I would like to thank the Saltash Branch of the Royal British Legion who do so much over



this period and raise many thousands of pounds through their Poppy Appeal. The appeal kicks off with a wonderful Festival of Remembrance, which Sarah and I were delighted to attend, and culminates in formal acts of Remembrance on November the 11th, and on Remembrance Sunday. The RBL bring their vast expertise to their 2 minute silence at 11.00am on the 11th, and the town council are always pleased to attend this important event. They also support the town council at our Civic Service of Remembrance, helping to ensure that the formal process is carried out appropriately, both within the church, during the parade and in co-ordinating the wreath laying process. The attendance at all

Town Council Christmas - Operating times

The Guildhall and Saltash Library will be closed from 5pm on December 22nd until 10am on Tuesday 3rd January.

Saltash Town Council's Public Toilets at the Waterside, Alexandra Square, Belle Vue Road and Longstone Park will continue to be open on a daily basis throughout this time, and will be regularly cleaned and replenished where necessary. The winter opening times are 8.30am until 4.30pm. Our Service Delivery staff will also continue to carry out asset checks across the town as normal.

Warm Spaces in Saltash

The following Warm Spaces will welcome anyone who wants a little warmth and some company.

- Saltash Library – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10am – 5pm and Saturday 10am – 1pm
- Saltash Wesley Church – Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10am – 12pm Tuesday 9am – 4pm and Wednesday 10am – 4pm
- The Core Thursday 9am – 12pm term time only
- Community Kitchen – Tuesday 11.30am – 3.30pm, Wednesday 10am – 2pm, Thursday 2pm – 4pm, Friday 10am – 4pm Saturday 10.30am – 3pm

Saltash Station Cafe Operator Sought

Saltash Town Council are seeking a commercial partner to run the cafe and waiting room at Isambard House, the refurbished former station building. To find out more information please visit <https://www.saltash.gov.uk/tenders.php> for more information and to arrange a site visit. With rising rail passenger numbers this could provide a great new opportunity. Tenders close on the 27th January 2023.

Saltash Town Council Facilities to Hire

Saltash Town Council has a range of facilities available to hire in the town. Meeting and event spaces are available for a discounted rate to community and charity groups in Saltash. The Guildhall has two rooms available. Both rooms can be laid out in different configurations and have full disabled access and wi-fi.

The Chamber is suitable for smaller meetings of up to 40 people and has hosted events such as talks to local groups and watching films on the television provided. This can also be utilised for presentations.

The Long Room is a larger room for up to 120 people. The large space has been used for celebration events and presentation evenings.

Isambard House is the newly refurbished station building which has a flexible meeting or events space and can seat up to 75 people. This space has been used for art

the events was outstanding and provided a very moving few days and always gives us an important reminder of all those from Saltash and beyond that paid the ultimate price.

Warm Spaces in Saltash

As the weather turns colder, we know that some people will struggle with keeping themselves warm and well. Saltash Town Council, along with a number of other locations are providing places for people to come and be warm, get a hot drink and be sociable.

Saltash Library is one of these places, and people are welcome to attend when the library is open, the mezzanine level has some comfortable seating and you can get a free cup of tea or coffee to keep you

warm. You can even read a book, newspaper or take advantage of the free computers to get online.

You can also visit the Community Kitchen at No. 8 Fore Street, where Chris and his team are offering a similar opportunity at various times during the week, with the added bonus of being able to get a hot meal for a small donation, if you are able to give. The Community Kitchen is also home to a number of social activities as well as the Community Fridge and Larder which shares surplus food from businesses, again for a donation.

Useful meetings

Town Councillors have been even busier over the last couple of months, engaging with

Your Town Council & Wards

Saltash Essa:

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

Saltash Tamar:

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

Saltash Trematon:

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

Mayor:

Cllr Richard Bickford

Deputy Mayor:

Cllr Julia Peggs

Town Clerk:

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

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

**Saltash Town Council, The Guildhall 12 Lower Fore Street
Saltash PL12 6JX Tel: 01752 844846
E: enquiries@saltash.gov.uk W: www.saltash.gov.uk
Facebook: SaltashTownCouncilOfficial
Twitter: SaltashTC**

Would you Support the Saltash Police Station Enquiry Office Reopening?

Devon and Cornwall Police are consulting on which enquiry desk to reopen next. They are opening a few, based on public demand and where it is operationally possible. Saltash is on their list, and could be next if it receives enough support. The consultation runs until the 2nd January 2023. Search online or use the QR code shown here to access the survey.
<https://www.survey.monkey.co.uk/r/DYPSW66>



Supporting Saltash Leisure Centre

The Town Council, working in partnership with Cornwall Council and GLL (the operator) continue to provide strategic support for Saltash Leisure Centre, offering local insight and helping to shape the direction of the business.

GLL are working under increased pressure of rising costs and affordability but are making great strides to make continual improvements to both the Leisure Centre and the activities offered.

We have been impressed that by making focused efforts to reduce energy consumption they have managed to reduce their energy use in October, compared to previous years by over 30%, with changes to how they operate. Most changes will go

unnoticed by the public, with only minor changes to the swim timetable planned for Saltash Leisure Centre this winter.

Some prices will rise in the new year, but you can make significant savings on a range of activities by getting yourself a Cornwall Resident discount membership from Saltash Leisure Centre just take along proof of your Cornish address and you will be entitled to a saving.

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Chamber Chairman Keeping us Updated...

Most people do not realise the effort that the Chamber and its members put into the Saltash Community. For example, we have just had the Christmas Festival which is organised by the Chamber and which takes 12 months to organise, so the organising for the 2023 festival has already started, but in order to make it a success we have to raise funds as the fireworks, entertainment, road closure etc. all cost money.

So, some members help with the fundraising and this year Scrapstore is a major contributor. The pop-up shop selling Christmas items raised in excess of £1000 net and with a grant from Scrapstore a total of £2000 was paid over so that the making of the lanterns for the lantern parade could be achieved. The volunteers who name the shop and all concerned with Scrapstore are to be thanked for their efforts. Also, thanks to all those who helped the children in making the lanterns.

The Chamber would also like to thank everybody who bought their Christmas decorations from the pop-up shop as this is how Scrapstore was able to make the payment.

Also, all those who bought raffle tickets and the sponsors of the prizes.

The Chamber also has members who sit with STC and Cornwall Councillors and Community Enterprise representatives on the Town Team which is responsible for providing the speaker system through which the Christmas music was played and has organised a Brunel Commemorative Bench which will be installed halfway up Fore Street in the near future and will be available for all to sit on.

The Town Team also has bigger ideas in mind which will be made public in the New Year but which entail the possible provision of a town square and the greenery of the town. Community Enterprises is also a member of the Chamber and with the help of the Town Council has provided the water bottle refill station (called 'Derek the Dolphin') outside No. 8 Fore Street. The Community Kitchen, and this is free to use for all. The Community Kitchen is also open as a warm hub during this period of excess energy costs.

Saltash Chamber of Commerce has been in existence for over 70 years and, although it is there to represent the business community, the actions it, and its members, takes helps the community at large.

Saltash Chamber wishes the community of Saltash a Merry Christmas.

Ukraine Collection Success

Earlier in November 2022, the Saltash Community Enterprise shop held a collection aid event for Plymouth Ukraine Medical Aid (PUMA) whose mission is to improve the lives of those affected by the terrible war in their country. The Community Enterprise PL12 appealed to the local community to donate a range of medical products, baby products, women's sanitary products, children's new underwear and baby knits, crutches and walking sticks, and prescription glasses. The CEPL12 on Fore Street had a PUMA collection area within the shop throughout the week, with local residents donating each day. Once collected PUMA personally took all the donations to Ukraine for their hospitals.

"We are extremely proud of all the wonderful aid donated by our local community and so thankful for all of our amazing volunteers for helping out," said Cathy Jane, Community Shop Director. "The weeklong collection was a great success and these donations will help those in desperate need." Cathy also stated that "I believe the

Congratulations to Our Girls at Newell's



Newell's of Saltash won Top Shop South, for teamwork, profit and overall sales, at their recent retail conference.

Community Enterprise was the only organisation taking part in this within Saltash".

Community Enterprises PL12 was set up in 2006 and its main goal is to identify, plan and deliver social, economic, and environmental improvements for the PL12 area. "The Community Enterprise has over 60 volunteers and is always looking for more" added Cathy. The CEPL12 has 7 enterprises helping out the local community from the Community Kitchen to the Food Larder. For more info about the Community Enterprises, see their website <https://www.cepl12.co.uk/> or pop into the shop at No4 Fore Street.

PUMA is a charity dedicated to helping Ukraine and has done multiple trips to the country so far and is always looking for more donations.

This is not the first time that the Community Enterprise has done something in support of Ukraine. For Ukrainian Independence Day in August, the Community Kitchen showed their support by holding a meal where more than 40 litres of Ukrainian borscht soup and 450 varenyky dumplings were served. "With the sale of keepsakes together with donations we raised more than £700," said Cathy. The £700 was raised for the not-for-profit organization Outreach paramedics to help provide neonatal medical supplies for Ukraine.

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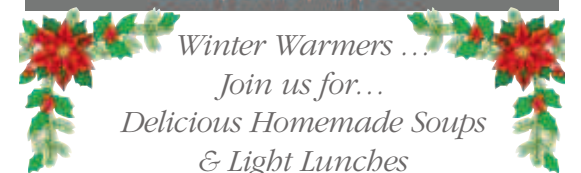
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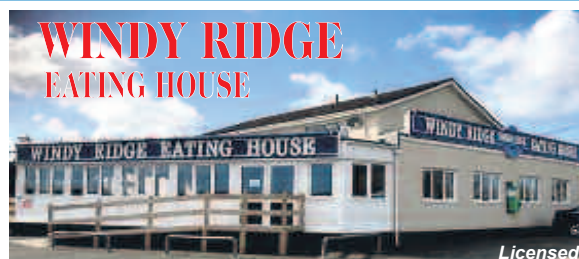
We would like to wish you all a very
Happy Healthy & Prosperous New Year
Enjoy the Festive Season
See you all again Monday 2nd January 2023



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Christmas Day - Closed

27th Dec 28th Dec 29th Dec

30th Dec 31st Dec - Closed

New Year's Day - Closed

Monday 2nd January 2023

Open 10am - 4pm

Conundrum Corner

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

- 1 Christmas Island is in which Ocean? (6)
- 2 What name is given to a greyish-brown Toad with reddish warty lumps? (10)
- 3 What breed of Dog is the cartoon character Snoopy? (6)
- 4 What title is given to a male Swan? (3)
- 5 According to the traditional song where does Molly Malone wheel her wheelbarrow? (6)
- 6 In which Country are the Aberdare Mountains? (5)
- 7 What name is given to ribbon-like strips of Pasta? (7)
- 8 In which City did Roger Bannister become the first four-minute miler? (6)
- 9 What word describes a cut made during a surgical operation? (8)

Answers on page 7

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Wishing everyone Compliments of the Season

The Lantern Parade started in 2011.....

and over the years thousands of beautiful lanterns have been lovingly crafted from willow and paper. Leading this year's Parade were a Dove of Peace and a Shining Star, created and carried by members of the Saltash Wesley Church Youth Club together with Ukrainian families living in Saltash.



Photos Mary Crawford



Photo Mary Crawford

Runners in the Santa Fun Run at the Christmas Festival, having made their way across the Tamar Bridge and back, were encouraged to run those final steps back up Fore Street by the clapping and sweet singing of Saltash Rock Choir. But musical cheer is not the only type of encouragement delivered by this choir. In an annual tradition, members bring food, toys, sweets and well-deserved luxuries for mums and dads to their last rehearsal of the year to be donated to Saltash Foodbank, helping bring the light of joy in dark times. Attending the presentation were the Mayor of Saltash Richard Bickford and Mayoress Sarah Bickford alongside Richard Margetts of Saltash Foodbank, who were all staggered by the piles of festive donations. Rock Choir director Marcus Alleyne also presented members with certificates recognising ten years of membership. Men and women interested in joining this local, contemporary choir can get more information from www.rockchoir.com. No auditions or musical knowledge needed - it's all about singing, fun, friendship and community.

Police were on hand to help at the Christmas Festival.



Photo Mary Crawford

Redeemer Church led joyous singing at the Pop-up Carols at the top of Fore Street.



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HOPPER TRIPS - JANUARY 2023

Sunday 8th January
Wilcove Inn Torpoint

Sunday Lunch at this old waterside pub
fantastic views across the Hamoze
Leave Saltash 11.30 return 15.30 - Travel Only £6

Thursday 12th January
Orchid Paradise Newton Abbot

Guided tour of the huge collection of orchids from around the world then time for some lunch at Café Vanilla
Leave Saltash 10.30 return 16.00 - Travel Only £10

Tuesday 17th January

Fowey Valley Cidery Lostwithiel

Free tour and sampling & make a purchase from the shop then time to explore Lostwithiel and have some lunch
Leave Saltash 10.30 return 16.00 - Travel Only £8

Sunday 22nd January

Lunch at Portbryan Hotel Looe

The hotel is situated in the heart of Looe with panoramic views of the harbour
Leave Saltash 10.30 return 16.00 - Travel Only £6

Friday 27th January

Visit Cockington Village

& Country Park Torquay

A chocolate box village with a Craft Centre shops and places for lunch
The Drum is recommended other tea shops also offer good food as well
Leave Saltash 10.30 Return 16.00 - Travel Only £10

hub@cepl12.co.uk 01752 848348 www.cepl12.co.uk
Community Enterprises PL12 | 4 Fore Street | Saltash | PL12 6JL

Essa Voices

A 'Devolution' Deal

Devolution happens when powers, funding and decisions that would usually be determined by central government are transferred to local authorities. On 2nd December, a proposed Devolution Deal was announced between the Conservative leadership of Cornwall Council and the government.

The Deal runs to 34 pages and can be found by searching for the word 'Devolution' on Cornwall Council's website, but the 'headline items' are: control of the Adult Education budget; £12 million a year for 30 years to invest in infrastructure projects; funding for the Cornish culture and language; the establishment of a Mayoral Development Corporation to designate development areas; and the establishment of a Floating Offshore Wind Commission to develop wind power more quickly.

Devolved powers and funding are hugely important for Cornwall as we have some big gaps to close when compared to the rest of the country. Gross median weekly pay here, for example, is £516, compared to £613.10 UK average. The government is insisting, however, that in order to unlock this Deal Cornwall Council needs to change its governance from the model we currently have where a Leader is elected once every year by councillors from among the councillors, to a model where a Mayor is elected once every four years by members of the general public from among the general public. Under this model, the Mayor would choose the councillors who would become members of Cornwall Council's Cabinet.

A Timeline

A ten-week consultation on the Deal started on 9th December and will close at midnight on 17th February. On 22nd March next year, Cornwall Council's Cabinet will reconsider the proposed deal following the outcome of the public consultation. On 18th April a meeting of all 87 Cornwall Councillors will consider whether to hold a referendum to ask all the



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

Photo Mary Crawford

voters in Cornwall whether they want to change to a system where the Mayor is elected separately to councillors. If there is no referendum, the final decision on whether to accept the Deal will be held in July 2023 at a meeting of all 87 Cornwall councillors. If the Deal is passed, the first Mayoral election would be held in May 2024 using a 'first past the post' system.

The Deal talks of 'levelling up' within Cornwall as well as with the rest of the country, but looking at it through a South East Cornwall lens there is no mention of abolishing the tolls to cross the Tamar, and there is no proposal to change responsibility for roads, so A38 safety campaigners will see no benefit either. Already, there is a feeling that Cornwall Council is 'Truro-centric'. A move to a Mayor will shift power away from the 87 councillors representing different corners of Cornwall into one person. In the government's view this is good, as the Mayor will have 'greater access and influence with the government', but will a move to a Mayor reduce the influence that 'border' towns and parishes can have within Cornwall?

Mebyon Kernow has publicly stated that the Deal is not devolution at all as it does not include far reaching powers being transferred from Westminster to Cornwall. Certainly, £12 million per year may seem like a grand sum, but compare it with the figure of £62 million, which is the current deficit of Cornwall Council's budget for this year.

Have a read of the Deal, and see what you think. Talk to a councillor about it if you have questions, but please respond to the consultation as this Deal has the potential to fundamentally change the relationship Cornwall Council has with town and parish councils and the wider community as well as with government.

Scrapstore's Pop-Up Christmas Shop

In the first week of November, Saltash Scrapstore opened up a pop-up Christmas shop on Fore Street, full of festive treasures. Open for just a few days, the volunteers managed to find crate-loads of pre-loved Christmas decorations a new home and raised an astonishing £1,200 for the Christmas Festival. Scrapstore's resident Poet Laureate has described the scenes in this historic poem.

The day before the Pop-Up all in Fore Street was quiet,
But deep in the Scrapstore, there were plans for a riot:
All the decorations stored for nearly a year
Would be put on sale to bring Christmas cheer.
Boxes and trolleys of Christmas goods
Were trundled through the neighbourhood
Down to 79 - the pop-up venue
Just next to Fresh Fox - with the sign and the menu!

And volunteers worked at a furious pace
To set up tables and make the place
Look fit for Christmas - lots of gold and red
Baubles and tree lights - some of them LED!

So all was set for a shop to remember
It was a bit early - the start of November!

It opened and people came there in droves
They loved what they saw and bought
decs for their homes.
Maria, Helen, Harriet and Saffy,
Millie helped too, and both of the Jackies

Gave time to raise money - and best of all:
Profits went to the Christmas Festival.
A fantastic amount of money was raised -
Over 1200 quid in just a few days.

And this was with both Scrapstores running as well,
Thanks to Rosie, Danni and Trev. So it's as clear as a bell:
The pop-up shop did just what was meant.

We really must make it an annual event!

Dave Waters



Photo Mary Crawford

Photos Mary Crawford

Saltash Rockies Support Foodbank

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Saltash Scrapstore & Too

Celebrating Another Successful Year

Thank you to everyone who has supported Saltash Scrapstore

Either by Donating items - Purchasing goods or Giving time to help out!

It has been a great journey!

Our mission is to minimise the amount that goes to landfill we provide an outlet for our supporters to

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle & Re-purpose Discarded materials.

Local people and businesses generously donate all our stock to us.

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Bring your unwanted STUFF along to us!

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(apart from craft books)

We will take anything that someone can use or reuse and try and find the best home for it!

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...Have Youngsters to Amuse?

Why not drop by and see how we can help you?

...And, of course, our 'members only' scrap shelves

FULL of a great selection of items

to fill your £2.50/£5.00 bag.

Not a member yet? Come By & Join

£5 Annual Fee & Save 10%

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A One Stop Shop for all your

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Please call in or

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or Visit our Facebook Page Saltash Scrapstore

Recycling for our Future Charity No 1123750

Sustainable Saltash

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

There's something special about trees; Saltash already has some great trees in its public spaces, but we need more. In the project *Tree Saltash*, the Saltash Tree Wardens, backed by Saltash Town Council, are planting trees in several sites around Saltash – in housing, verges or open spaces. The sites have been carefully checked, and residents invited to comment. It's supported by Forest for My Place, part of Cornwall's Forest for Cornwall. Planting will take place over the coming weeks, and details are on the SEA website, with an invitation to residents to get involved in this effort to make Saltash both nicer to live in and more sustainable.

Trees are a vital part of a habitable, eco-friendly town. Firstly, they just make it look good, softening the bleakness of the buildings, helping us all relax. Architects know this – their plans always include trees. Head teachers know this – their schools are surrounded by trees. Try to imagine Victoria Gardens without its mammoth

Monterey pine, Longstone Park without its huge poplars, or Alexander Square without its cherries in Spring.

There are more subtle benefits of trees. A good landscaper will 'borrow' your neighbour's trees to enhance your own landscape which will make your property more attractive, including to a buyer! But sadly, most trees just stand there unnoticed – until they're cut down and it's too late!

Trees are not universally popular. They can block a view or shade a garden, branches can block the pathway, leaves block gutters, roots damage foundations. And occasionally, a tree blows over in the wind. These are examples of the 'Wrong Tree' or the 'Wrong Place'. Perhaps a house has been built too close, or the wrong tree was chosen and not managed correctly – all problems to avoid.

The right tree in the right place protects us from excesses of sun, wind or rain. In this year's scorching Summer, people sought the shade of Longstone Park's

cherry trees. In Winter, pity the footballers on Warfelton Field, with no tall trees to shelter them on wet, windy afternoons. Trees also protect us by mopping up the air pollution and particulates from our roads, and absorb a little of the carbon dioxide we emit.

And importantly, trees and especially hedges are vital for wildlife, providing habitats for mosses, fungi and other plants, and for insects and birds. Every time a tree is felled, biodiversity loses out.

Autumn is the best time for planting trees, and even small, urban gardens have room for a tree – nowadays there's one for every shape and size. Care for it by watering in the first 3 summers, and it will provide a life-time's low-maintenance contribution to both biodiversity and everyone's pleasure.

Adrian White

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@protonm.com

Saltash Patients Voice

Written by representatives of patients at our local surgeries

Everyone knows that, across the country, pressures on NHS hospitals and GPs are unending. This adversely affects the situation here. Nevertheless, we believe that it is still worth the effort to try to improve things locally. So, what are we doing?

Firstly, we are making the case for better coordination between the Health Centre and Port View Surgery. Patients have told us frequently that they don't understand why the Practices work differently, and we believe Saltash could benefit from a more coherent system of care, and a united view. Joint meetings have been arranged, and we'll let you know how we get on.

Secondly, we have become very unhappy that progress on planning the future of St Barnabas Hospital has been frozen for many years. The "hospital" is mainly a base for community staff these days. We think that local people should now drive a fresh project to establish something more modern and flexible to meet our personal health needs more directly.

Thirdly, we are contacting young people and they are sharing their experiences in our surveys. We need their voice too in shaping the future.

Finally, we are horrified at the impact on healthcare of

population growth at the new Treledan housing development at Carkeel. There is no extra provision planned to meet the health needs of the hundreds of people who will move in there. The availability of services is bound to suffer as a result.

We have already had a helpful meeting with our MP over these concerns. No magic wand, of course, but we will continue to keep her involved. We have also made contact with the new Managing Director of the NHS Integrated Care Area for East Cornwall, Dr Andy Sant. He seems keen to break the deadlock over St Barnabas in a new review of all the NHS buildings locally.

Please keep sharing your own experiences and thoughts with us. It is important for building our case. You can email us via the Surgery websites, or drop in to the Community Kitchen at 8 Fore Street, where we have a postbox.

Tim Squires Debt Centre Manager
Christians Against Poverty Saltash
Book an appointment with him by calling 0800 328 0006 or email timsquires@capuk.org

How to Show Goodwill this Christmas

even when Costs are tight

As we enter the season of goodwill, many of us may find ourselves needing to change our festive spending habits from previous years. With the cost of living crisis surging this year, we might struggle to adopt a generous spirit this Christmas. And yet, goodwill to our fellow men and women is probably more important than ever this winter. So, how can we – in the face of financial challenges – continue to show kindness this Christmas?

Check in with your neighbours

The festive season can be a lonely time for a lot of people, particularly those who are elderly or live alone. It sounds obvious, but checking in with our neighbours, even to just wish them a merry Christmas, can make a world of difference. Make a point this year to call on your neighbours before the festive season runs away.

Support charities

Charities are working harder than ever at making the most of their available finances, so every donation is appreciated. Or perhaps you'd prefer to donate your time to a charity this winter? I'd personally like to thank those who give their time or have donated money and goods to help people I support in our area – we are fortunate to have such a kind and caring community.

Give blood

The NHS made its first-ever amber alert this autumn when blood supplies fell critically low, making urgent calls for donors. With each donation having the potential to save

three lives, as well as serving you a free helping of tea and biscuits, what better Christmas gift could you give that won't cost you a penny? Head to blood.co.uk to find a donation location near you and find out what's involved.

Seek help with money worries

An increasing number of people are struggling with money, credit and debts this year. Don't let your Christmas be filled with worry – get help today through organisations like Christians Against Poverty (CAP) offering free, expert budgeting guidance and debt help. Use the new benefits calculator at capuk.org to check you are receiving all the benefits you are entitled to, or contact me directly if you'd like to talk and we can have a chat. *Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a UK charity with over 580 services across the country delivering debt counselling, money management education, job clubs, life skills groups and more. Visit capuk.org to find out more.*

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*May we take this opportunity to thank all our loyal supporters?
We wish you all a Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year*

Missing War Dead to be Remembered

Names of 74 war dead from World War I and World War II that are missing from the town's war memorial are a step closer to being added following assurances given by Mayor Councillor Richard Bickford to Saltash resident Barry Brooking at a recent meeting of Saltash Town Council.

Mr Brooking, himself a former commando, has been pursuing their cause for many years but when he last raised the issue with the council two years ago he was told that no additions could be made to the memorial until it could be confirmed that there were no further names that would need to be added.

At the meeting, Councillor Jean Dent, Co-chair of the Joint Burial Board, said she accepted that following exhaustive

research into the town's war dead by Peter Clements of Saltash Heritage, the list of casualties with Saltash connections was as full as it could possibly get. She stated that she would therefore be willing to move the matter forward, although warned that it would be a complex process, involving working with the War Memorials Trust, obtaining planning permission and contacting family members of the deceased to ensure they wished the names to be added.

Doubts were raised by Mr Brooking as to whether there was sufficient space on the memorials outside the church of St Nicholas and St Faith for an extra 74 names, half as many again as are currently listed. In response, the Mayor stated he believed there was enough room, and assured the meeting that the names of the 74 would be added to those read out at the town's annual Remembrance Day service.

Walter C. Parson Celebrates 180 Years of Service in Devon and Cornwall



The family business which has run Pengelly Funeral Service since 2007 is proudly celebrating 180 years of dedicated service to local communities throughout Devon and Cornwall.

Little could Richard Walter Parson have imagined in 1842 when he set up business in Stoke Climsland, Cornwall, that some 180 years later the enterprise would still be running under the same family name.

The succeeding generations consisted of his son - John Walter - and his son - Oscar Walter - and his son - Walter Cyril - and his son and daughter - Wally and Sylvia Parson (known as Pat). Today the business is under the custodianship of Pat's son - Stephen Ware, her husband - Graham May and her Grandson - John Ware.

From the family home at St.

Judes, Plymouth, the business expanded during the 70's and 80's at first to Plympton, then Crownhill and Ivybridge, so there were four offices in and around Plymouth.

In 1999 Wally wanted to retire and Pat, Graham and Stephen bought the business from Wally to make sure it stayed in the family and continued to run as a family owned business.

Pat, Graham and Stephen made a conscious decision to continue their predecessors ethos but knew they had to do more than this to move forward, so made a plan to expand the business whilst at the same time making a determined effort to recruit quality staff and train them to the exacting standards of WCP.

The Company set up a school managed today by David Parslow who is a national tutor with the British Institute of Funeral Directors. To date this has produced many qualified funeral

directors and embalmers, many of whom still work for the firm - and two of the staff gained the award for achieving the highest marks in the country in their particular exam. It turned out that the next generation of qualified staff were to be needed very quickly.

Walter C. Parson were on the acquisition trail, buying Pidgeon & Son in Torpoint in 2003, Hugh Mills & Gaye with offices in Newton Abbot and Torquay in 2006, Pengelly Funeral Service in Saltash in 2007 and Tavistock & District in 2010. Premises in Exeter were purchased in late 2013 which opened in March 2015 after a complete refurbishment. The Old Police Station, Callington opened in April 2019 and an extension was added to the garage at Torpoint to accommodate the growing fleet of vehicles in 2020. Finally, the old Barton Surgery, Plymstock was opened in June 2021.

The firm had grown from 4 offices in 1999 to 12 offices by the end of 2021.

At an event held at The New Continental Hotel, Plymouth, to mark this momentous occasion, Stephen Ware, Managing Director gave a speech, saying "We have invested in people, facilities and premises. Today we have 12 offices, 18 funeral vehicles included in the total of 40 vehicles in our fleet and conduct nearly 1,300 funerals annually across the South West Peninsula."

"In today's cut and thrust business world - there are few companies left who can look back on a history of more than a century and three quarters. Fewer still whose business has stayed in the same family for seven generations and I am very proud that Walter C. Parson has managed to reach that rare milestone."

Happy 60th Birthday Bryan!



Ha ha! Gotcha!

Wishing a truly amazing husband, dad and grandad the most wonderful birthday. We love you to the moon and back, and we're eternally grateful for everything.

Sue, Donna, Zoe, Wayne and all your grandkids
The Observer team would like to join Bryan's family in wishing him a very happy 60th Birthday, and thank him for his support for the Observer over so many years.

Bryan Angear Celebrates his 60th Birthday - 23rd January 2023

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Young and Old Remember Our War Dead



Children from Service families at Brunel School and veterans attend the minute's silence on Fore Street led by the Mayor and Mayoress of Saltash.

Although those who have seen active service in a war are decreasing in number by the year, the number of those who gather to pay their respects each Remembrance Day shows no sign of waning. Indeed, this year there seemed to be more than ever packed in to the Wesley Church for the civic service, lining Fore Street for the march to Alexandra Square, and giving

the war memorials a mantle of poppy wreaths.

A handful of proud veterans were among those marching and laying wreaths in memory of friends long gone, but the younger generation, too, turned out hearteningly in force to mark the day. Among those in the church and later laying wreaths were contingents of cadets, Scouts and Cubs, Brownies and Guides, as well as children

from the Military Kids Club, a network supporting families of Service personnel.

It is always a poignant time as the list of Saltash's own war dead is read out one by one in church, this year with Elgar's 'Nimrod' playing in the background, followed by the Last Post and the silence. The growing attendance year by year promises that we will never cease in our vow that 'We will remember them.'

Just thinking aloud...

Odd how one's carefully crafted plans come to naught.....After a dozen years as a peripatetic pedagogue in France, Bristol, Blackpool and Coventry, I was determined to stay for just five or six years at Saltash Comp, aiming for a headship elsewhere before retiring early to La France Profonde. We arrived in fair Esse in 1975, and here we are – still domiciled in Saltash after one house move and five retirements – just scribbling a bit for Mary. Nothing else. What follows summarizes the first few years in the seventies.

Settling in was helped by the friendliness and helpful advice that we received from new neighbours, colleagues and other local community activists. The nearest primary school was eminently suitable for our (then) three little ones and the recommended GP has proved to be a friend for life.

My school pupils seemed to accept me without too much hassle, and I think I got on well with colleagues, especially when it became evident that “the new boy” was prepared to listen to the collective voices of years of Cornish experience, and that those collective voices in return were sometimes prepared to accept that the new boy occasionally had something to say which was worth listening to. So school was “working”, and the Munro family was becoming

known in the Saltash community.

With hindsight I have to admit that I got far more involved in being active in the community over the years than was good for my family life. However, it was what it was, and I can't undo it.

Being invited to stand for election to the Town Council was my first step. It brought me friends who became lifelong, but via that election also introduced me to a few folk who were not enamoured at the thought of a bumptious northerner voicing some of his unwelcome opinions in the public arena. I might well have been appointed to a senior position in the local secondary school (which should of course have remained as Saltash Grammar School!), but that did not give me the right to wear roll neck pullovers, suede jackets and corduroy trousers, let alone lecture fellow town councillors on issues which were none of my business as An Outsider. For instance, I objected loud and long to the council spending minimal amounts of money on third rate mugs to be presented to the town's schoolchildren in celebration of Her Majesty's Silver Jubilee. The basis of my argument was that we were ignoring a clear opportunity to encourage the younger generation to connect the occasion with something of premier aesthetic value. To no avail. The deed was done. I received hostile media coverage from all over the south west, and was not re-elected at the next election – probably a good thing. I still look back and chuckle. I used to call the enemy “The Saltash Mafia”. They seemed to have an inordinate influence on what went on in the town, and

were by no means all democratically elected. Politically I don't recall Socialists or Liberals amongst their number, and I don't think Greens or Liberal Democrats were even on the horizon, but this lot were clearly Conservatives, plus Conservatives who claimed to be Independents, Freemasons, Rotarians, Magistrates and The Tory Party at Prayer (or any combination of the foregoing). Collectively I referred to them as “the enemy”, but some of them were my friends and one or two who have not yet shuffled off this mortal coil still are!

Anyway, on we went, busily and happily ensnared in community activities. Our son was actually born in the Old Police Station in 1976, so I told my Cornish friends in the Sailing Club that same evening that he was therefore Cornish. Didn't they put me in my place! “You Cornish?” No. “Your father Cornish?” No. “Your grandfather Cornish?” No. “Well, your son ain't b****y Cornish either!” Ah well... ..

We might have a further look at matters political or personal one day, but for now I am only wondering who might offer himself/herself to replace Gloria Challen as a town councillor for Essa Ward. It will not be me, dear reader.

Bob Munro

A Life Worth Living

Photojournalist Ian Robinson certainly created a life worth living.

He was shot at in Miami, attacked by an orang-utang in Borneo, suffered frostbite in Alaska, and was thrown from a collapsing bridge in Mongolia. In the end, it was only Motor Neurone Disease that could get the better of him - he passed away in his Saltash home at the end of November.

Paying tribute to Ian, Mary Crawford, editor of the Saltash and District Observer said: “I am deeply saddened to lose such a special friend. We made so many good memories in the few years Ian was on the Observer reporting team. He became recognised at Saltash festivals carrying his ladder to capture the best angles, always looking for another inspirational photo to send over to me, always with a great story attached. I will miss him dearly, on both personal and professional levels.”

Born in Exmouth, he first pursued a career as a social worker running a probation hostel for some of the country's most troubled and troublesome young offenders. But in his quest for a horizon that was always changing, Ian left the hostel to travel the whole of North America, gradually selling photos and stories to pay his way. And stories came aplenty. Like the one where he was awarded an honorary sheriff badge of New Orleans for his role in capturing a double killer who is now on death row.

Moving to Saltash in November 2016, his adventures



became, perhaps, a little more tame, but still suffused with that compassion he'd shown in the probation hostel – the compassion to heal the world a little bit. Ian shared his travellers' tales through charity talks at places like Ashtorpe Rock, he organised & led the waterside clean ups each year on behalf of the Observer, and he was an exquisitely popular Hopper bus driver - everyone loved the days out with him, especially the Valentine outings when he presented all the ladies with a red rose.

Ian, who travelled through life guided by an inner compass, will be missed by so many, but particularly by his siblings Martin, Julie and Brian, who call him an absolute legend and hero.

Chelsea and her daughters Hettie & Georgia are bereft, too, at the loss of such an inspiration in their lives, but encourage anyone whose life was touched by Ian to bid farewell as he sets off on his final journey at Glynn Valley crematorium at 1:30 on 29th December.

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Treasures at Saltash Library Antiques Roadshow

Hoping to discover that a family heirloom might be an interesting and possibly valuable treasure, local residents have been visiting Saltash Library when Richard Hamm has offered free assessments and valuation. Many have gone away well pleased with what they learnt.

Richard is a fine art valuer of over 40 years' experience, and is the Cornwall representative of Bearnes Hampton and Littlewood, the largest fine art valuer in the South West. Richard himself is a general valuer, but he works alongside a team of ten, each with a specialism in subjects ranging from jewellery and books through to maritime art, travelling throughout the region to offer valuations.

On a previous visit to Saltash Library, said Richard, a resident discovered that what he had believed to be a fake Rolex watch was in fact genuine, and went on to sell it for a four-figure sum. A finely carved 19th century military campaign chest was discovered on a home visit in Saltash, in its original packing cases as sold by the Army and Navy Stores. It realised £2600. But it isn't only the value that is of interest: Richard recounts how he was fascinated with a book illustrated by Victorian artist Harry Quilter, bound by the resident's ancestor, similar to a copy in New York's prestigious Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Popular television programmes have encouraged many to look through family treasures and wonder exactly what they may be, and whether they have a financial as well as a personal value. “I am delighted to be back in Saltash Library now that it is being managed by Saltash Town Council,” said Richard. “I'm always intrigued as to what may turn up here.”

The next open valuation session is planned for Thursday 19th January from 2pm to 4pm, when Richard will be joined by jewellery specialist Joan Lowther.

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