

Wishing you all
A Happy & Healthy New Year

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER



December 2024 - Issue 390

Established 32 years

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

Local Country Walks...

A Quality of Life

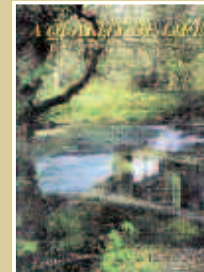
Great Christmas
Stocking Filler

Meet friends & family for a
Boxing Day walk

A Local book of walks and
strolls for your leisure time

A Quality of Life £4.99

Available at The Bookshelf Fore St Saltash



Scouts Secure Funding to Transform HQ

The 2nd Saltash Scout Group is celebrating after being awarded £100,000 from Cornwall Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) fund. This much-needed funding will finally allow the group to finish their two-storey Scout HQ at Latchbrook, as well as refurbish the games court and surrounding green park space.

This is one of two major grants allocated to Saltash in the fourth round of CIL funding, with Saltash Town Council also receiving £100,000 towards a new play area and sensory gardens at Jubilee Green. The CIL Fund, launched in 2020, has provided over £5.7 million to community projects across Cornwall. Applicants had to show their projects met local needs and would tackle the impact of development. For the Scouts, the proximity of the



Latchbrook HQ to the new housing development at Treledan underscored the growing need for improved facilities in the area.

Work on the building stalled nearly a decade ago when funds ran out, and rising construction costs after the Covid-19 pandemic compounded the challenges. It is thanks to the vision

and determination of Scout Leaders Andrew Jewell and Keith Child (pictured) in submitting the CIL funding application that the building is at long last set to be transformed in to a fully functional hub for the community. The plan is to complete the ground-floor space to accommodate larger groups and turn the upstairs into a work-

shop-ready area, complete with a kitchen and bathroom, which will be available for hire.

Andrew Jewell shared the group's excitement: "We're relieved to have secured this funding, and I'm delighted to confirm that work will begin in the first quarter of next year. This project has been a long time coming, and we can't wait to see it take shape."

The Scouts are now calling on local tradespeople, from plasterers to electricians, to help get the job done within the next 12 months. Keith encouraged locals to step forward: "We are keen to keep to our local Saltash community, so anyone who would like to find out more, please get in touch."

Cornwall Council will launch the next round of CIL funding in 2026.

Storms Can't Stop Saltash



Photo Mary Crawford

The Saltash Christmas Festival faced an unexpected setback when Storm Darragh's gale-force winds blew away all the meticulous plans. Unbeaten, organisers quickly regrouped and although the street market had to be cancelled, the community rallied round to move the outdoor carol service indoors and reschedule some events, including the fireworks, to the following Saturday.

In calm weather that made the previous weekend's storms feel like a distant tantrum, children proudly carried their hand-made lanterns to Waterside Green to watch a dazzling display of fireworks light up the Tamar Bridge.

See page 5 for more details.



Photo Mary Crawford

Robin, carrying a lantern shaped like her namesake bird, joined the Mayor to watch the fireworks.

ROPER JAMES
SOLICITORS

@RoperJames www.roperjames.co.uk @roperjamesolicitors

Review or Make your Will

Take advantage of a **Free** initial meeting. Come and talk to the friendly team at Roper James Solicitors about your Wills and Powers of Attorney

Buying or Selling your Home

Whether you are buying or selling property, contact our expert team at Roper James to guide you.

We are able to offer **Free** initial telephone advice and meetings in our Saltash office

Personal Injury or Accident

Have you suffered an accident at work, work induced hearing loss, asbestos exposure or a road traffic accident then contact our specialist Personal Injury Team to ensure you claim the compensation you may rightly deserve

Divorce & Family Matters

"Are you having relationship difficulties then..." seek expert advice from the experienced team at Roper James who can support you every step of the way

Guiding you through the Legal Process

Call 01752 546448

To Book your **FREE** initial Consultation

www.roperjames.co.uk

enquiries@roperjames.co.uk



Personal
Injury



Wills &
Inheritance



Family
Law



Buying &
Selling Property

Contact us for a **FREE** initial consultation
Roper James – here when you need us most ...

**CARLTON
PLASTICS**

DIY PVC Centre

Mon-Fri 8am-5pm

SURVEY & FITTING SERVICE AVAILABLE

01752 841234

Kingsmill Rd, Tamar View Ind. Est. **SALTASH**

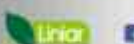
A-Rated Windows-Doors-Conservatories

Glass Replacement / PVC Flooring

Shower and ceiling Panels



Guttering,
Fascias, Cladding
Sealants-Trims
Handles-Hinges
Locks



WATERWAYS
DRAINAGE SPECIALISTS

Sewer & Drain Blockage Clearance

CCTV Drainage Surveys

Pre-Purchase Surveys

Commercial Maintenance

Tel: 01752 656 161

Email: info@waterwaysdrainage.co.uk

www.waterwaysdrainage.co.uk



**SELL YOUR CAR
HASSLE-FREE!**

No fees, instant payment.
We beat big car buyers
99% of the time.

Min. 100 car sales off your existing finance agreement.

**CONTACT TROJAN
MOTOR CO. NOW!**

01752 853577

www.trojanmotorcompany.co.uk

MESSAGE: 07453 301 363

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
Email: 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
Email: adultcare@cornwall.gov.uk

Highways Department
Telephone: 0300 1234 222
Email: customerrelations@cornwallimited.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: roadstransportandparking@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:
Telephone: 0300 1234 141
Email: refuseandrecycling@cornwall.gov.uk

*Town Messenger
news is supplied
by the Town
Council*

Cornwall Councillors/ Wards

Saltash Essa ED
Cllr Hilary Frank
crr.hilary.frank@cornwall.gov.uk

Saltash Tamar ED
Cllr Sheila Lennox-Boyd
crr.sheila.lennox-boyd@cornwall.gov.uk

Saltash Trematon & Landrake ED
Cllr Martin Worth
crr.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

Well as I sit here today writing this article along with my box of tissues and a mug of honey and lemon, I think about all of you out there that have suffered with the horrible viruses this winter, please make sure you look after yourselves and keep warm.

It was such a shame the wonderful Christmas festival had to be cancelled because of storm Darragh. The volunteers who make this happen we're so disappointed, also it's usually one of the biggest trading days for our traders in Fore St. We have some amazing shops in Fore St, selling lots of beautiful gifts, not only for Christmas but birthdays and anniversaries.

The Town Council are so thrilled to receive £100,000



from the latest Community Infrastructure Levy fund, this will enable us to progress with a new children's play park on Jubilee green and a sensory garden. Plans will then progress to see what else we can do to enhance our jewel in the crown" The Waterside."

The two new play parks on Pillmere are amazing, and children from all over Saltash



Photo by Mary Crawford

Undeterred by storm Darragh Mayor Julia Peggs and her Consort, husband Geoff, joined many of the children who had made the 180 lanterns in Brunel, Bishop Cornish, Burraton and St Stephens schools who braved the blustery conditions and gathered at Saltash Wesley Church for a hastily organised lantern display and carol service

are enjoying them, this was also a successful funding project delivered by Saltash Town Council.

I'm also very excited about Saltash Town Team plans that are also progressing towards farmers markets, additional planting and improved wayfinding in Fore St, ready for March 2025, watch this space!

Even though I've been a little unwell and had to miss some events, I have enjoyed lovely Christmas lunches with Age

Concern and Abby field assisted living, singing along with various choirs and of course loving the children's Christmas plays and Nativity's.

Saltash Town Council continues to be busy. Next Year we will be preparing for the elections in May. If you think you might be interested in becoming a Town Councillor, and feel you have the qualities, please talk to any one of your town

councillors, better still, come along to any of the Full Town Council and or Committee meetings to experience some of the things we do. Further information will be available on the Town Council social media page.

Christmas for me is about family and friends, but for many this is not possible. A telephone call, a Christmas card or knock on the door to a neighbour who's alone, or someone you haven't heard from in a while can make

the world of difference. Also, those families that are struggling financially. A little love goes a long way, it costs us nothing, and we all have plenty of that to share.

I wish you all and your families a very happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous new year!

*Warmest Regards to you all
Cllr Julia Peggs
Mayor of Saltash 2024-25*

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. Cllr John Brady
j.brady@saltash.gov.uk
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 Lisa Mortimore
l.mortimore@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 Julia Peggs

Deputy Mayor:

Cllr Rachel Bullock

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**

Meet Your Councillor Councillor Lennox-Boyd Essa Ward



I became a Town Councillor in October 2017 as I had already been elected as a Cornwall Councillor in May 2017. I stood for Saltash Town Council as I feel it's important to strengthen the links between Saltash Town Council and Cornwall Council.

I'm involved in several different committees and organisations in Saltash and I am passionate about our town. One of the committees I sit on is Safer Saltash where we work closely with the police and other organisations to support a coordinated multi agency approach to community safety issues to improve feelings of safety and public reassurance. If you have any concerns please contact Community Safety Officer on 0300 1234 232.

Safer Saltash were involved with the 16 days of action against gender based violence from 25th November to 10th December 2024 which ended with a pop up event in Saltash and a solidarity walk across the Tamar Bridge.

I have recently met with Cornwall Council flood and coastal erosion risk asset manager regarding the proposed works on the Waterside at Jubilee Green.

There are concerns around these defence areas as they are starting to crumble into the

river, so this work is imperative to continue to secure the carpark and footpath. They are already working closely with Saltash Town Council and Cornwall Council Maritime Department to mitigate that works consider the ferry movements pedestrians and boat users.

Information of these works will be put into public areas and slipway for residents and visitors.

Discussions are being had between various organisations and Highways England regarding the tunnel closure. From August 2025 for approximately five months, which is the switch off time, the tunnel and bridge will no longer operate on a tidal flow basis. Fixed lanes will be in operation with clear directions for each lane; there will be weekly updates on journey times which will be communicated as they will be working with 3 data sets which are Plymouth, Tamar Bridge and Tunnel this will mean the loss of the centre lane of the tunnel. During these works wide loads will not be able to use the Tamar Bridge.

Building Bridges, Forging Legacy: David List Retires

After 27 years at the helm of Tamar Crossings, General Manager David List has retired, leaving a legacy of innovation and teamwork. From overseeing the groundbreaking strengthening and widening of the Tamar Bridge to managing the Torpoint Ferry replacement programme, David's tenure has been marked by significant engineering achievements, with the bridge and ferries reliably serving up to 18 million vehicles annually.

David's retirement marks the end of an era for both Tamar Crossings and the wider bridge engineering community. A key figure in his field, he served as an active member of the UK Bridge Owners Forum and as one of two European representatives on the International Cable Supported Bridge Operators Association.

A special farewell event at the Tamar Bridge in December brought together colleagues, councillors, and representatives from partner organisations. Joint Committee Chair Cllr. Martin Worth thanked David for his "wonderful years of service," and staff presented him with a coat rack featuring a bolt from the Tamar Bridge.

David's engineering career began with a first-class degree from Nottingham University at the age of 20. He honed his expertise through work on major infrastructure projects in Redditch and Hong Kong



before joining Tamar Crossings in 1997. During his first years, he played a pivotal role in keeping the Bridge operational during the strengthening and widening project - a global first, as the project was completed while the Bridge remained open to live traffic. This remarkable feat resulted in just 2% of traffic volume being lost during the works, earning the project multiple awards.

In his speech, David highlighted the unique nature of the infrastructure he managed, noting that the Torpoint Ferry is the largest chain ferry in the world. Reflecting on his time at Tamar Crossings, David expressed pride in building a strong, positive organisational culture. "What I'll miss most is the people - my team and the partners I've worked with over the years. While I'll no longer cross the Bridge for work, Tamar Crossings will always hold a special place in my heart."

NOMINATE YOUR COMMUNITY HEROES
Saltash Town Council Civic Awards 2024/25

Say thank you to someone in your community by nominating them for a Saltash Civic Award!

Award categories are

- Contribution to the Community
- Youth Achievement
- Lifetime Achievement
- Youth Group Leader Award
- Sporting Achievement Award
- Cultural Contribution Award

For more information on criteria and to nominate
www.saltash.gov.uk/civic-awards.php
Closing date Monday 3rd February
For further information call 01752 844846 or email mayors-secretary@saltash.gov.uk

Chamber Chairman Peter Ryland Keeping Us Updated

Well, what a shame we had to cancel the Christmas Festival but the risk with the weather was too great. Hopefully, those elements that either happened on the due date or a week later were enjoyed. I would like to thank all those involved, with a special mention to Chamber member Hilary Frank, who worked tirelessly to ensure that at least some elements of the event could take place.

2025 is upon us, and I am hopeful that it will be a joyous year with plenty happening in Fore Street as with my Town Team hat on we gained approval from Saltash Town Council for various matters to progress. The first of these is a trial run of monthly markets for six months from March. These will be held in and around the front of Superdrug and the end of Belle Vue Road.

Secondly, we hope to enhance Fore Street by increasing greenery with planters and more trees, while also improving the signage in and around the area. At the same time, we are trying to find a way for Cornwall Council to improve our pavements as there are many places where tree roots have broken through the pavement surface. We have suggested various low-cost solutions to the Council, which should fit within the budgetary restraints that exist but will still help to make the pavements safer.

The Chamber meeting on the 2nd December was relatively short as there was little to report as the works to the tunnel have been deferred until next year. Members' concerns regarding the future



of Newquay Airport have been acknowledged but Cornwall Council has been holding discussions in private so there was nothing in the public domain that could be discussed. One member raised the issue of the closure of many adventure parks in Cornwall, voicing concerns that it might diminish Cornwall's attractiveness as a holiday destination. Hilary Frank undertook to investigate whether Cornwall Council is taking any action.

And on a positive start to the New Year, two new members were approved. We look forward to welcoming them to our monthly meetings in 2025.

It has Been a Very Busy Year at Newell's Travel Saltash

Our team of three has expanded to four with the addition of Robyn who has an airline cabin crew background and events experience, so watch this space for more exciting presentations etc.

We have increased our destination knowledge with educational visits to East coast USA and Canada. Our own holidays have included skiing in Bulgaria, City breaks to Rome and Krakow, Croatia, Spain and Lanzarote. Faye has cruised around Portugal and Spain and Robyn has been on an Ambassador Cruise ship visit. Rachel has attended a family wedding in North Carolina and stopped in New York for a few days on the way home. Sarah attended her friend's wedding in Sorrento and went on a family golf holiday to Spain.

We continue to support the local community with presentations and stalls at local school fairs and events. We now have a monthly pop up shop in Callington Town Hall, please see our website or social media for more details.

Our Little Faye threw herself out of a plane in aid of Cornwall Air Ambulance and raised an amazing £922.

We recently went to our annual company conference in Gloucester and a wonderful time was had by all. Rachel received an award for 30 years' service.

We look forward to continuing to help the people of Saltash and surrounding areas with all their holiday requirements.



Please remember we have over sixty years of experience between us in the travel industry, so you are in safe hands. We can book package holidays, tailor made bespoke trips, tours, cruises, UK holidays, flight only and so much more. We also sell

Foreign Exchange and always have dollars and Euros in stock.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy New Year

Rachel, Sarah, Faye and Robyn

Memory Box

**'Do You Mind If I Sing'
Wednesdays
10:30am to 12:00pm**

At: Saltash Wesley Methodist Church
Callington Rd, Saltash PL12 6LA

For those affected by a
mild to moderate
cognitive impairment,
especially dementia.



www.cepl12.co.uk



Cotton's Taxis

EST 53 YEARS

01752 848484

WWW.SALTASHTAXIS.COM

COTTONS 16 SEATER

MINI COACHES 01752841300

MOVING ON REMOVALS

**PROFESSIONAL HOUSEHOLD
REMOVAL SERVICES**

Packing/Storage

Local & National Removals

Saltash 249318

Mob: 07411 589 903



THE BOOKSHELF

BOOKS | COFFEE | TEA | FOOD

Winter Warmers ...

Join us for...

Delicious Homemade Soups

Light Lunches &

A Selection of Delicious Cakes

**We have a Great Selection
of Books in Stock ...**

or we can

Order your choice of Books

**See our New Range of
Ravensburger & Gibsons Jigsaws
in Store Now**

— Gifts & Vouchers —

Cream Teas in Gift Boxes Available

Re-opening Thursday 2nd January 2025

**Wishing you all a Happy & Healthy Festive
Season from Tracey & the Team**

96 Fore St Saltash

Tel: 01752 845804

E:maryecrawford@hotmail.com

NOW OPEN

163 Fore Street, Saltash



Find out why people choose Archway and
read our reviews!



**Archway
DENTAL**

**01752
843680**

www.archwaydentalsurgery.co.uk

Invisalign

Children's dentistry

General Dentistry

Hygienist appointments

Smile Transformations

Gum treatments



LOVEFLOORING.UK

"LOVE THE FLOOR YOU WALK ON"

01752 907879

◆ **Domestic and
Commercial
Installations**

◆ **Measuring and
Estimating**

**INTERNET PRICES (or less) ACROSS A WIDE RANGE of
CARPETS, VINYL, LVT, UNDERLAY & ACCESSORIES**
Why pay more elsewhere?

AirLuxe
trade flooring supplies
☎ 01752 907760

floorsite.uk
THE HOME OF ELEGANT FLOORS
☎ 01752 840700

**now at Unit 5 Burley Court
Pillmere Drive / Callington Road
Saltash PL12 6FH**
*off Pillmere roundabout
by Domino's Pizza*



Essa Voices

Gold & Gaps

Every year in December, Japan chooses a Kanji of the Year. This tradition sees people voting for a single kanji (a character used in Japanese writing) that sums up the past twelve months. For 2024, the kanji 金, meaning 'gold' or 'money', came out on top. It recognised Japanese athletes bringing home gold medals from the Paris Olympics but also reflected ongoing political financial troubles. Wherever you look, money – or the lack of it – seems to be

a golden thread tying events together.

Across the world, money dominated political headlines in 2024. Consider Elon Musk's involvement in the US elections and his rumoured donations to Reform UK. Political donations from business leaders are nothing new here, though: two-thirds of all political donations in 2023 came from just 19 individuals. Businessman Frank Hester alone has donated over £20 million to the Conservative Party since 2023. It's enough to make you wonder whether democracy is for sale.

While money flows into the

coffers of political parties, local government faces a starkly different financial picture after years of chronic underfunding by successive governments. Cuts aimed at closing the budget gap are already biting: Cornwall Council announced 100 redundancies in the run-up to Christmas – a particularly cruel blow given the timing – and is planning to close Adult Education centres in seven Cornish towns, including Saltash. I've joined Saltash Town Council in protesting against the move, but the signs for avoiding this outcome are not encouraging.

Looking forward, there is some hope for increased income. From April 2025, Cornwall Council will be able to double council tax on second homes, thanks to new powers under the 2023 Levelling-up and Regeneration Act, which could generate an extra £25 million. It may also help address our housing crisis, freeing up homes for local families and bringing life back to 'ghost villages'.

The financial strain on Cornwall Council will continue to grow, however, with social care costs and school transport expenses heaping additional pressure on the budget. And the unexpected Employer National Insurance increase announced in the 2024 Autumn budget is projected to cost Cornwall Council an extra £2 million a year. Even with income from council tax and second-home premiums we're still looking at a gap of over £9 million.

So, while 金 may have been Japan's kanji for 2024, it could just as easily symbolise the financial balancing acts ahead for Cornwall in 2025. We'll need to face challenges and opportunities with the same focus and determination as athletes striving for medals if we want to deliver golden results.

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

Saltash Scrapstore & Too

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.

Donations & Sales

Bring your unwanted **STUFF** along to us!

We will make sure it is put to good use by recycling it.

Art * Sewing * Craft * Household

No clothes, shoes books (apart from craft books)

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

Do You...Need Art & Craft Supplies?

...Have a **Household Project** to tackle?

...Have **Youngsters** to Amuse?

Craft Kits - Card Making – Pine Cones

Tapestry Wool – Knitting Wools

Dressmaking and so much more

Partyware & Gifts Galore

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

Not a member yet? Come By & Join

£6 Annual Fee & Save 10% all on purchase

In Too

Closed Sunday 22nd December

Re-opening Monday 6th January 2025

New Year Clearance Sale

All Christmas Decorations & Goods

As well as Buttons & Beads

& more to come...

Lots of Amazing Bargains

Get in there early you don't want to miss them!!

We Wish a Happy & Healthy New Year to all of you from all of us

Donations of Small Electrical, Tools & DIY Welcome

We have a variety of Electrical & DIY items for sale - see our range on display

We have a regular and changing supply of Electrical items donated

All items are tested for electrical safety.

When donating electrical items please be aware that we can only accept items that are working and in good clean condition.

Items that are not clean are a health hazard to our staff and volunteers

Volunteers Required!!

A variety of roles to suit everyone.

No experience required.

Please Join us if you have a few hours to spare

SEE YOU SOON!

Please call in or

Contact the Scrapstore & Too

66 & 89 Fore Street Saltash or

Visit our Facebook Page Saltash Scrapstore

Recycling for our Future

Capacity No 1135508

Memory Café Christmas Party



Volunteers joined staff from MHA Communities Cornwall (formerly Saltash Live at Home) to bring festive cheer to the Memory Café Christmas party. Scheme Manager Liz Hewer (pictured centre) thanked children from Brunel School for coming along, and the pupils of Sir Robert Geffery's and Burraton schools for their thoughtful handmade gifts. Musical entertainment by Wreckers Border Morris added to the warm and welcoming atmosphere, reflecting the strong sense of care and community.

The Saltash Memory Café is run by MHA Communities Cornwall, and supports people living with dementia and their carers. It meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month, from 2 to 4 pm at Burraton Church. Sessions cost £2, and include a variety of activities such as arts, crafts, music, and exercise, tailored to suit everyone's needs.

Contact the Observer

M: 07971 484872 - E: maryecrawford@hotmail.com

Bridging the Tamar Volunteer Recruitment

The team at the Bridging the Tamar Visitor and Learning Centre is looking for new volunteers to support its education and engagement programme. The Centre, which has now been open for five years, has a range of opportunities for people to get involved. The small team of valued and dedicated volunteer Bridge Ambassadors are central to the day to day running of the Visitor and Learning Centre. The team operate a flexible approach – people can volunteer weekly if they prefer, or they can dip in and out to fit around their personal lives.

Entry to the Centre is free of charge and it is open from 10am to 4pm every day. The Ambassador position has various roles within it - Bridge Guides give guided tours, Welcome Hosts welcome groups for tours and school workshops, and Research and Archive Volunteers find out more about the histories of the bridges and the surrounding areas.

Introductory talks are led by volunteers on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings during the winter months. Guided tours onto the bridge are delivered to groups all year round. Public anchorage tours are popular, and volunteers deliver these too. All tours receive positive feedback from the public and are a great way to connect people to the heritage of the Tamar Bridge and Brunel's Royal Albert Bridge.

What's it like for volunteers?

According to the annual survey results from 2024, 100% of volunteers would recommend volunteering at Bridging the Tamar to other people.

"There's an incredible story to be told, covering both bridges. I get a great satisfaction from doing the talks and would encourage anyone to take part."

"Very welcoming organisation, made to feel all contributions are valued. Interesting fellow volunteers."

"Staff are supportive, and I always leave feeling glad I came!"

"I enjoy living where I do, and my family are historically linked to the river and it's past. Volunteering has broadened my local knowledge in an enjoyable way."

"I think the volunteer group is worked and run to a very high standard and I always feel part of the team and valued."

"The visitor centre and volunteers are well managed, and the atmosphere is friendly and engaging!"

"The attitude of the staff is positive and shows how they view the importance of their role. Always an enjoyable experience."

How can people apply?

Applications are being invited now and the main interviews take place in February 2025, with training and induction taking place during March and April (however people can apply all year round).

No prior knowledge of history or engineering is necessary, and the most important thing is that volunteers enjoy helping and meeting people from all walks of life.

If you feel you or someone you know could spare an hour or two a week helping the Visitor Centre the team is keen to hear from them. It is a great way to meet a range of interesting people, improving well-being, and having a positive impact on local communities.

If people are interested they can fill in an application form on <https://www.bridgingthetamar.org.uk/volunteering/> If they have any issues filling in this form or have any other queries they can contact Mark Tebbins on 01752 361577 or e-mail volunteer@tamarcrossings.org.uk



Photos Mary Crawford

Visitors Spellbound by Colourful Displays

The Saltash Ancient and Historic Church of St Nicholas & St Faith has once again been festooned with Christmas Trees over the Festive Season.

Bringing enjoyment and furthermore, a warm welcome to locals and visitors from far and wide. Almost 80 trees had been bedecked and strung with displays of colourful festive lights of every shade of the Winter Wonderland season.

The trees had been decorated by local and charitable organisations, together with local businesses and schools making the festival of trees yet another breath-taking and magical celebration of Yuletide.

Over the past 18 years, thousands of visitors have been spellbound by the colourful displays, together with the back drop of the beautiful Church interior, including the historic stained glass perpendicular windows, the beautiful Alter area and the exquisite barrel ceiling - giving the purposeful festive event the meaningful Christian tone of thanksgiving and goodwill to all.

Organisers of the Christmas Tree Festival on behalf of St Nicholas & St Faith Church, Leslie Stevens and Margaret Evans said: "As always, we have very much enjoyed organising this important event on the Saltash Christmas Calendar.

"The occasion not only raises much needed funds for the upkeep of the Church, but also gives great enjoyment to the local community, and moreover, offers a platform for local and charitable organisations to showcase their work in an unforgettable and Christian way."

Sue Hooper

Antiques & Jewellery Valuation Day

Thursday 16th January

Saltash Library

2pm - 4pm

For home visits please call
Richard Hamm
01208 813593



01392 413100

enquiries@bhandl.co.uk

www.bhandl.co.uk



Storm Darragh Disrupted Festival

But the Spirit of Christmas Shone Through

The bitter blast of Storm Darragh deprived Saltash of its eagerly awaited Christmas Festival, an event that welcomes the season of joy to the town each year. Yet the children of Saltash were determined not to miss the chance to celebrate and show off the Christmas lanterns they had created with such pride at workshops in the town's schools.



The Lantern Parade is traditionally a magnificent climax to a day that sees Fore Street lined with stalls, and the crowds come to share the seasonal spirit and support the traders. This year, sadly the small group of volunteers who had spent months working to organise a day of community fun had to take the hard decision to cancel as forecasts warned of near hurricane force winds that could endanger life as well as property. Saltash was not alone, as local radio stations throughout the Saturday reported a lengthening list of Christmas events throughout the South West that had been cancelled due to the severe weather.

Undeterred, many of the children who had made the 180 lanterns in Brunel, Bishop Cornish, Burraton and St Stephens schools braved the blustery conditions and gathered at Saltash Wesley Church for a hastily organised lantern display and carol service.

The service was led by Simon Thomas of Saltash Redeemer Church, and featured rousing carol singing accompanied by the Redeemer Church band. The congregation's favourite was clearly the moment when the church lights were dimmed, and illuminated by their lanterns, the children joined

together to sing O Little Town of Bethlehem.

Adding to the festive spirit, Saltash Community School brought their giant umbrella lantern, designed by 13-year-old student Faye Nicholls. The umbrella will feature in the school's forthcoming production of Mary Poppins Jr. Faye, along with teachers Lucy Sayer and Kayleigh Jones, was present to unveil the lantern, and cast members gave a glimpse of the pleasures ahead when they came up front to sing Jolly Holiday from the show.

At the start of the evening, Mayor Julia Peggs congratulated all who had created the lanterns, as well as thanking Rev. Johnathan Budd and the Wesley Church for hosting the carol service. She also announced the winner of the Chamber of Commerce Best Dressed Window, awarded to Eclectic Interiors, and the Children's Champion, which went to West Country Embroidery.

Although it was a low key

event in comparison to the traditional grand Parade, it was a very special evening for those who participated and attended, and the creativity of Saltash's community shone brightly.

Colin Bunting and the Tamar Trotters Running Club worked hard behind the scenes to reschedule the Santa Fun Run to the following weekend, and even though there were some cancellations more than 200 Santas made the 3km dash across the Tamar Bridge and back. The fireworks were relocated to the River Tamar that evening, drawing large numbers of people who enjoyed the spectacular display.

The reorganised events served as a heartwarming reminder that the spirit of Christmas lies in coming together to celebrate, support and inspire each another, even in the face of stormy challenges.

All photos by
Mary Crawford



- 1) The Stilt Lady looking very festive
- 2) Lantern holders brave the storm to join the service
- 3) Deputy Mayor Rachel Bullock wears mums Santa suit made in the 1960's
- 4 & 5) Families & friends dressed as Santas were out in force, making their way to the big run
- 6) Hundreds of Santas came out for the run to England
- 8) Baby Arlo showed his approval of the Christmas Tree event with a lovely smile
- 9) Sisters Caitlin and Emmy Lauder enjoyed joining in with the Carol singing



Mary Poppins will be held from 11th to 14th February, and tickets will be available via Piglets and Saltash Bookshelf as well as at the school.

Cast members above : Lowena, Amelia, Sarina, Barney, Joe, Charlie, Ellie, Adem, Emilia, (Faye, who designed the Giant umbrella) & Ruby



Volunteer with us as a Bridge Ambassador at the Tamar Bridge



Rewarding roles available at this special landmark

- Training Provided
- Friendly Supportive Team
- Roles Available - Welcome Host, Bridge Guide and Archive & Research Volunteer



01752 361577 • volunteer@tamarcrossings.org.uk
@bridgingthetamar • www.bridgingthetamar.org.uk

Sustainable Saltash

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

Before we know where we are, Christmas will be upon us and we will be looking forward to those few days that signify rest and celebration in the short days of winter. Almost before the last mince pie has been eaten, many of us turn our thoughts to New Year, with its resolutions and its high street sales. Clothing retailers in particular have always seen an uplift, but the number of items which end up discarded or unused has been very high in recent decades.

There are signs of change. Rising costs and constrained finances have coupled with growing awareness of the harm caused by the fashion industry. So how to face the New Year with head held high?

We have faced similar necessity in the past, albeit for different reasons. Older generations will recall being raised by parents that knew shortages and hardship over many years. There are lessons in their experience that are relevant now. Seventy years ago, a pamphlet entitled 'Make Do and Mend' was produced by the Board of Trade, aimed at helping readers to 'keep clothes looking trim as long as they have to last'. It is easily found online now and remains startlingly relevant. It is clear to see how it nurtured

thriftiness in a nation that needed it. Sounding familiar?

Some of the chapters focus on caring for clothes so they last longer (wear old things when you are just around the house, keep washing to a minimum, fold and hang properly). The remainder is dedicated to visible and invisible repairs and repurposing clothes. It is clear that the assumed level of knowledge is low, and the advice given is step-by-step.

Now to apply this in the early 21st century. As ever, the internet is a friend. A new generation has discovered this idea and run with it. Websites, blogs and YouTube videos abound. There is also a wealth of books available from libraries and bookshops.

I started about a year ago, darning the elbow in my favourite jumper. It was slow, but thoroughly satisfying. I have since changed zips in trousers, dyed jeans in the machine and sewn on more buttons than you can shake a stick at. Piglets on Fore Street has been absolutely brilliant, there's nothing they don't have. I also look at clothes in a new way. If I need something new, I am critical. Is it well made? Will it last? Will I be able to keep it this good?

Not only has this new skill been fun, but it gives me a sense of achievement.

Resourcefulness is motivating. So if you are thinking of a resolution for the New Year, why not take one small step and learn to mend something that you once loved, but has sat in a draw needing some small repair? Then in a few years, when it's had a good run and is finally worn out, you'll be able to justify something really special in that New Year sale.

Merry Christmas to all of you. **Marc Bramham**

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



Start the New Year
With a walk in your
Local Area with Family
and Friends
Shake off
those extra calories while
enjoying our
fabulous
surroundings

Local Book of walks & strolls for your leisure time
£4.99 Available at
The Bookshelf
Fore St Saltash

St Stephens-By-Saltash Church staged Nine Lessons and Carols Service



St Stephens Church was packed with members of the community to celebrate a special Christmas on December 11.

The Service featured the East Cornwall Bach Choir conducted by Simon Dunbavand.

Special guests were the children of Bishop Cornish Church of England VE Primary School.

It was a most moving Service with readings from prophetic works and Gospels of Genesis and interspersed with popular mainly ancient Carols.

The programme commenced with the community singing Once in Royal David City – Bidding and Lord's Prayer.

There were nine lessons read by members of the congregation and the Bach Choir – with a group of children from the school alternating lines from one of the lessons.

Of the ancient Carols sung – which included – Christmas

Night, O Little Town of Bethlehem, Still, Still, Still, Hail! Blessed Virgin Mary, Silent Night, While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks and We Three Kings of Orient Are the children sang Earth Lies Spellbound.

A most touching Carol which took me by surprise was when the Choir sang the beautiful Sans Day Carol – which my dear friend for over 45 years, the late Edward Jacobs composed when he was a music teacher at Burraton CP Primary School – which I believe that the school sings every year at their own Carol Service.

The beautiful Service finished with The Blessing given by Saltash Priest-in-Charge Revd. Laura Bushell Hawke – with the Community singing the final Carol – Hark! The Herald-Angels Sing.

Sue Hooper
(photo Helen Reid)

End of Another Year!

Christmas can end up being far more stressful and challenging rather than the celebration it is meant to be, so here's a few thoughts to lift your spirits.

Be thankful

Even if it's for the smallest things, try to find reasons to be grateful – I can think of so many individuals and organisations in Saltash who put themselves out for this wonderful community we are privileged to live in. I'm tempted to list them here, but there are so many and I know I would miss someone out so I am not going to even try, but thank you to you all for the contribution you make. Try and find someone yourself to say thank you to!

Be kind

In a world where there's a lot of angst, it's easy to criticise and moan, but how about flipping the coin and fill your conversations and online posts with positive comments and kindness to others? You might well get more back than you give!

Be hopeful

Constructive criticism may have its place, but can often be used as a mask, so how about looking on the bright side of life for a while at least and live in hope? If you're in a dark place personally, please don't give up – even in the darkest tunnel, there will be light at the end!

Be generous

Giving to others has the tendency of being rewarded in ways you can never imagine. You'll feel good about it yourself and be an unimaginable encouragement to other people. In fact, from personal

experience, I would suggest you will probably get far more back yourself than you ever gave out in the first place. Try it! I love gardening and life can be like a seed – plant one seed and you never get just one back, you are blessed with a whole plant, whether flowers, fruit or veg. So here's my end of year / new year challenge to you all... plant seeds of appreciation, kindness, hope and generosity where you can and see what comes of it – you might be surprised!

I am still here to give a helping hand with debts and budgeting to any who might need it, so feel free to get in touch – timsquires@capuk.org – and I wish you all a lovely Christmas and prosperous 2025.

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

Do you Like to Walk?
Get Your Daily Exercise
Responsible Persons
Required
To Deliver Monthly
“The Saltash & District
Observer”
Saltash Areas
Only apply if you are very
enthusiastic
Call Mary Crawford on
M: 07971 484872
Tel: 01579 345699
Or email details to:
maryecrawford@hotmail.com

J. HALL General Builders

All Aspects of Building Work

Interior & Exterior – Property Maintenance
Internal Thermal Boarding - Exterior Cladding
Fascias & Soffits - Decorating & Plastering
Renovations & Refurbishments

Over 30 Years Experience

Free Quotes All Work Guaranteed No Vat

Call Julian on

T: 01752 842585 M: 07525 942 662

jhall2@virginmedia.com

The Computer Man

Saltash Based - Friendly Advice

With 15 years experience on all aspects of computing including:

- Virus Removal ● Broadband Installation ● Upgrades
- Wireless and Internet Problems ● Desktop and Laptop Repairs ● Home Visits

Andrew Watts

07751 154 759



WINDOW CLEANING
SOFTWASH
GUTTER CLEANING

Find us on

07791903537
tjscleaningservices.net
tjsclean@outlook.com

Domestic
Commercial
Industrial
Testing & Inspection

Tel: 07795 664 158

E: jr.electrical95@gmail.com

JR electrical



20% off Your
First Bill
***with this flyer**

Your Taxes, Simplified

Understanding the ins and outs of the tax system can be tricky, but no need to worry because we have dedicated experts in place to help you get a better understanding.

Accounting and Bookkeeping

We can replace your back office with accounting and bookkeeping support. When it comes to complex issues, rely on us.

Your Business is Ours

We developed strategies for both business and individual clients. And we work hard and long hours when they need us – even after tax season. So let us tackle your most pressing financial issues.

Contact Us
07407 225702
Rhys@aclassaccountancy.com
www.aiclassaccountancy.com

Opening Hours
Mon-Fri 9am-5pm
Saturdays By Appointment
Sundays Closed

PRIDE & JOY

The Home and Garden Maintenance Team

Our services include:

hedge & shrub maintenance - weeding - tree work
lawn care and grass cutting - creation of flower or veggie beds
trellis work - shed and greenhouse work - general garden tidying
pond care - fencing & gates - patios and decking
Call NOW to discuss your needs - We can help! One-off or regular service

01752 961639 / 07773339470

www.prideandjoy-homeandgarden.co.uk

ourprideandjoy@btinternet.com



Cambelt Replacement Specialists

Hybrid Accredited

Tel: 01752
849449

E: dbautosltd@yahoo.co.uk

W: www.dalebrettautos.co.uk

DB Autos 8 - 9 Gilston Road,
Saltash Cornwall PL12 6TW

DB
AUTOS LTD

M.O.T. /M.O.T. Repairs

Engine Remapping
Clutches & Brakes

Diagnostic Test

Head Gaskets

Servicing

Van Hire

Car Sales

Courtesy Cars & Vans



Tamar Reflections



A Stitch Back in Time

Saltash has a rich history - and in one form or other has been duly recorded – mainly in history books and periodicals of reliable repute.

That said, Saltash also boasts an astonishing historic pictorial reflection chronicled in embroideries going back 2000 years, which is exhibited in the Long Room of the Saltash Guildhall.

The Chronicles of Saltash's bold prehistories to the modern day are quite extraordinary and were the conceptional brain child of Andrew Tritton a past resident of Saltash.

The Saltash Chronicles Embroideries

Andrew's love of embroidery has been well documented and goes back to his time serving in the Royal Navy to pass away the time at sea.

Andrew began his idea of the Saltash Chronicles back in 2012 when he spent a year producing a conceptual 2/3 size embroidered panel to present to various artisan groups and Saltash Town Council to see what interest there would be and to indeed to attract the funding needed to further develop his idea.

In a couple of years Andrew had attracted many skilled volunteers with an eventual team of 26 embroiderers working to transform drawings produced by local artists' groups

into a beautiful and intriguing work of outstanding historic craftsmanship.

The hanging Chronicles are trebly spaced along the whole length of the West wall of the Long Room – and are made of linen from Scotland and the majority of the embroidery wools are from Bayeux Broderie in France.

Andrew was delighted that members of the local community and organisations, together with children from local schools and youth groups designed the pictures, emblems and logos for the borders and quarters.

By 2016 there were 27 embroidered panels, which took up to 500 hours each to complete, they were all sewn together to produce a colourful panorama and over 100 feet in length at that time – of which more panels and footage has since been added.

The embroideries were first exhibited at the Saltash Baptist Church, but more recently transferred to the Saltash Guildhall – the project received initial part funding from the Saltash Town Council, Caradon Area Community Fund and many generous donations from the public.

Embroidered Panels

The embroidered panels reflects periods in Saltash's history starting with (prehistory) Esse/ The Ash tree over the water and a supporting booklet gives a more detailed history of events depicted within the panels.

More panels record early times including – the Stone-age, the Romans, the Anglo Saxons, the Battle of Hastings (1066) and of the Cornish rebellion of 1070 caused by William the Conqueror who ordered construction of castles in the area – (The Manor of Trematon (Trematon Castle) by William's half-brother Robert the Count of Mortain, being one of them.)

St Stephens Church majestically features, built by ceded Richard de Valletort when he founded a Borough in the vicinity of Trematon Castle.

The revival of the tin mining industry after the succession of Henry 11 in 1154 resulted in Saltash developing as a major port exporting tin which is so beautifully sewn into the chronicles.

New Saltash Borough, Chapel and Market Place Established

Around 1190 de Valletort established a new Borough on what is now recognisable as the Saltash Waterside - which eventually resulted in the building of a chapel we now celebrate as St Nicholas and St Faith Church, and a nearby Market square was also part of de Valletort's work.

Saltash Waves Goodbye as Craig Takes his Final Journey

Saltash still mourns the sad passing of one of its most colourful celebrity residents, former BBC Weatherman of 25 years, Craig Rich. Craig was the BBC's longest serving weather presenter who retired in 2003 to enjoy many more of his leisurely pursuits such as travel, sailing and golf; and to spend more time with his close family.

13th – 14th Centuries

Two Saltash Tidal Mills of 1296 as part of the Trematon Manor are colourfully placed – so too, the Seal of Saltash's first Charter of approx. 1225.

By the 14th Century there was a town quay with a ship yard in the area. There were fish and oysters' storage areas and working fishermen and ferrymen cottages – these images are too mirrored in the panels.

Also imaged within the chronicles and reflecting the 14th Century (1337) when Edward 111 created the Duchy of Cornwall for his eldest son Edward. Because of the colour of his armour, Prince Edward, Duke of Cornwall (and later, the Prince of Wales), became known as the Black Prince).

In accordance to Andrew Tritton's most informative chronicle booklet - in the same Century Saltash developed as a port, the first to be established on the system of estuaries reaching inland from Plymouth Sound. The town boasted a safe deep-water anchorage for large ships at all states of the tide. By the turn of the Century Saltash ships were making long voyages to many destinations and were exploring and fishing Newfoundland waters and beyond.

Former Mayor of Saltash, Sue Hooper and personal friend said of Craig: "Craig was special

Craig passed away peacefully at the age of 86 on December 1 leaving behind wife Pat and their three children Jo, Sarah and Thomas, and his grandchildren.

Craig was a very talented and intelligent man whose successful career also saw him take on the role of head of Department of Shipping and Transport at Plymouth Polytechnic, as a lecturer and tutor.

He was also a trusted adviser to the Sunday Times for the Round of World Yacht Race.

Craig's early career was in the merchant navy where he went on to captain ships around the world, mainly sailing between South Africa and the UK.

On his retirement in 2003 Craig reflected upon his life-changing quarter of a century of presenting the weather and moreover on the stories of the Fastnet Race tragedy of 1979 and the Penlee Life Boat disaster of 1981. He also mirrored the highlights of his time such as interviewing the Princess Royal on HMS Nottingham at the start of the Tall Ships Race, and a programme from Ypres on the 80th anniversary of the Armistice.

Former Mayor of Saltash, Sue Hooper and personal friend said of Craig: "Craig was special

Interested in Becoming a Councillor?

Cornwall needs people from different backgrounds to stand to become a Councillor. The qualities you need are a desire and passion to make a difference and improve the community you represent.

If you are passionate about your local community, we need you. Councillors make a huge difference to the quality of life for local people. We need people from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect the whole of Cornwall to stand for election.

Cornwall Council has 87 electoral divisions and there is a Councillor for each one.

If you are Interested
Join us on Saturday, 18th January at County Hall, Truro, for our Councillor Fair!

Learn what it's like to be a councillor, ask questions to those already in the role, and meet political groups to hear about their work first-hand.
Book your place - https://orlo.uk/Be_a_Councillor_LK5W6



to all of us that knew and befriended him around and about Saltash and further afield.

"Craig would stop and have a friendly chat with us all, and the many hundreds of tributes of respect and admiration within the Media, Facebook and Social platforms underpinned the strong

feelings of high esteem felt towards him.

"Many thousands of viewers of BBC Spotlight, I feel sure will always fondly remember Craig's 'farewell' wave at the end of his weather forecast presentations over 25 years - Saltash now waves back to Craig on this, his final journey."

Carl's Taxi

Local Trips & Airport Service

Inc: Exeter - Heathrow – Gatwick

E: office@carlstaxi.com

Mob: 07539 378 703

Station Garage

Est 1984



MOT Testing Station INC MOT & SERVICE REMINDER FOR NEXT MOT & FUTURE SERVICING

FREE RE-TEST



MOTOR INDUSTRY CODE OF PRACTICE
Service and Repair

RAC
Accredited Repairer

APPROVED CODE
TRADINGSTANDARDS.CO.UK



Brakes



Repairs & Servicing all Makes



Air Conditioning



Engine Management Lights



Timing/Cambelt Kits



Tyres & Tracking

Tel: 01752 844916
36 Culver Rd Saltash PL12 4DR



EST. 1994 FAMILY RUN BUSINESS

MOT'S JUST £45

TYRES

SERVICING FROM £69.99

EXHAUSTS

DIAGNOSTICS

CAR SALES

Tel: 01752 841455
www.bmmotorssaltash.co.uk

Find us at: 2 Brunel Road, Saltash, Cornwall PL12 6LF



Edwards Automotive Car Sales Servicing

All Mechanical Work undertaken Scratch Repairs

Tel: 07961 658 750

90 St Stephens Rd Saltash PL12 4BL

www.edwardsautomotive.co.uk

Just Thinking Aloud

This could be fun. Editor Mary wants this month's mental meanderings to be with her and the team quite early in the month, so that your Observer can hopefully be out before next year. Well, it's a bit early to start making Christmas noises for heaven's sake. As I pound my computer keys we're still in Advent – and it's certainly much too soon for me to gaze into my crystal ball. So where does that leave me? Praying for inspiration. Result? Something which concentrates on Saltash in a positive way, looking at past and future.

By next summer I will have been involved in our town for half a century, and have nothing but unstinted admiration for the folk who year in year out selflessly give of themselves for the benefit of our community, enhancing the quality of our togetherness. They have integrity, they care, they not only say that they will do something – they actually do it – and communal life here is the better for it. You cannot put your hand on your heart and say that life here is boring. On the contrary, there are almost too many activities from which to choose!

The town library's year has been a tad different. For some time library aficionados such as your scribbler have been obliged to relocate to the

Guildhall, though I understand that I shall very soon be able to resume my former walk to the library proper on what used to be called the cinderpath. I have enjoyed the temporary relocation. All involved have done a sterling job, and deserve our thanks. At the same time, I need to remind you of St Luke's Hospice shop on Fore St – pleasant staff and good quality second-hand paperbacks at 3 for £2, proceeds to the hospice, one of the most worthy causes we can think of in these contentious times...

I really don't want to venture into matters of a politico-controversial nature there's enough of that about without me adding my two penny worth. However, that said, I regard it as my democratic duty to remind you of electoral happenings which will take place on Thursday 1st May, so merely a few months away. Seats available for Saltashers will be for the county and the town. The importance of local elections is a hobbyhorse of mine. I make no apology for returning to it. National elections produce voter turnouts usually in excess of 70%. Local elections? They might exceed 30% turnout, which is shameful. Now then, in the House of Commons – except on very rare occasions such as the recent vote on what I insist on calling assisted suicide MPs are normally subject to something called "the whip". This means that they have to do as they are told, whatever they might

Age Concern Christmas Party



Almost enjoyable time was had by all who attended the annual Saltash Age Concern Christmas party which was recently held at the Burraton Community Centre.

The Yuletide event was principally organised by sisters, Diane Shann, Mary Grant and Toni Gorton (Toni being the head cook!) – Together with a band of the usual volunteers and supporters.

In plenty there was a Christmas themed buffet provided by Julie Turner Catering and the music was staged by husband and wife team, Country Jack (Jack and Hilary Rossiter).

Members and guests danced to the old familiar Christmas favourites and songs of yesteryear, with some folks in their nineties on the dance floor.

Special guests were the Mayor of Saltash Councillor Julia Peggs and Sue and John Hooper – who have both supported Age Concern over many decades.

personally feel, because they are subject to "party discipline". No such nonsense on Saltash Town Council, my treasures. Whatever their personal politics, our councillors seem to understand properly democratic debate and action.

Bob Munro

Traditional Christmas Pudding for Old Cornwall Members

A wonderful Festive Christmas gathering was enjoyed by all who attended the Saltash Old Cornwall Society's annual Christmas luncheon and party, held at the Burraton Methodist Church on December 9.

Over 25 Cornwall Society members were present from Saltash, Callington and Torpoint - they were all served with a roast turkey lunch with all the trimmings, followed by Christmas pudding and custard with a trifle option.

The Christmas luncheon was prepared and cooked by Saltash's own chef in chief, Toni Gorton and served by Toni's two Sisters, Diane Shann and Mary Grant; with jovial help from Society Secretary Martin Lister – Margaret Gwynn served the fruit punch.

After their lunch, members were tested with a Cornish themed quiz devised and delivered as usual by Martin. Martin also led the group Carol Singing.

The wonderful afternoon finished with the enthusiastic rendition of Trelawney.

Kernow Goth or Old Cornwall is a movement with a mission. Its members have the broad and inclusive aims of preserving and recording Cornwall's threatened traditions. Its unique culture, language and dialect, and of caring for the environment, and promoting public awareness of these traditions. In existence for over 100 years, it has spread across the length and breadth of Cornwall, and is working to establish links with other like-minded groups.

Pete's Point of View

So here we are at the end of another year and I have to confess that the older I get, the quicker the years fly by. But I also seem to get busier as time progresses. People do ask me as to when I'm going to retire, but the answer has to be that I will do so when the time feels right. To me, age is just a mindset, although I must confess that on a recent trip to Amsterdam, I became a little concerned that on two occasions when boarding a tram, young ladies stood up and offered me their seats. I was touched by the kindness and consideration, but also filled with the inevitability of the aging process.

On the subject of age, the Rotary Club of Saltash is celebrating 65 years since inception in 1959. This was marked by a well-attended celebratory lunch at St. Mellion, with some notable guests mingling with current and former Rotarians, together with their families and friends. None of the founding members of Saltash Rotary are still amongst us, but I would like to think that they might be looking down upon us with approval of how the Club has developed and thrived.

It is good to know that as an organisation, Saltash Rotary Club is well recognised in the local community, both for our fund raising and our work within the local area. Santa has been out and about with his sleigh and his helpers, raising those necessary funds which

Voice of Saltash Patients Healthwise Physical Activity Referral

A message from the Patient Participation Groups at Saltash Health Centre and Port View surgeries Did you know that Better, the company which runs Saltash Leisure Centre, offer reduced fee membership with a GP referral?

If you would like help improving, managing or preventing health conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, depression, your doctor may be able to refer you to the Leisure Centre for a 12-week programme which includes one-on-one assessment, a tailored activity plan and help with behavioural changes for a lasting impact.

If you have suffered a

enable us to continue with our projects. Without the generosity of local people, we simply could not do what we currently achieve.

Saltash Rotary is actively looking for new members from all walks of life. People who can spare a few hours to give back to the local community, they may have a particular talent or skill or they simply may have enthusiasm. If this sounds like you, why not get in touch with the Club to find out more, via email to rotaryclubsaltash@gmail.com

May I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I'll be back next month, but in the meantime do take care and stay safe.

Pete Samuels.

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

cardiac event, they offer a Level 4 cardiac rehabilitation scheme which will help you to develop the lifestyle behaviours needed for a smoother recovery, including eating habits and stress management techniques.

The referral scheme has achieved amazing results for local patients. Physical activity and behavioural changes can make a huge difference with so many conditions. They can also prevent health issues that may arise due to physical inactivity and/or being overweight. In a recent study, physical activity was shown to be the most important factor for sustained good health:

<https://www.outsideonline.com/health/training-performance/movement-key-to-living-longer/>

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Steve Fenney, Healthwise Coordinator at Saltash Leisure Centre, on 07766 712770 to explore your options. Steve will be able to carry out the initial paperwork to secure the GP referral. This system has been set up to avoid putting more pressure on our surgeries so PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT YOUR SURGERY for information.

When you help yourself to a healthier life, you are also helping the NHS.



BRYONY HINE

exp UK

INDEPENDENT ESTATE AGENT

THINKING OF SELLING?
CONTACT ME FOR YOUR FREE,
NO OBLIGATION VALUATION!

- OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
- ZERO WEEK CONTRACT
- NO UPFRONT FEES
- BESPOKE SERVICE

01752 916112

bryony.hine@exp.uk.com

www.bryonyhine.exp.uk.com





Here to help you, 24 hours a day 7 days a week

Pengelly
Funeral Service

01752 84 88 38 • www.wcpltd.com
139 Fore Street, Saltash, PL12 6AB

FIND YOUR NEXT CAR HERE!

LOCALLY TRUSTED FOR OVER 40 YEARS
GOOGLE US - R&S MOTORS



R&S MOTORS 

rsmotorssaltash.co.uk