



SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

February 2011 - Issue 223

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MONA TOMASZEWSKA-HONYWILL – TWICE MAYOR – A TRUE CORNISHWOMAN 1927 - 2011

A lady who rejoiced in every aspect of Saltash where she and her forebears were raised, who cried with joy when unanimously selected as Mayor for the millennium year and who famously greeted Prince Andrew in Saltash as 'My 'andsome,' was remembered and mourned in a packed St Stephens Church where she had been christened, married and celebrated her second inauguration as Town Mayor.

Mona Tomaszewska-Honywill is not an especially Cornish sounding name for one who could trace her local ancestry back over the centuries. In fact Mona was born a 'Nancarrow' at Lynher House, Burraton Coombe, her grandfather having come up from Grampound Road to run the tannery in the grounds of which Mona continued to live until her final illness. Her earliest memories were of the tannery and the adjacent market garden run by her family and of playing in the lanes and fields around. A few may still remember bringing down animal bones of Saturday mornings for her father to grind for a halfpenny, while other

might ask her mother for 'a dip in the jam' of a baby brother's dummy, usually then to be given the whole jar. "They would do anything for anybody," Mona recalled of her parents half a century later, and she clearly inherited this generosity of spirit.

Mona attended St Stephens, then Saltash County Secondary School, a re-union of whose pupils was to bring her the happiness of her second marriage after years of widowhood. Having left school aged 15 during the dark days of war, she worked first as a nurse for evacuated children in the Forest of Dean, at Plymouth's Greenbank Hospital, then as a nanny to a

Jewish refugee doctor's family, in London.

Back in Saltash on Holiday, Mona chanced to meet two lonely homesick Polish sailors and invited them back to her parents' ever welcoming home. One, Franciszek Tomaszewski, was to become her husband in 1948 during the last wedding ceremony to be performed by Father Carey in the blitzed Roman Catholic Church at Port View. After living together in a Polish camp in Somerset, they returned to Saltash where their only child Clifford was born. Mona was to devote a quarter of a century walking the wards of her beloved St Barnabas Hospital as night nurse, known to one and all as "Tommy."

Already an active member of many of the Town's numerous organisations and societies she still found time to join the Town Council as independent member in 1990.

Her Polish husband died after a long illness in 1978 and it was while attending a Saltash County School reunion that she recognised "childhood sweetheart" John Honywill. As they talked at Saltash Music Festival in 1992 romance blossomed.

The year 1993-94 was a significant one for Mona, she achieved the pinnacle of pleasure in serving as Mayor of her beloved Saltash, and, in April, became the only Mayor in recent history

to marry while in office.

The bells of St Stephens rang out for her, as they did again in 1999 when she chose her home church as venue for her inauguration as millennium Mayor. At that time Councillor Eric Lewis proposed her as 'one who is Saltash through and through' and seconding her Councillor Sue Hooper MBE spoke of Mona as "unique in her generosity not only in time given to others but to supporting every function in the Town."

The societies, schools and other organisations to which Mona gave active support, many as chairman or governor, are legion. Her husband John counted to twenty-nine at one time and then gave up. So many indeed, that it could be invidious of us to select from so many which gave her equal delight and to which she gave so much. Having retired from the Town Council none more than Mona deserved the Freedom of Saltash awarded to her on her 81st birthday in 2008 by Mayor Derek Holley describing her as a person "exceptionally meritorious in public life."

Sadly by then her health was deteriorating. Her husband John nursed her devotedly at their Burraton Coombe home until she moved just up the road to The Elms Nursing Home where she died aged 83.

Her funeral, in St Stephens Church which had meant so much to her through her life was conducted by the Rev Alan Butler. A packed congregation included the Mayor and Mayoress with many other councillors and representatives from the organisations which she had supported during her long and active life of service to Saltash. As Mona's coffin was borne out, draped in the Cornish flag, to an organ voluntary of



'Trelawney' an era in Saltash history seemed ended.

We on the Saltash Observer remember Mona as a good, loyal and fun-loving friend. Mary and Martin's condolences

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and good wishes go to son Clifford, grandson Stephen and above all to her widower John.

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CORNWALL COUNCIL
 & our PL12 Community
 For: Observer readers
 From: Councillor Bob Austin
 Essa Ward, Saltash



Grit Bins & Road Saltings
 What a month December was for weather here in Saltash - the worst in how many years? There have been many concerns over the usage of the bins and the distribution of salt over the cold spell, many of which I have sympathy with. One of them (and it was the same as I reported last year) is that no matter how much grit Cornwall Council put in the bins, it is still being used to service people's private drives. Therefore when it comes to the time it is required for the roads, the grit has disappeared. It was reported this year that there was a certain white pickup truck following the Cornwall Council lorry which was refilling the bins. The occupants of the truck were then stealing the grit. This cannot go on - the police are already looking at this case but unfortunately no one seems to have collected the registration number of the vehicle. As a consequence to this Cornwall Council have refused to refill. The Town Council are now negotiating with the unitary council on the way forward.

Cornwall's Budget
 The budget settlement is now becoming clearer, although it is still very complex, as you will probably appreciate. In December the council decided that, with the information received from Government, they wanted to come up with a pre budget plan so that we could judge the amount of savings that had to be made over the next four years. In my last report I stated that we had to save around £170 million. Most of you will appreciate that the majority of

the Council's income is from the Government Formula Grant Relative Needs e.g. population, road length, child & adult care, housing + Council Tax and it is the very complicated, but now we have much more information it is becoming more obvious that the council was quite close with its pre budget estimate over the next two years of a reduction of 16.4% compared to last year's income.

As part of the devolution arrangements the unitary council is also being asked to take on extra responsibilities e.g. Inshore fisheries, new lead in flooding, carbon reduction tax - also we have lost the coast line protection grant amongst others.

Rubbish Collections
 The council has been working hard trying to rationalise the amalgamation of the six district's ways of collecting rubbish to a unified plan which will make it more efficient. This, as you would imagine, is a mammoth task - six districts all with different contractors, different collection frequencies, bags, bins etc etc.

The officers also had to take into consideration the cost of the landfill tax which in future is increasing at a horrendous rate and the amount of recycling. This is one thing that Cornwall is getting really good at and now we are recycling more than we are putting into landfill (I noticed that Saltash's figure was 56.4% when I went to the recycling centre last weekend) therefore the tide is turning and we need to put more of an effort into collecting recycling than landfill collection. The

K3 YOUNG PEOPLE'S CENTRE - LONDON TRIP

The Youth Hostel Association (YHA) run Community Spirit Camps to bring young people together from different, faiths, ethnic, social and gender backgrounds to interact and learn about each other to break down prejudice and misunderstanding. Body copy: It also enables young people to share their experiences and perspectives of life in their communities in order to promote a sense of community 'belonging'; Our camp took place at the YHA Thameside, with

officers have produced several options which will be presented to Cabinet. There will be a consultation form probably coming with your next council tax bill to give you the opportunity to have your say on the alternatives.

Library service cuts
 The council has to reduce the current library opening hours to achieve a £47,000 saving between February and April 2011. Libraries are required to operate from a significantly reduced budget in 2011-12. The net library budget will be reduced from £4.264 million 2010/11 to £3.526 million (2011-2012)

This will mean that all the libraries in the same banding as Saltash will have to reduce their opening hours by 9.5 hours per week. The finer details are yet to be decided on how and when these hours will be cut, but it will probably mean that it will have to close for one day a week as well as Sundays.



river Thames. Our theme for the camp was respecting other people's rights, the effects of anti-social behaviour and equality and diversity, three very important topics that are included as a part of youth work sessions. Our young people had to discuss and address these topics whilst on residential, supported by the workers.

We took ten young people from Saltash and surrounding villages to London. On arrival, after a five hour journey, we checked into our rooms and then took the tube to Waterloo Bridge Underground Station. Following a short walk we had a flight on the London Eye to see a bird's eye view of the capital and a spectacular sunset over London. We then returned to Thameside for dinner and our workshop on respecting other peoples' rights.

After breakfast on day two we went to the amazing London Dungeon to see and learn about the history of London from the plague, great fire and infamous villains through the ages. That evening we all went to the Dominion Theatre to see the wonderful 'We Will Rock You' show.

This was an outstanding opportunity for the young

people to experience London at night, navigate the London Underground, see a first class musical and enjoy a great time with their mates. The whole weekend cost each young person only £10.

If you're between the ages of 13 and 19 and want to take part in visits like this, come to evening drop-in sessions or enquire about our daytime and evening services to young people in the community, please contact us on 01752 842586.

TRAIN FARE REDUCED

Whilst all around prices are rising, especially when it comes to getting around, it is great to hear that rail fares for Saltash passengers travelling to Plymouth have fallen.

Now, the adult day return fare for those travelling between Saltash and Plymouth in either direction before 09:00 has come down from £3.20 to £2.60. A weekly ticket is now just £8.00. The move comes after Saltash Rail Users Group and the Town Council made a joint approach to First Great Western to ask them to reduce the fare on the most popular route. David Yates, chair of the Town Councils Transport Committee said "We welcome the move and hope that it brings some relief to commuters that can use the train service". For the Rail Users Group, Richard Bickford commented that "We hope that even more people will now discover that the train can be a reliable and much cheaper alternative, especially at this time of escalating fuel costs". The reduction means that the fare on the Saltash to Plymouth route is now the same as it was in 2006. Passenger numbers using Saltash station have doubled in the same period. For more information contact the Saltash Rail Users Group on 841119 or email secretary@srug.org.uk

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POLICE CHANGES FOR TOWN

Cuts in police budgets mean closure of the public counter in Saltash Police Station and various changes to administration of local policing. A full cover for the Town will be maintained however, Sergeant Andy Dunstan assured the Town Council.

Saltash Police Station is one of a number in the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary area which will no longer maintain public access. Instead those wishing to report a matter or speak to an officer will have to call 999 in an emergency or, in a less urgent matter phone the police switchboard 08452 777444 number. This can entail being put in a queue for long periods of time at one's own expense at peak times, Sergeant Dunstan accepted, though switchboard staff have been boosted to try to deal with the problem. Alternatively the telephone outside the police station, currently used out of opening hours, will still be available with a direct contact line. The public can then ask to speak to a local officer or arrange a meeting with one. It is not as yet certain when the public counter will close.

Already Saltash has been

placed within a newly enlarged East Cornwall Police Area under Superintendent Julie Whitmarsh. Changes to personnel, including compulsory early retirement and rearrangement of patrol organisation may effect the town but such changes are yet to be established.

Meanwhile, the good news was that crime in Saltash over the month including Christmas and New Year was down by almost a half against last year.

Total reported crimes were down to 44 as against 87, with no burglaries reported, three thefts from vehicles and eight to damaged vehicles.

The ice and snow were even better than "PC Rain" in keeping crime down, reported Sergeant Dunstan, and even the New Year was comparatively quiet despite the snow having disappeared by then.

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FROM THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR...

I would like to begin this column by paying tribute to Mona Tomaszewska-Honywill who sadly passed away in January. Mona served the town with great distinction, most notably as Town Mayor twice and as Chairman of the St Baranabus League of Friends. In recent years she was made a Freeman of the Town and was much admired by the whole community.

At Mona's funeral virtually every organisation in the town was represented, perhaps unsurprisingly as she was involved with most of them.

This month I have several good causes to mention. I have now chosen a charity as the main beneficiary for my Mayor's Ball and other fundraising – the Saltash First Responders. This very dedicated group of volunteers are often the first on the scene at a medical emergency, before the ambulance can arrive, giving patients vital extra minutes. They are looking to purchase more equipment, including defibrillators, to enable them to provide 24 hour cover.

The Mayor's Charity Ball itself will be held on 5th March - St Piran's Day. Given the Cornish Boundary threat this year it seemed particularly appropriate to celebrate our Cornishness, and the China Fleet, with some very kind sponsorship assistance from St Austell Brewery, will be catering with wonderful local food. Tickets can be purchased at the Guildhall although they are fast selling out!

Also in the name of charity, in late March I will be jumping out of a plane attached to a Red Devil. I bought this opportunity in Cllr Sue Hooper's charity auction last year to raise money for Help4Heroes, and would like to use it to also raise money for the First Responders through sponsorship. I have a sponsor form on the Guildhall notice board, and all sponsorship offers would be most welcome.

Another splendid, and new to Saltash, cause I would like to mention is that the Saltash Royal British Legion are looking to set up a Saltash Women's Section, for which they need 15 founder members. We are all aware of the splendid work that the Legion does, and anyone interested should contact Geraldine Gardner.

This month Merryn and I have attended the Saltash University of the Third Age (U3A) Showcase at the Guildhall, the Babcock Marine Recognition Evening, the 103rd Birthday of Mrs. Philipps at Marray House, the Opening of the Saltash Music, Speech and Drama Festival and their Mayor's Drama Event. I also took the Civic Regalia into saltash.net to speak to the Year 11 Vocational

Pathway about being Mayor, the Regalia, and what the council is up to. Finally I chaired the Second Meeting of the Mayor's Panel of Youth, on the theme of anti-social behaviour, which the police very kindly attended and contributed to.

A couple of other things I have been working with others on this month are Cornwall Council's 'Saltash Town Framework' – looking at planning for the future development of Saltash; the Town Council budget and options for helping to move forward the redevelopment of Saltash Station. I have also set up a small group to look at an event to mark the 70th Anniversary of the Saltash Fire-fighters killed in Plymouth during the Second World War – the anniversary is on April 23rd (Good Friday), and we are looking to have an event to mark it around that date – hopefully an open day and service of remembrance at the Fire Station. The idea of marking the occasion was suggested by Barry Brooking, who is a descendant of one of the men involved, and Saltash Heritage, Saltash Fire Station and Saltash Royal British Legion are all involved.

The final thing to mention this month is that the Keep Cornwall Whole campaign continues in the House of Lords – Robin, Lord Teverson, is very kindly battling Cornwall's end there along with other Cornish Lords and we are giving him all the back-up we can. Whilst the campaign, to ensure that Saltash stays with Devon for MPs, is still in the balance we still have a fighting chance!

By the time you read this the Town Council will almost certainly have chosen my successor – how the time flies!

Cllr Adam Killeya
Town Mayor

CONUNDRUM CORNER

Taking the initial letter to the one word answer to the following nine questions can you re-arrange them to make two nine letter words this month?

- 1 Which BBC2 quiz programme is hosted by Dermot Murnaghan?
- 2 What type of cocktail is traditionally made with Advocaat and Lemonade?
- 3 On which part of the body would you wear a Fascinator?
- 4 What name is given to the popular music of Jamaican origin with a strong beat?
- 5 Which river joins the River Trent to form the Humber estuary?
- 6 Which World War II German General was nicknamed the Desert Fox?
- 7 What was the name of the fairy who befriended Peter Pan?
- 8 On which Greek island is Mount Ida situated?
- 9 What term describes a creature that lives on the land but breeds in the water?

RAINBOW MUFTI DAY FOR ELLIE'S HAVEN



Staff and students at saltash.net community school certainly entered into the spirit of Rainbow Mufti when they supported a Non-Uniform Day in aid of Ellie's Haven, held on Friday 28th January.

The school has an excellent record of supporting this locally based charity and were particularly pleased that this fund raiser was celebrating the fact that Ellie had reached her 6th Birthday.

In addition to paying for the privilege of wearing non-uniform, students and staff also enthusiastically purchased badges made specially for the Ellie's Haven Non-Uniform Day. In all, the grand total of £627.44 was raised. The school hopes to be able to present another cheque for £1000 to the Libbys after further fundraising efforts.

Headteacher's PA, Judith Hollyman said, 'It was a really great, fun filled day last Friday. The rainbow costumes were just what we needed during these dark winter days!'

YOUTH QUIZ POLICE ON ANTI-SOCIAL ISSUES

Neighbourhood beat police officers were quizzed by teenagers on issues around anti-social behaviour at the second meeting of the Mayor's Panel of Youth.

As requested by the Youth Panel the Mayor had invited Sergeant Andy Dunstan and PC Paul Andrews, responsible for manning the beat in Saltash, to discuss issues of concern to the young people. The officers firstly gave a short presentation on what police work entailed locally, how anti-social behaviour was handled, and the work that the police do with young people. They cited the Friday evening football sessions organised by the Police at Salt Mill, after the commencement of which anti-social behaviour fell by 40%. They also help organise boxing training at the K3 youth club.

Questions raised by the young people included how police proceed between giving a warning and obtaining an ASBO and what was the most frequent instance of anti-social behaviour. This last varies, replied PC Andrews, but currently it was the use of scramblers, mopeds and quad bikes at Salt Mill.

The young people commented that although there are two excellent youth clubs which take many teenagers off the street these are both open only Monday to Thursday leaving nowhere for under 18's to meet at weekends. When they gather to socialise at the bus stops or on street corners they are perceived as a threat by some older people. When asked what young people wanted they replied that this was age related, those between 15 and 18 wanted simply to 'chill out and talk with friends,' younger people wanted separate and more structured activities. Some of the saltash.net senior students present suggested that if premises were made available they would be willing to organise social centres for teenagers to meet at weekends with a

minimal adult presence. The Mayor, Councillors, and Police agreed to try to move this idea forward.

The next Youth Panel meeting, to be chaired by a saltash.net sixth former, will be on a date to be fixed in February on the theme of 'environment.'

Lack of info on Missing Buses

Those wishing to visit friends or attend appointments at Derriford Hospital were left waiting for buses that did not appear between Christmas and New Year.

The regular hourly Citybus Service between Saltash and Derriford failed to run, leaving prospective passengers standing in freezing condition for an hour waiting for the next one that also failed to run.

A member of the public spoke to a Citybus driver bound for the Plymouth City Centre who firstly said that 'It's a bank holiday so they run a Sunday Service,' then when it was pointed out that New Year's Eve was not a Bank Holiday, said that the Derriford Service was cancelled for the week.

Town Councillors, to whom this was reported, promised to take the issue up with Citybus. While the changes may have been reported on the website, many prospective hospital passengers do not have internet access and notices at the bus stops would have been useful, Councillors agreed. They also agreed that better information about restricted services caused by icy roads should be provided in the case of such conditions arising in the future.

SALTASH U3A

The January meeting in Saltash Guildhall took the form of a Show Case, with most of the sixteen interest groups putting on displays.

The meeting was open to the public and more than a hundred people visited during the afternoon. Ten new members joined, taking our membership to around one hundred and twenty.

Our Chairman, Mike Scott, welcomed the Mayor and Mayoress who spent more than an hour visiting each of the displays, and we were invited to join in a medley of well known songs performed by the singing group, which was much enjoyed.

The variety of the interest groups is wide ranging, from walking and gardening to astronomy, french, painting and music, and the selection is increasing. Anybody with a particular interest can set up a group for others with a similar interest to join. Knowledge and experience are shared, so everybody gains and nobody has to be an expert.

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LIGHT VERSE BRIGHTENS A BURRATON WINTER'S DAY

Light-hearted but perceptive poetry brightened a dull Winter's day and brought fun and laughter to the lips of residents and visitors to Janeva Court, Burraton.

The spacious communal lounge was packed, many of the audience having heard local poet David Prowse on a previous visit being eager to listen to more of his humorous poetic recollections of growing up on a Cornish Farm. Young love was amusingly evoked from the days of the back row in the 'Regal' and a long walk home if one missed the last bus. Other memories transferred to verse varied from being forced to kiss strange relations at family gatherings to the poignant poem in which he concluded about teenage bonding with his father, while tending the livestock on dark Cornish nights 'when every star knew my name.'

A published poet who has also regularly broadcast on local radio, David Prowse began to write verse after giving up his indoor job and going to work for two weeks – which soon became years, as a gardener at a Cheshire Home for the Disabled. The results once again delighted his Burraton audience.

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Maddy and Alan Now offer an Entire Evenings Home Entertainment Package At Bargain Booze Plus...

Having spent twenty years in bringing the latest in home entertainment to Saltash homes, Maddy and Alan of Take One Video came to realise a growing demand for supplying an entire evening's home entertainment package to their ever growing clientele.

What their customers sought, they appreciated, was in addition to the latest release in DVD movies, the finest of drinks and snack foods at realistic prices with which to sit back, relax, and enjoy the finest in home screen entertainment.

Take One Video has accordingly become Bargain Booze Plus, continuing to offer the best of DVD entertainment and a lot more beside. Maddy, Alan and their friendly staff including Diane who has helped suggest movie choices to valued customers over the last fifteen years, remain in the same premises near the top of Fore Street but under a different name. While offering the same friendly service enjoyed by generations of customers, some of whom as children originally enjoyed their first family friendly film from 'Take One' they are now able to supply an additional wide range of products.

Already those who appreciate fine wines at sensible prices have come to realise what Bargain

Booze Plus has to offer and Maddy and Alan have been kept busy replenishing fast emptying shelves. The range of wines from throughout the old and new world repays serious investigation.

The best of beers, bottled and canned, chilled or at optimum room temperature range from locally brewed specialities to chilled imports from Europe and the Americas. Ciders too, from the West Country and from far further afield are proving especially popular. All the popular spirits, and many lesser known choices, are also ranged along the shelves for discerning customers to select at prices comparable with any in the area. Again demand is already fast matching supply but Maddy and Alan are anxious to ensure that all customer tastes are catered for and they will be happy to hear of any drink, not already within their wide ranging stock, which may be sought and they can place a special order if requested. Also large orders for parties and special occasions can

be catered for. As part of an established and reputable national franchise not only are they able to supply to Saltash such a wide variety of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks at reasonable prices but they are empowered to ensure responsible drinking. It is company policy, strictly complied with locally, to check on proof of age of all "under 25" aged purchasers of any alcoholic drink.

To complete the evening's with home entertainment Bargain Booze Plus also offers a wide range of snacks with which to relax in front of the latest blockbuster or other movies. Confectionery, crisps and other savoury snacks are available, as are tobacco products for sale to those of legal age.

Having lived in Saltash for thirty years Maddy and Alan have seen many changes in Fore Street with many businesses come and go. Through it all they have continued to keep their customers happy through offering the very best of popular mainstream movies and many lesser known films ranging from blockbuster

action and comedy to family orientated fun and comic entertainment to suit all ages. They owe their continuing success to having adapted to changing tastes while continuing to provide what the customer wants by way of "entertainment right up your

street." Blu Ray is now the latest in quality home screening and is offered alongside traditional high quality DVD. In order to ensure that the latest releases are always available for rental, there is also always a range of ex-rental DVD's on sale at bargain prices.

With Valentines Day fast upon us and Mother's Day following close behind this could be the perfect opportunity to purchase a sparkling champagne or good quality vintage wine, rent out a romantic

or family fun movie and share an idyllic evening at home with the finest of wines and the latest of film releases.

Bargain Booze Plus, in the heart of Saltash, is open for customer convenience six days a week from 10 am to 9 pm, and 11 am to 9 pm



on Sunday. Monday to Thursday two movies may be rented for the price of one, on any day the latest in home entertainment and the best in beers, ciders, wine and 'spirits can be selected from the friendly and familiar team in, 'Take One Video' now 'Bargain Booze Plus.' Also all previous memberships to the Video club are still on file so there is no need to rejoin.



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THE FAMILY TO WHOM 'ALL CORNISH GENTRY WERE COUSINS'

Since their move from Wales to establish a medieval manor to the east of the existing eighteenth century Antony House the Carew family have played a major role in Cornish history.

'The Carew Poles of Antony' therefore proved a fascinating subject for an illustrated talk given to Saltash Old Cornwall Society by Miss Pamela Dorrington at their monthly meeting.

Theirs was a tale of alliance through marriage into all the great families of Cornwall and many beyond so that the Carews could truly boast 'all Cornish gentlemen are cousins.' Marriage with the family of Shute in Devon led to the name Pole Carew being adopted and later adapted to Carew Pole.

The family's turbulent history included purchasing a baronetcy from Charles the first and subsequently being hung, drawn and quartered for signing his death warrant following the Great Rebellion. The family backed the losing side again in the Old Pretender of the Jacobite rising but survived to sit in Parliament for Saltash and elsewhere for most of two centuries and to inaugurate the new town and ferry at what was to become Torpoint. The family's

FLAGS TO FLY IN FORE STREET

The Cornish flag of St Piran is to fly through Fore Street, Saltash Town Councillors have agreed.

The white cross on a black ground already flutters proudly on a daily basis from our Guildhall looking across the Tamar to Devon.

Particularly while the 'Keep Cornwall whole respect the Tamar boundary' campaign continues to be waged it was agreed that flags should also be mounted on the existing poles up fore Street to demonstrate the Town's true Cornishness.

The Guildhall flag was flying at half mast on the day the funeral of Freeman of Saltash and former Mayor Mona Tomaszewska-Honywill.

fighting role from the Wars of the Roses to the imperialistic conflicts against the Afghans and the Boers was detailed. Miss Dorrington's excellent pictures ranged from family portraits and family estates to the Alice in Wonderland memorabilia from the recent location film shooting at Antony. She was warmly thanked by Mrs Angela Payne-Hanlon.

SALTASH PARK AND RIDE IN PLYMOUTH PLAN

A Park and Ride bus service from the edge of Saltash features in the Local Transport Plan for Plymouth 2011-2020.

Two routes from a terminus in the Burraton/Broadmoor Farm area of the Town are included in the plan as part of Plymouth's proposed network of high quality public transport (HQPT). Both include HQPT stops in Saltash Town. One involves a circular route directly into Plymouth City Centre via Milehouse and the railway station, then via Union Street and Devonport back to St Budeaux and Saltash.

The other projected route forming part of the city's strategic public transport network is via West Park to Crownhill, then following a loop via the airport and Marjons College and Derriford Hospital to Plymouth International Business Park and back to Saltash via Crownhill again.

Cecily Baker Charity

Feb 842369
Mar 848462

POST 16 PATHWAYS EVENING



On Thursday 27th January, a very successful Post 16 Pathways event was held at saltash.net community school. Organised annually, as part of the school's comprehensive Careers Education programme, this year's event was particularly well supported both by students and parents and by education and training providers.

Guests were welcomed to the event by saltash.net's Head of Careers, Mrs Philippa Wadsworth, and they were then given a short presentation by South East Cornwall's 14 - 19 Learning Partnership Co-ordinator Mr Tim Bareham. Mr Bareham provided an overview of current Post 16 and Post 18 opportunities within the local and national context/framework.

After the introduction students and parents were able to meet with a large range of representatives from local Colleges of Further Education, Plymouth and Exeter Universities, approved local Training Providers, the Armed Forces (including Welbeck Defence 6th Form College, Flying Scholarships and University Cadetships), also local employers such as Babcock Marine. Sally Smart, Personal Advisor from Connexions was also present to answer career related questions and queries. Speaking after the event, Headteacher, Isobel Bryce, commented on the excellent turn out for the event and the amount of organisation involved: 'Perhaps it is a sign of the times that we had our best ever attendance at an evening like this, but I am certain all of those who came to the evening will have left with lots of useful and helpful information. Many thanks are expressed to Mrs Wadsworth and Mrs Boulton, Work Related Learning Co-ordinator, for organising everything.'

OFFICIAL HANDOVER OF NEW BUILDING AT SALTASH.NET



Friday 21st January saw students and staff at saltash.net community school take 'official' ownership of its most recent new build.

Created from a combination of funding secured as part of a successful bid to central government to showcase vocational education provision, and from the school's own Capital Project funding, the new building comprises a 6th Form ICT/study and careers area as well as a large learning space with seminar room and office created to further 14 - 19 developments, especially in the area of Travel and Tourism. The five secondary schools and Cornwall College in South East Cornwall are developing an exciting Academy of Tourism whose focal point will be a state of the art centre for Tourism education at St Mellion International.

Representatives from the school collected the keys from

Ryearch staff, after they had finished the new build. Also in attendance at the 'handover' ceremony were the project management staff from the Local Authority: Katy Hopkins and Shaun Mulkeen and also the architect from Poynton, Bradbury, Winter Cole, Simon Burgess.

Headteacher, Isobel Bryce, thanked Ryearch and the Local Authority for all they had done to help ensure that not only was the new build finished to a very high standard but that also the extension to the school's own 6th Form Centre had been carried out extremely well last summer. 'I am so thrilled that saltash.net community school has been able to secure these wonderful new buildings for the benefit of our 14 - 19 learners. It is a very exciting time indeed in our school's history and will enable us to continue to provide a first class education for all our young people.'

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WINTER WADERS WERE WATCHED AT CHURCHTOWN

The lonely cry of the curlew and the yelping alarm call of the redshank greeted those who partook in the 'Winter Waders' walk organised by the Friends of Churchtown Farm.

Leader Peter Kent first led the amateur ornithologists of all ages past the arable fields on the Churchtown Farm Nature Reserve which Cornwall Wildlife Trust had planted out with seeds of plants likely to attract over-wintering finches. A number of such finches were spotted, some harassing a kestrel swooping over the fields.

Down on Forder Creek the outgoing tide had attracted curlews and a number of redshank to the mudflats as well as a rarer greenshank. A little grebe bobbed above and under the water. Visiting widgeon, teal and shelduck mingled with the resident

mallards on the water together with a wide variety of gulls identified by Peter Kent. A pair of red-breasted merganser were briefly spotted.

The kingfishers which enjoy perching above the waters at high tide were absent, as were the spoonbills which travel up the Lynher as the tide falls, giving the keen group of walkers an incentive to return again at other states of tide to see what other bird life may be discovered in the wide variety of marine, mud, meadow and woodland habitat that make up Churchtown Farm reserve.

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Hatt Family Marooned in Queensland Flooding

A couple from Hatt visiting family in Queensland had first hand experience of the floods that devastated large parts of that state early this year.

Alec and Sheila Smith were concluding a three month tour of Australasia with a visit to their married daughter at Doonan, an hour's drive from Brisbane. "The weather was getting warmer with just the showery days one expects in the tropical climate of the Sunshine Coast," Sheila recalls. "Then it got heavier. I've never seen anything like the constant deluge, so loud that indoors we could hardly hear ourselves speak."

The extra drainage that their son-in-law had put in saved the single storey home from the flooding suffered by those all around as a mass of water released from a dam combined with the rains to raise the level of local rivers and flood homes, businesses and roads.

"During a respite my husband took our grandson into town," reported Sheila. "An hour later the waters had risen so that they had a forty mile detour to get home". The main highway to Brisbane was flooded and bridges across the state were down causing them to wonder about getting to the airport for the flight home.

Back in the freezing Cornish Winter the tropical

saltash.net Scoops Major National Awards!

Students and staff at saltash.net community school have been celebrating after achieving high levels of success at a national festival of Learning and Technology organised by an organisation called 'Learning Without Frontiers'.

Year 13 students Robin Bailey, Mark Rapson and Jamie Lovell, as well as Year 11 student Humphrey Shotton, travelled to London with their ICT teachers, Mr Reith & Mr Hunt, on Sunday 9th January after they were shortlisted for the National Y Factor Award for their innovative project called 'Xbox Marks the Spot'. This involved designing a game to assist primary aged children in their transfer to secondary school.

The student team fought off stiff competition from around the UK, just to make it to the final. The awards ceremony was hosted by the Gadget Show's Jason Bradbury and the students had to present their project to a team of judges and an audience of nearly 2000 people. The team achieved 2nd place and were each given a Nintendo DS XL as their prize. They were also able to make contacts with industry representatives which will be very helpful for them with regard to their future career plans. As a technology based

conference, Twitter was used extensively to comment on the students' performances. Tweets included the following: - Rachelala: Blown away by this saltash.net team, so skilled, relaxed and professional, follow @saltashgamedev MerlinJohn: Great to see sec students make transition easier for primary. saltash.net-designed game clever and considerate

Following on from the students' success at the Learning Without Frontiers event, deputy headteacher, Dan Roberts, was also up for a major Award on the Monday evening (10th January). His 'Recharge the Battery' project was contesting for an Award in the Secondary Education Innovation category. Representing saltash.net community school, he found himself up against Channel 4 and Sony, so was all the more delighted to take 1st place overall. The school was presented with a trophy and a Nintendo Wii system. Headteacher, Isobel Bryce, who also attended the Awards Ceremony to support colleague Dan Roberts, said, 'It is fantastic that the work we are doing at a school in Cornwall is now receiving major recognition both nationally and internationally. I am very proud of all our students and staff.'

saltash.net has also just featured in a Microsoft film entitled 'We are the future' which will be used across the world to showcase excellent practice in ICT. Year 9 student, Abigail Stocker, features prominently along with students from Guatemala, the USA and Denmark. The film has been released on You Tube and can also be accessed via the school's website www.saltash.net.

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CACOPHONY OF SOUNDS BRING GOOD HEALTH TO ORCHARDS

The lush orchards around Botus Fleming were boughed down with fruit last Autumn, we were informed, following our frosty Winter's night wassailing a year ago.

Accordingly, your Editor Mary and Ace Reporter Martin once again this January joined the festive and noisy band, abandoning the roaring log fire of the 'Rising Sun' to set out along darkened lanes and participate in the tradition of "wassailing," the Anglo-Saxon term for 'wishing good health' to the apple orchards.

We were warmed at each orchard by mulled cider before one and all, children and adults, joined in creating a cacophony of sound intended to scare evil spirits into the outer darkness. A conch, a vuvuzela (of South African football fame) and even a Didgeridoo joined in disharmony with the more traditional whistles, horns and spoons on saucepans accompanied by the rattle of gunfire.

The children then tied toast to the trees and cider was sprinkled to feed the good tree

spirits as well as the robins and other birds that protect the trees. Finally in each orchard three traditional wassailing songs were chanted concluding with a loud "Hussah!"

Pasties were then enjoyed back in the warmth of the 'Rising Sun' as the last of the evil spirits fled. Those who had shared this timeless tradition could be assured that in those darkened orchards soon the sap would start to rise and the annual miracle of the budding, blossoming and eventual ripening of the apple harvest would begin one again as it has over countless centuries in the Tamar Valley.



Among the weird and wonderful instruments demised to drive away evil spirits from Cornish Orchards and ensure a bountiful harvest was one from the far side of the world. Alicia from Carkeel had been given a didgeridoo by her grandfather on his return from Australia and had set out to master this Aboriginal instrument.

Its rich deep sound added an exotic note to the sounds drifting across the Cornish Winter's night.

Inner Wheel

At the end of November, members decorated a Christmas Tree in the Church of Saints Nicholas and Faith in the Inner Wheel theme and colours.

The display was beautiful, with several trees decorated by various clubs and societies in the town. It was open to the public for over a week. As always, members helped the Rotary Club with their Christmas Sleigh, although this year the snow and frost made this quite onerous.

On Dec 7th we held our Christmas Get-together at Mairead Lavelle's home. A warm fire, lovely food provided by members and a glass of wine were enjoyed by a large number of members, partners and Rotarians. We were particularly pleased to welcome Rotary President David Brown and the Rotarians who manned the Sleigh that night. In lieu of sending Christmas Cards to fellow members we all made a donation to our Clubs Charity Fund. On January 8th, Carol Couch and her team of helpers held a Soup Kitchen in the Church Rooms of Saints Nicholas and Faith Church. A variety of homemade soups and bread rolls were served to raise money for UNICEF and to celebrate our annual Inner Wheel Day. Many thanks to those who supported this event.

At our January Meeting we were visited by The Chairman of Inner Wheel District 129, Jenny Moyle. Jenny is a member of Redruth club. She gave us a brief chat on the difficulties being experienced by Inner Wheel Clubs in this modern climate. She then spoke about her life and how she came to be District Chairman. Her motto is "THE ONLY WAY TO HAVE A FRIEND IS TO BE ONE". The meeting was chaired by Carol Couch and the Vote of Thanks was given by Ann Potter. The meeting ended with both Jenny and Carol wishing us a very happy 2011.

Rugby Club Founder is Television's unsung hero

Local viewers of the popular regional news programme 'Spotlight South West' were delighted to see a local sporting stalwart receive a well merited award.

Each year Spotlight viewers are invited to select, from the entire South West Region, a number of dedicated men and women who have given freely of their time and enthusiasm so that others might enjoy their chosen sport.

Saltash viewers were gratified, if not altogether surprised, to see Saltash Rugby Club doyen Bill Ryan among those chosen. One and all who had any association or interest in the club were even more thrilled a few nights later to see Bill winning the award in the final selection of BBC South West Sports Unsung Hero 2010.

It was Bill Ryan whose notice in a local newspaper encouraged twenty eight Rugby enthusiasts to meet in the 'Wheatsheaf' Inn in June 1969. As a teacher at the then comprehensive school, Bill was keen to encourage boys off the street and to put their energies into a sport which encouraged discipline as well as a sense of pride and team spirit.

Bill served as secretary of the new formed club. An offer from Charles Henwood of a pitch at Carkeel was eagerly accepted and soon Bill could confirm that a fixture list for the season 1969/70 was building up. Since then he has served as Captain, Treasurer, Colts Manager, Chairman and Fundraiser. Meanwhile literally thousands of young people have enjoyed the sport through the club he helped found and over the past forty years many have gone on to excel at county level, two indeed having played internationally for England. Though now aged seventy Bill's enthusiasm shows no sign of dimming and his excitement on a cold touchline remains infectious.

The Saltash Observer shares the delight of all Bill's

OLD CORNWALL SOCIETY HEAR OF FLIGHTS OF FANCY

Many in Cornwall will recall hearing the nightly sonic boom of Concorde crossing Hartland Point, fifty miles to the north.

Some will have admired this graceful plane taking off, seemingly near-vertically, or cruising overhead at subsonic speed. A few may have sipped champagne as Concorde flew the Atlantic at supersonic speed never since achieved by a commercial flight.

The epic tale of this aviation project was related to Saltash Old Cornwall Society members by Mr Chris Manning at their November meeting. A Scillonian whose earliest aviation experiences related to the islands' air link, he served later in the RAF. He was thrilled, after his discharge, to join the Concorde project in 1969 and was highly involved in seeing the plane progress through its test flights into its sadly shortened years of offering luxury supersonic flight. He was able to outline in understandable terms the amazing technology so far in advance of its time that enabled passengers to span the world in timescales never achieved before and, he believed, unlikely to be achieved again by passenger aircraft for decades to come. He also gave some fascinating and amusing anecdotes of the characters in the industry and the passengers he met with in this prestigious plane.

A vote of thanks was given by a former serviceman himself, Mr Tony Otter.



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Investigation into 'Rip-Off' Domestic Heating Oil Prices

Sarah Newton, MP for Truro and Falmouth, has today welcomed the Government's announcement that a study into off-grid energy, and in particular protection for consumers, will be undertaken. This follows the recent severe cold weather which saw prices for domestic heating oil and gas rising drastically.

YOUNG BEN GETS £1000

The Reverend Nicki Slatford presented a cheque for £1000 at Saltash Wesley Church Sunday morning service on 12th December 2010 to 9 year old Scout Cub Ben, Len Maddock, 2nd Saltash Group Scout Leader, and Maureen Carvell, Cub Leader.

The money was raised by the Saltash Wesley Church Craft Fair in October, and will help to build the new Scout Headquarters, for which Cornwall Council has just granted planning permission.

The Saltash Scouts cater for the needs of some 180 youngsters, ranging through Beaver Scouts at 6 years old, Cub Scouts at 8 years old, to Scouts from 10½ years old.

For more details to join the Scouts phone Len Maddock on 01752 518156

In response to public concern about the huge price hikes this winter, Charles Hendry MP, the Minister of State at the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has asked the Office of Fair Trade (OFT) to bring forward its competition and consumer study into off-grid energy.

Sarah Newton MP said: "I am pleased that the Minister has taken urgent action on this issue. For months I have been taking the dreadful problems my constituents are encountering to the Minister. I am grateful to Kevin Bennetts of Consol Oils for providing useful information that has informed the Minister."

Sarah continued: "A lot of people in our community use off-grid energy and I want to ensure that their energy costs do not rise excessively. I will continue to work with the Government to safeguard these consumers and I look

forward to reading the OFT's findings. I am pleased that the Minister has ensured that the conclusions of the study will be published in advance of next winter."

BURIAL COSTS TO RISE

The cost of dying is to increase to bring Saltash in line with surrounding towns

The Town Council has endorsed a recommendation of its Burial Board that Burial fees be increased from £55 to £600 and cremated remains from £167 to £180. These costs remain considerably lower than Plymouth and similar to others in South East Cornwall. With the need to boost Town Council revenue these figures are subject to further upward review for the new financial year in April.

NEW YEAR PROMISE FOR NHS DENTIST

Delays over obtaining permission for change of use from a butcher's shop to a dental surgery have been blamed by the NHS Cornwall Health Care manager for the Town having lacked a NHS practice. Such a practice was promised to be in the Town by Spring 2010 following a Fore Street practice giving up its NHS patients in 2009.

Now the NHS management have belatedly replied to correspondence from Cllr Peter Clements advising that prospective patients should be contacted from December onward in the order of them having placed their names on the waiting list. The surgery, in the one-time Davey's butchers shop, was hoping to start taking appointments early in this January.

Flying the Flag in Fore Street

As the Gateway to Cornwall Saltash's Fore Street should be lined with the black and white flags of St Piran, Cornwall's Patron Saint. This was a suggestion put forward at this Autumn's 'Keep Cornwall Whole' Rally and was discussed by the full Town Council.

It was agreed that the Town's own St Piran's flag, normally just raised on 5th March, St Piran's day, should be flown from the Guildhall on a permanent basis. It was also agreed that costings be obtained for flags or bunting to line the street utilising the flag fittings already in place.

Forties Favourites for Heritage Party

The music that boosted British morale during the dark days of the 1940's was enjoyed again at the annual Saltash Heritage party in the Guildhall.

The party is held, as Chairman John Parsons reminded the guests in his welcoming speech, by way of thanks to all the volunteer stewards who give their time to welcoming visitors to the Saltash Museum. Some enjoy giving many hours to showing visitors around the different exhibitions between April and November, some can only spare a couple of hours a month, but the Museum could not exist without them.

After a pasty lunch guests, some of whom had taken up the challenge to come in 1940's costume, sat back to be entertained. Sue Davies at the piano, sometimes accompanied in duets by John Honeywill, played various war time favourites from Gershwin and Cole Porter to Bach - as immortalised in Myra Hess' wartime concerts.

Wartime songs, martial and melancholic were sung by the enchanting voice of Ruth Abbott, while Keith Asprey, Brian Davies and Bill Myers joined in harmony with other old favourite tunes.

Audience and entertainers came together in such well known period pieces at 'Bless 'em all,' 'Lily Marlene,' and to conclude, a well-encored 'We'll meet again.'

Town to celebrate Royal Wedding?

Whether, and how, Saltash should celebrate the wedding of the Duke of Cornwall's son, Prince William is to be considered before the big day on 29th April.

This is the Friday before the Town's traditional and popular May Fair weekend and an extension of these celebrations is being considered.

Since many or most people are likely to be watching the televised wedding during the day an evening event is being suggested. Suggestions include a Royal Ball, based on the popular television programme 'Strictly come Dancing,' or a gala concert.

TELLING POLITICAL TALES - POLITICIAN AND NOVELIST VISIT SALTASH



Balancing the life of a successful romantic novelist with being the wife of the leader of the Conservative party calls for more multi-tasking than the average woman has to perform.

Sandra Howard, who recently visited Saltash for a 'literary lunch' held by local

conservatives gave those present a fascinating outline of how being married to a leading politician helps, and hinders, the writing of her novels all of which have a parliamentary background guaranteed as authentic.

She was accompanied by her husband Lord Howard who formerly served as home secretary before leading the party in opposition. Both guests were pleased to answer a mixture of political and literary questions.

In thanking them for attending, local MP Sheryll Murray thanked Lord Howard for 'giving her' his former agent, Bob Davidson, who had contributed greatly to her successful election campaign earlier that year.

Lord Howard, who was visiting Cornwall in the aftermath of the disastrous floods further down the County, commented to the Observer, "I am delighted to be here during what is obviously a difficult time for Cornwall. I have been impressed with the spirit of Cornwall and how the County has reacted once again showing the bulldog spirit. I am also delighted to be here with Sheryll, whom I have known for many years, now serving as local member and I congratulate her on that achievement."

FROM WORKING FARM TO HOLIDAY LETS

A long-standing working farm just outside Saltash is set to become holiday accommodation.

Redundant barns at Manor Farm, Trematon, are set to be converted to living and work units and to holiday use. Modern farm buildings are planned to be demolished. A former coach house and barns are intended to be converted to a dwelling with garage. The Town Council has recommended approval of these changes subject to the condition that the public footpath, which runs through the existing farmyard to emerge opposite the ancient Trematon pound, remains open.

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