

# SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

February 2013 - Issue 247

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



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## Police Quizzed on Emergency Diversion Routes

The need to close the A38 Plymouth Parkway for many hours following a fatal or life changing collision was explained to Saltash Town Council by Police Superintendent John Green. However he failed to explain why Saltash had to be totally congested for several hours, as it was last February, with traffic totally motionless, when Pemros Road could have been opened up at least for traffic proceeding to the centre of Plymouth.

Saltash Town Councillors had written to the Police suggesting that when the Parkway was closed to traffic following a serious accident, as it has been on several occasions, instead of bringing

Saltash town to a total standstill for hours on end, Pemros Road, normally open to only buses or taxis, could be opened to all traffic.

The reason given by Superintendent Green, was that public transport could not negotiate Pemros Road. When he was told that this is, in fact, the regular public transport route used by all buses between Plymouth and Saltash in both directions he suggested that he would invite a Police Inspector unavailable on the day he addressed the Town Council, to explain this point.

The coroner requires a police investigation into all matters relating to a fatal or life changing collision and family also require full information as to the circumstances, explained Superintendent Green.

There had been a 20% increase in such collisions in the Devon and Cornwall Police area, with 44 fatalities in total, eight of them in East Cornwall. Police have to close roads to carry out full investigations and try to meet

the target of re-opening them within six hours. Diversionary routes are negotiated with the Highways Agency, the emergency services and local transport organisations, and Pemros Road was not considered as an acceptable alternative to the Plymouth Parkway between the Tamar Bridge and St. Budeaux.

A letter asking why this was not considered as a way to reduce traffic congestion when the Parkway was closed was met with a 'patronising' reply, Cllr Joe Ellison told Superintendent Green.

The reply suggested that the Town Council was unfeeling regarding the fatality while giving no reason why Pemros Road, which was used by public transport every day, could not be opening as an alternative route.

The Superintendent promised to have Inspector Price, who is responsible for traffic management following serious collisions attend a future Town Council meeting.

## Saltash Ferry Project Wins Heritage Lottery Fund Support

Ashorre Rock has received £22,600 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for its exciting Saltash Ferry Link Project. This will build upon the outstanding Ferry50 Festival and help to keep the heritage of the ferry alive for present and future Saltash residents and also to interest visitors who enjoy the Waterside and the history of the town. "This award reflects the importance of the ferry in the origins of the town and the history of the area," said Lynn Marsh, who is leading the project.

The project will include a Memory Bank and an 'information-

*continued on page 4*

## What's Next "For Saltash"?

"Fore Street" is soon to become the home of Saltash Gateway Community Interest Company. It has been leased to us for three years on the basis that we would refurbish it. This work is currently underway, and we hope to open the building in March. Encouragement and support by Saltash Town Council over the last few years has been much appreciated; and with this project, we have been helped by generous grants from Saltash Town Council and Cornwall Council.

However, the facility will be used for a wide range of activities, which will be managed and run under the name For Saltash. What is driving us is the wish to contribute to the continuous development of Saltash Fore Street firstly by taking the initiative to deal with the eyecore of these abandoned premises (formerly the Gas Showroom - which dates it!). We also want to contribute to local economic development by offering stalls for new local businesses wanting to get into retail in Fore Street.

These will be cheap to hire, and flexible to use...but in a very nice environment. We also hope to have regular special markets, eg farm produce or arts and crafts to get interested shoppers into Fore Street and to help businesses thrive. But we also have a linked social purpose. Saltash Gateway CIC has been establishing a community transport scheme (non profit-making) in the last year and we have a 16-seat bus with tail-lift, the Saltash Hopper. We will administer this service from our new office, and through it we will seek to bring people to town to shop...especially disabled or older people who have problems getting around.

For Saltash will be able to loan powered wheelchairs for shopping and sight-seeing in the town centre though a partnership with a local business Saltash Mobility, which will also provide inside a display of aids and equipment for older people and those with disabilities. In addition, we have a wider social purpose, which is to create a local centre for

voluntary activity. Organisations needing voluntary help can approach us to be matched with local volunteers who have contacted us. It is a sort of "job centre" for voluntary activity, and we will be providing it in partnership with Volunteer Cornwall, who will have a specialist adviser based there several times a month. Local voluntary bodies will be welcome to advertise and promote their service at 4 Fore Street.

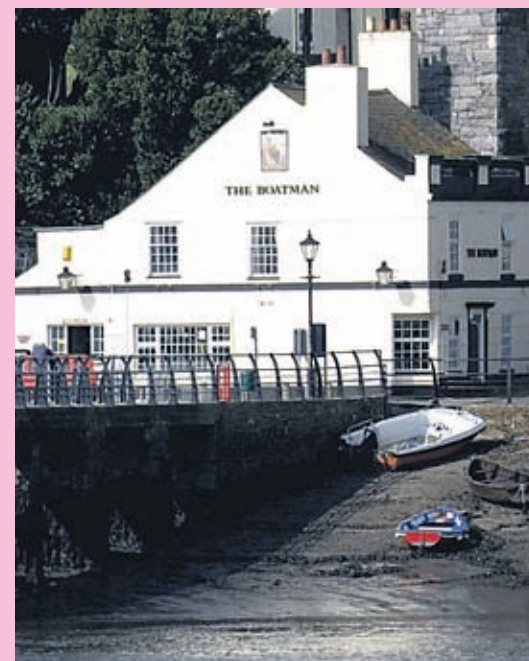
And whenever there is a need for a collective voice on behalf of the voluntary sector, Gateway CIC would help organise this For Saltash. We have clear plans, but we don't know how it is actually all going to work out.

Emphases may change over time. But we are enthusiastic about making an impact. Ideas for new initiatives are welcome.

And we need help now from capable people with spare time to form a "management team" to keep the show on the road..... We are looking for 2 to 5 people to take responsibility between them for opening and closing For Saltash, and organising its activities. The work would suit: \* People currently without work who are seeking management experience to enhance their CV

\* People who have retired from work who want to use their spare time to benefit the community

Interested people should contact us via the website, or, until we open 4 Fore Street, by phoning 843807 or 07813 890416 and asking for Peter. Find out more about us at: [www.saltashgatewaycic.co.uk](http://www.saltashgatewaycic.co.uk)



The information-sculpture will stand in front of The Boatman, formerly the Passage House Inn, which remains from the days when the Waterside was the main bustling crossing point on the lower Tamar.

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## The Essa Files

by Adam Killeya

Sometimes victory comes by skill, sometimes by effort and sometimes by luck. Other times it just comes as a complete surprise! The Cornish Boundaries situation is definitely one of these: after over a year of running the Keep Cornwall Whole campaign against a cross-border constituency we were pretty certain that we had lost the war and that there would be a 'Devon-wall' seat. We won the battle to avoid it putting Saltash with Devon, but that was, at best, a minor consolation.

However last Monday there was a vote in Parliament to delay all boundary changes until 2018 – this means that at the next general election there will still be six MPs for Cornwall – no sharing, no border crossing, no need to man the Tamar bridge with pitchforks.

Although this win came as a surprise, and although some might wonder whether it really matters who we share an MP with – Liskeard or Plymouth – we should have no doubt that it is actually very significant. Economically, culturally, historical, socially and politically Saltash is Cornish, not Devon and Cornish: we have the St Piran's Flags in Fore Street, we have Trelawney sung at our mayor choosing and we have the jam on our scones before the cream (and quite right too!).

So the boundaries win, by hook or by crook, is a real win and worth savouring.

In another few years we will have to once again argue our case for Keeping Cornwall Whole but, at least until then, we can shove the pitchforks back under the bed and enjoy our pasties in peace. Kernow vrys byken (Cornwall for ever)!

## Bridge Toll Rise Follows Falling Number of Crossings

A further rise in Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry tolls appears inevitable, County Council members of the Bridge and Ferry Committee advised the Town Council. The last increase was in early 2010 following a public enquiry when tag-holders found charges rise from fifty pence to seventy five pence and cash payers from one pound to one pound fifty.

At the time bridge and ferry manager David List advised that a survey showed most users would prefer a small increase every two or three years to a major hike after around fifteen years.

A further increase, the amount of which has yet to be discussed, is due largely to a substantial fall in revenue. Traffic crossing has been decreasing since the last toll increase, though the reasons are uncertain. A full traffic survey of the route between Marsh Mills and Trerulefoot, at a cost of £100,000, has been authorised, the Town Council was told, one councillor making clear that he considered this cost extortionate.

With the Tamar Bridge soon needing a full repaint down to the bare metal revenue from current tolls will not suffice to cover capital costs and maintain the ferry and bridge.

A member of the public suggested once the incinerator at St. Budeaux is running then toll receipts will increase due to the considerable number of lorries travelling to carry waste from all over Cornwall to the new facility.

It was also pointed out that since the Torpoint ferry takes most of the money raised by bridge tolls on a three to one ratio, and since bridge takes approximately seven times as much traffic as the ferry, bridge users should no longer subsidise the ferry to such an extent and ferry users pay a more substantial part of the financial burden. At the public enquiry in 2010 it was suggested that a true cost of a

car crossing the Torpoint ferry was around five pounds and the inspector had been concerned to note that no apparent consideration had been given to differential pricing of the bridge and ferry.

## Churchyards are Full of Life

Saltash's cemeteries are to join in the Living Churchyards project in which areas of churchyards are set aside as wildlife areas.

The St. Stephens cemetery, during the coming year, can have areas left uncut and edges widened, while the new Churchtown cemetery should have seeding and land preparation on the boundary strip to encourage wildlife, the town's burial board agreed. More public involvement was suggested before action proceeds further.

The Living Churchyards project organised by Cornwall Wildlife Trust suggests bird, bat and bug boxes wood piles, hedgehog homes and flowerpot shelters for overwintering bees can all be implemented in otherwise forgotten areas of local cemeteries. There may be Ancient herbal remedies or medieval uses for wild plants growing there undisturbed and even a sheet of galvanised iron set down as a daytime rest place for slow worms or field mice assist in providing a wild life haven and encouraging children's interest in the natural world about them in an urban or rural environment.



CORNWALL COUNCIL



and our PL12 community

For Observer readers

From Councillor Derek Holley

Pill Ward Saltash

Most of the time I really enjoy being a Cornwall Councillor: there are few things in life better than being able to help someone, or a family; sometimes it is because they have been unable to get help elsewhere, sometimes because they get stuck in official "loops" and sometimes because they just need someone on their side. Which is why I am saddened to find it is increasingly difficult to get help, answers or solutions because the means ( the money in most cases ) is just is not there anymore. Cornwall Council, for all its faults, has tried hard to cut its coat according to its cloth, and cloth, ie money from the government has been ruthlessly cut, with more cuts to come. I winge about it, we all winge about it but all we can do at the moment is get on with it....and keep smiling.....

Sometimes it is good just to bat Saltash's end at a Cornwall Council meeting, but sometimes I have to represent the whole of Cornwall on a committee. Here is an example: I have just been to Truro, sitting on a panel trying to ensure that our larger town car parks are judged, in terms of future charges, in the right way. The recommendation from the car parks officers was basically to treat them as pure businesses, like any other high street business and charge accordingly. Fortunately the we all took the other view and have recommended that this is not the way forward but that the viability of our shopping centres is closely bound up with how much it costs to park. Mary Portas said this as well, so it must be right! Let's hope it goes through.

I find myself thinking every day about a decision that we will all have to make on Cornwall Council. It weighs heavily on my mind and I wish I could avoid it. By the time you read this it will all be done and dusted, but put simply the government has told councils to administer the council tax relief money some people get. These are people, often vulnerable and mostly on very low incomes for one reason or another; very few of

them are the so-called tabloid-paper scroungers. The government has given Cornwall the money to do this...oh...less six million pounds. It has told us to either pass on the cut to those who were getting the help before, or find the missing millions elsewhere. Up to us.

I have to decide how to vote, both as a Councillor for Saltash, and for Cornwall but also as a human being representing all of us, including those in need. Accordingly, unless I hear different compelling arguments in the debate, as a Councillor but also as a Christian human being, I will not vote to take away from those who already are in need and who already have less than most. I just cannot do it. I fully realise that this will upset those who feel society is full of scroungers on benefits even though all the evidence shows this is just wrong. The alternatives may be more cuts to services, leisure centres etc or it may be all of us paying a little more to spread the load. However another way is to target more rigorously the cheats and fraudsters...this I would much rather do. For example Cornwall loses about a million pounds each year from people claiming a tax rebate because they say they are a single person household when in fact they are not.

Which leads me to my last difficult point: apparently a firm Cornwall employs to check on this benefit fraud is using sophisticated voice technology to give an indication if people are telling lies. Some will say "Disgraceful", "Big Brother!" Others will say in these difficult times we must cut out this fraud for all the reasons given above. What do you think?

Spring is sprung, or it should be when you read this. My potatoes are chitting, seeds ready in the drawer, I've read the tea bags and I can assure you we are going to have a wonderful summer with long sunny days and rain just at night.....

Derek Holley  
Cornwall and Town Councillor

## Grant Fund Launched to Help Groups Protect Future of Community Buildings

Cornwall Council has launched a new fund to help local community groups protect the future their communal buildings. The Council's Green Cornwall programme hopes to protect much loved and used community buildings into the future by making grant funding available for groups to install measures aimed at reducing running costs.

"Maintaining the viability and sustainability of community assets and hubs which are important to communities throughout Cornwall is becoming an increasingly difficult challenge for many groups," said Councillor Stephen Rushworth, Cornwall Council portfolio holder for Economy and Regeneration.

"Running costs for these types of establishment are often prohibitive and can become unsustainable. This fund aims to reduce the energy burden of these buildings predominately through supporting energy efficiency measures in assets such as community halls, sports facilities or any other community assets important to the vibrancy and social fabric of an area."

The Community Grant Fund has a cap of £10,000 per application. Examples of measures and technologies eligible for funding include biomass boiler installation, heating system and boiler upgrades, radiator upgrades, cavity or solid wall insulation, loft insulation, draft proofing and double or secondary glazing.

"While energy and rising prices have become an increasing concern for communities, energy can – if used and produced in the right way – actually improve the resilience of Cornish communities," said Steven Ford, Green Cornwall programme manager.

"By localising the benefit of energy and energy efficiency measures, not only are there environmental benefits, but there are potential social and economic ones too."

For more information visit [www.cornwall.gov.uk/communitgrant](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/communitgrant)

## Former Community Building to be Let for Commercial Use

Local organisations that have been clamouring to acquire the former Maurice Huggins Room in Victoria Gardens may all be disappointed, it has been disclosed.

Instead of releasing the property for community use Cornwall Council has opted for putting it out to tender for commercial use, the Town Council has been advised.

While the building was built and managed as a facility for the elderly by a volunteer group, the land on which it stands belong to Cornwall Council.

The legal ownership of the building itself is uncertain, it appeared to Town Councillors, since legal documentation from the time of its construction appears unavailable.

A number of voluntary organisations based in Saltash had already registered their interest in putting the building, strategically sited at the top of Fore Street, to community use.

Town Councillors were angered that Cornwall's policy in refusing them the opportunity and seeking to let the building out to as commercial organisation appears to be contrary to Government policy.

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## Conundrum Corner

Taking the initial letter to the one-word answer to the following nine questions can you re-arrange them to make a nine-letter word?

- 1 What was the name of Dorothy's dog in The wizard of Oz? (4)
- 2 Which is the largest of the Arran Islands? (9)
- 3 The juice of which fruit is used to make the drink called Perry? (4)
- 4 As in the Irish place name Carrickfergus what does the prefix Carrick indicate? (4)
- 5 Dubbed the Winter War which Country did Russia invade in 1939? (7)
- 6 Which is the highest normal adult male voice? (4)
- 7 What was Dr. Jekyll's Christian name? (5)
- 8 in which Country is the Atacama Desert situated? (5)
- 9 What name is given to the milky white liquid found in Rubber trees? (5)

Answers on Page 8

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## Delay in County Plan Could Allow Adverse Planning Applications, Fears Mayor

A delay in the submission of the Cornwall Local Plan to the Secretary of State could open the doors for unsuitable planning applications in Saltash and elsewhere in Cornwall. This was the concern of Town Mayor Cllr Martin Gee as he berated the Cornwall Councillors who deferred the plan after five applications for amendments had been submitted at their December meeting.

### Trailer Not for Sale But Rent

The Saltash town display trailer is to be made available to local community groups in exchange for donations, and to non-profit and commercial organisations for a fee.

The trailer, seen frequently in Fore Street, Waterside and elsewhere at local events is to be prioritised for use firstly by the Town Council and secondly other town events. When not so required it might be let out to other local Councils and non-profit organisations then, it available, to commercial organisations.

Other Councils and non profit groups outside Saltash will be asked to pay £200 plus VAT per day, minimum period one day, and commercial groups £300 plus VAT per day. Local community groups will be asked for a minimum donation of £50.

Refurbishment and decoration of the trailer are to proceed subject to cost.

It had been anticipated that the plan would be submitted for six weeks of consultation in January and could be with the Minister by the end of March. However, a variation in the requirements for new homes between the plan and recent census resulted in a delay while further information was sought from County officers. This may in turn result in each town and parish seeking to reduce its housing target.

After 31st March the current local plan prepared by Caradon Council will lapse with the result, said the Mayor, that there will then be no local plan in place and theoretically applications for development anywhere in the county could be submitted. With elections due in early May the Mayor expressed concern that a newly formed Cornwall Council may not be in a position to finalise the county plan until into June.

Meanwhile consultation and development of the Saltash local plan can proceed but may lose its impetus, the Mayor feared, with the target date for Cornwall slipped back.

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## From The Mayor's Parlour...

What a super Town we have. The Saltash Music, Speech and Drama Festival opened this week. So far there have been brilliant displays of local talent. The adjudicators, who are experts in their fields have said they are amazed at the quality and depth of our performers.

The Mayor's Drama Competition was held on Monday and I was delighted to present cups to many of our local young people. Several of these I had met previously at the annual Yacht Club Cadet celebration event, when I presented them with cups as winners of dingy sailing classes and RYA examinations.

The Town should be very proud of its youth. The Festival continues next week with concentration on music. On the 22nd January we experienced the only icy and snowy weather occurrence with little direct effect on our town.

Indirectly traffic ground to a halt because of accidents in Plymouth. Once again Pemros Road was not immediately opened for all traffic to enter Plymouth so Saltash and SE Cornwall were jammed up very quickly. Many people took two hours to cross the bridge. The Town Council has written several times about the issue of opening Pemros Road to the police.

After several sharp exchanges by letter, a friendly report was presented in January by the Police Superintendent. He outlined the reasons for keeping Pemros Road open to certain vehicles.

The senior officers are giving a full explanation to the full Council in February. It should be a lively and interesting agenda item!

On the subject of the bridge, apparently ways of increasing the toll fees continue. Seemingly no press releases are to be made of how much or of how they will be collected. The bridge and ferry committee must look at ways of reducing their costs, not just increasing the tolls, and there is the thorny issue on the very large subsidy that bridge users provide to run the ferry!!!

I have written before on the subject of the increase in local taxation as a result of Government policy for local taxpayers to pay for rebates.

This is now in all the news. Cornwall is reducing its service levels to all areas and is desperately trying offload costly services to our Town with often no additional money to fund these responsibilities. Cornwall is trying to balance its books by making town councils ask for more money from its taxpayers.

Weed killing on the sides of roads and pavements has been an issue for the last year. At a meeting this month Cornwall officers reported that they were now unable to use weed killer in the Town centre because of health and safety matters, and that all weeds in Fore

Street would have to be cleared manually!!!!!! They also admitted that the second spray of contact weed killer had been used too late in the summer to be effective, and that in future this type of weed killer would only be used when rain was unlikely within four hours.

As usual we look forward to an improvement the growing season.

The Town Council has received correspondence on the removal of some play equipment and the general untidiness of the playgrounds.

This equipment belongs to Cornwall. The swings have been taken away because they are unsafe and hopefully should be replaced. However any work on these facilities looks unlikely as Cornwall has only a budget of £50,000 for next year.

Another case where the Town Council could take on the service but at what cost!

Other complaints about the unpleasant state of Belle Vue toilets have been received. The Town Council has asked for improvements but to little avail, in fact Cornwall's response was to offer the Town the toilets as long as we paid for them.

Do we all want the extra cost???

Movement on Maurice Huggins room: I have received, verbally, from a Cornwall officer that the Town Council can take over the building on a temporary basis until a formal lease can be signed.

As a result I have authorised the electricity is put on to keep the damp out, insured the building and am asking the Council to agree how the many groups who want to use this facility can be brought together for the benefit of all.

Other good updates are: the Cornish Cross official opening is most probably the 17th May. A group of young people from Plougastel will be visiting the Town at the end of March.

I must again remind you FREE car parking in our car parks all weekend in Saltash until the end of March.

All the Best

Martin Gee

Mayor of Saltash

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## Dragons Den star Guest of Honour



Fresh from her success of facing the 'Dragons' in their 'Den', young entrepreneur and ex student of saltash.net, Naomi Kibble, returned to her school as Guest of Honour for the 6th Form A Level Presentation Evening. Held on Thursday 20th December, the Awards event celebrated the outstanding success of the 2012-13 Year 13 students and the school was delighted that Naomi was able to present the prizes and certificates as well as sharing with attendees all that she had been doing to develop her career since leaving saltash.net.

Naomi's company 'Rocktails' has been enjoying increasing success over the last twelve months, with many national stores now stocking the frozen cocktail products. Naomi emphasised

to those present just how important it had been for her to become involved with such schemes as Young Enterprise when she was studying at school. She felt strongly that the skills developed through extra curricular involvement were as important as those delivered through the taught curriculum.

Students achieving special awards, in addition to their A Level certificates were: Adam Riglar and Hannah Burtwell, Warren Memorial prize for outstanding community contribution Charlie Ray Mann for Academic excellence (4A\* grades at A Level in Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Biology) Benedict Lucken for Academic Endeavour Rebecca Church for Sporting Excellence Sam Dando, Letty Atkinson, Alex Hunt, Lauren

Craven, Emily Ruse and Emma Thomas - Buller Award for outstanding contributions to the school community Speaking after the event, headteacher, Isobel Bryce said, "It is always so good to welcome back ex students whose successes are an inspiration to others. We remain very proud of Naomi and all that she is achieving. We were also delighted with the results of last year's A Level students and it was excellent to have an opportunity to bring the year group together again to acknowledge their success and the contribution they made to the life of our school and local community."

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## Inner Wheel Club

We are in safe hands this year as our President, June Davey, has held this position several times before.

Our speakers so far have included our District Chairman, Margaret Bryant, who told us about the history of the Inner Wheel Clubs in West Devon and Cornwall. Our next speaker was Bruce Hunt from Saltash Heritage who spoke on the ferries which crossed the Tamar over the years featuring the Saltash to Plymouth ferry. He also showed us early film of trains crossing the Royal Albert Bridge. Mementos of the ferries can be seen in the Ashtorre Centre or the Saltash Heritage Museum.

Our most recent speaker was one of our own members, Carol Boles, whose subject was "My career as a Medical Laboratory Scientist."

From her teens Carol always wanted to be a medical scientist and in 1963 at the age of 18 she started her training in a public health laboratory and at weekends being called out to criminal abortions. Carol has worked in cancer research, research in renal diseases, kidney transplants, also in orthopaedics and rheumatology. She has worked in many places across the world including Bermuda, Switzerland and in 1975, South Africa during apartheid.

Carol has led a very full life and on retirement took a Lay-Chaplaincy course and came to Cornwall to live.

## Life Begins At Any Age at U3A

Life begins at sixty, or seventy, or indeed any age for the lively young at hearted hundreds who have flocked to join Saltash's U3A (University of the Third Age) organisation. This was clearly demonstrated to those who attended the U3A showcase event in the Wesley Church when many of the twenty-five plus activities enjoyed by the eager membership were promoted to interested visitors.

Among those visitors were the Mayor and Mayoress, Martin and Maggie Gee, who were serenaded by the singing group of U3A as they entered the church lobby. Various church rooms displayed activities as varied as art and astronomy, gardening and geology, scrapbooking and scrabble. Outdoor pursuits include walking at all levels from strolls around the Saltash lanes to striding out on Dartmoor. Those preferring travel in comfort can choose between theatre excursions and discovery trips to a wide variety of well and lesser known places of interest.

For retired or semi-retired the Saltash U3A, with its objectives of informal life-long learning by sharing experiences enthusiasms and companionship, can and often does play a life-enhancing role. The enthusiasm of those manning the tables displaying the wide variety of indoor and outdoor activities on offer was clearly infectious.

Tell your friends & family to visit us at...  
[www.saltash-observer.co.uk](http://www.saltash-observer.co.uk)

### Saltash Ferry Project wins Heritage Lottery Fund support

*continued from page 1*  
'at the head of the old ferry slip. The Memory Bank will be an oral archive of first hand memories of the generation that used and worked on the last chain ferries whilst the dramatic structure at the Waterside will celebrate more than 900 years of ferry tradition and spark the imagination of those who pass by the site. In addition, a Ferry-Link scheme will include a new website and educational resources.

Ashtorre Rock - the Waterside centre (open to the public) that looks out over the ferry slip - has a tradition of celebrating its local heritage, including the Brunel 150 community mural on the Livewire building, painted by local community groups in 2006 to a design by Saltash artist, John Forster. John will be designing the new work - called The Saltash Ferryman - incorporating images and memories engraved by local artists; it will join the many murals and sculptures that already form the Saltash Heritage Art Trail. Sound Artist, Stephanie Norgaard, also living in Saltash, will be following up more than 50 contacts made during Ferry50 to create the Memory Bank of recollections and experiences,

which will become part of the town's historical record at Saltash Heritage Museum and be available on-line.

Saltash Town Council, Cornwall Council and Waitrose are also partners in the project. Lynn Marsh added, "Our local community is interested in its history, so we are very grateful for this local funding, which will help us to celebrate our heritage in this imaginative way."

The project work will take place over the next few months with a public launch later in the year.

Commenting on the grant award, HLF's acting Head of South West, Richard Bellamy, said: "The growth of Saltash is inextricably linked to its important ferrying place across the Tamar, so that in capturing the history of the ferry this project also celebrates an important chapter in the story of the development of Saltash into one of Cornwall's largest towns. We were delighted to be able to help with this celebration which will not only ensure that memories of the town's past are collected and preserved, but will also provide a lasting monument to the ferry link for future generations to learn from and enjoy."

## Shirley Plans Music Festival for Saltash

Thurs 28th February and Friday 1st March

Saltash Social Club

Tickets £5 each if bought in advance or £8 on the door.

All money raised will go to 'Breakthrough Breast Cancer', a good raffle and fantastic music fronted by 'Crossfire' and 'Sharon Franklin' and many more acts.

Guest starring, Yorkshire's 'Calder Rivers', (Class Country Singer) & family, Debbie Lee Richards, female vocalist, Comedienne and Barry Eccles as (Gene Pitney).

Shirley would like all her friends and family to buy tickets for the 'Saltash Music Festival' which will be raising

money for 'Breakthrough Breast Cancer'. This will be a first for Saltash.

Local music entertainment artists Stu and Charlie Hannaford will also be appearing at Saltash Social Club All money raised from the sale of tickets and the raffle will be donated to the 'Breakthrough' charity which has helped save so many lives including Shirley's. Saltash should have a music festival so let's give it a go we have so much talent and live in such a wonderful part of the world. Tickets are available from Saltash Social Club, and the Ploughboy or by contacting Shirley on 07793 486 499

If the event is well supported who knows it could become an annual event.

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Ex Year 13 student of saltash.net, Jack Humphries, returned to school during the first week of the Spring Term 2013 to share with current students and staff details of his planned trip to Nigeria later this month.

As part of a Gap Year project, Jack has enrolled with VSO to undertake a 3 month health related education project in a rural and isolated part of the country. Jack participated in assemblies explaining why he had chosen to work with VSO. His desire to 'make a difference to the lives of others' was his key motivator as was his understanding of how fortunate we are in this part of the world when it comes to housing, health and education.

saltash.net was pleased to support Jack with a donation for £250 from Non Uniform Day funds. Further donations can be made at <http://www.justgiving.com/Jack-Humphries1>

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The story of Saltash, from prehistoric settlement to the Cornish Cross of 2013 is being woven in a style inspired by the Bayeux tapestry. A local team of 'Saltash sewers, Artisans and seamstresses' (the 'Saltash SAS') is hard at work on the project, inspired by local resident Andrew Tritton who wove the first few panels himself.

Andrew took up embroidery to pass the hours at sea while serving in the Royal Navy, he told the Mayor and Councillors during a presentation in the Guildhall. Having settled in Saltash he became involved in local history through the Saltash Heritage Society and is researching the graves in St, Stephens churchyard. He then became inspired to relate the town's long history in tapestry form, beginning with prehistoric settlement around the menhir or 'long stone' at Longstone Park. He went on to portray the Roman and Norman influences on the town but realising how long the full project would take him, persuaded a team of thirty volunteers to help work upon the piece. It is anticipated it will take two or three years to complete around fifty scenes which will stretch for up to a hundred feet.

This is a living project, Andrew emphasised, intended to be taken forward to this year's raising of the giant Cornish Cross and even beyond. It will be taken to schools, colleges, churches and other groups where children and adults can add their own contributions and so play a part in recording Saltash history for future generations to enjoy.

The final site for the tapestry to be placed on permanent

public display has yet to be decided. Saltash Guildhall has been suggested and Town Councillors indicated that there were willing to agree this in principal.

### New Garden Wall Would Put Public in Fear

Public footpath users would have a well founded fear of criminal activity were a garden wall adjoining the path to be demolished and relocated. This was the decision of Saltash Town Council in recommending refusal for an application regarding the rear garden wall at Highfield Park, Latchbrook. The path is well used by children and teenagers who could feel endangered were a high wall to be erected close to the public thoroughway.

The council also recommended that if Cornwall planners were to disagree their recommendation and allow the wall to be rebuilt, the property owner should be required to provide and maintain a street light along it at his own expense.

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## Music and Memories Shared by Ashtorre Volunteers

It is twenty-two years since the late popular folk singer Brenda Wootton opened the Ashtorre Rock Community Centre on Waterside, fittingly on St. Piran's Day. This momentous occasion was relived in film for the kitchen helpers who have helped to ensure that Ashtorre still offers a warm welcome to former Watersiders and other Saltash residents and visitors, who pause for refreshment in the centre, or on the riverside balcony with its superb views of the Tamar.

The helpers were enjoying the annual social gathering put on to thank them for all their work at the centre. After a fish and chip supper they sat back to enjoy the film of the grand opening, followed by other social and other occasions in the centre's history. Most momentous was the 1994 50th Anniversary celebration of D-Day when former ferryman, whose brainchild the Ashtorre Centre was, and himself a D-Day veteran, commanded his motley uniformed 'troops' on the Waterside. There was to be a surprise for him when, as the film showed a uniformed visitor calling to inspect the troops was a long-lost wartime comrade in arms, smuggled secretly to Saltash by Gerald's daughter Lynn. This film was followed by others re-creating the fun of long gone concerts and pantomimes performed by the 'Ashore Follies'.

More kitchen helpers for frequent or just occasional morning or afternoon shifts are always welcome. Anyone interested is asked to contact Lynn Marsh on 01752 844255 or to call into Ashore, dramatically set on the rock on which the town was founded, immediately below the iconic Royal Albert Bridge.

### Play Park by Unadopted Road is Unusable

Of three parks adjoining Pollards Way and Harding's Close, a potentially excellent play area for toddlers and a good venue for older children to play ball games are unusable. Only a third park is being maintained.

This was the complaint of a local resident raised during the Town Council's public question time.

The reason, he put forward, was that the adjoining roads are unadopted following the builder going bankrupt before they could be brought up to county highway standard. For the same reason, he suggested, the steep hill is not gritted and is dangerous in winter. He also expressed concern regarding some fifty foot high trees, all having tree preservation orders.

Only the most significant roads are gritted in winter, Deputy Mayor David Yates advised. He suggested that residents might club together, as they do elsewhere including along his own road, to purchase and lay down grit when required.

It is a long and complicated process for the county to adopt a road, County Councillor Derek Holley informed the resident. He did promise to investigate the condition of the play parks.

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## Entertainment on Tap for Museum Stewards

What have a former child star of the West End, a ladies barbershop choir and two lady flautists in common? Firstly they were all beneficiaries of the Sue Hooper Charitable Trust which helped advance their musical careers. Secondly they all showed off their musical talents to entertain the stewards of Saltash Museum.

The occasion was the annual social gathering in the Guildhall when Saltash Heritage Management Committee thank those people who give their time, frequently or occasionally, to spend a two hour stint in the town's museum, welcoming visitors and talking to them about the exhibits. Without them the museum could not function, Heritage Chairman Dr. John Parsons told the stewards, encouraging them all to invite a friend or neighbour to join the stewarding team.

After a film of last Christmas' Saltash Celebrations, and a break for socialising over a pasty, Dr. Parsons invited Mrs. Sue Hooper MBE to introduce a few of the many local talents who have benefited from her trust. First was Josh Fedrick, seen by thousands as 'Billie Elliot' on the West End Stage and now running a tap dancing school in Saltash. He joined his students in an exhilarating routine to the 'William Tell' overture followed by a slower number.

Local flautist Viv and Vanito performed several duets on their hauntingly beautiful woodwind instruments before Heidi Walsh introduced the Brunel Ladies Harmony Chorus to sing some of their favourite four part harmony songs. She then joined with three of them to showcase the songs recently set to harmony by the newly formed 'Good Four Tune'.

The stewards were told that this year's museum exhibitions on the theme of 'Water' will open at Easter and run through the summer.

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### Erme Valley Riding School Benefit from Ale Festival



Bill Phillips Rotary Club President presented a cheque to Peggy Douglas founder of the Erme Valley Horse Riding for the Disabled in Ugborough, the proceeds from a recent Real Ale Festival held at the Union Inn Saltash, a joint venture between landlord Brian Pritchard and the Rotary Club of Saltash.

## SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...



Last month I spoke in the debate about the "at sea" Nuclear deterrent. Many readers will know of my special interest in the Royal Navy, as the mother of a serving Royal Naval Officer. I am pleased this Government is committed to maintaining the UK's national nuclear deterrent.

The Government has also approved the 'initial gate' investment, and selected a submarine design for the successor nuclear deterrent. Contracts have been signed for the first 18 months of work on the assessment phase of the successor submarine programme.

Trident has provided a massive amount of employment for my Constituents in South East Cornwall. Repair, refuelling and refit of the Vanguard class submarines is carried out in the D154 submarine support facilities at Devonport.

The expertise and experience that Devonport now has should be utilised in any future programme. As a local County Councillor at the time, I will never forget standing by the banks of the River Tamar in Mount Edgcumbe Park and watching the first Vanguard Submarine edge her way around Drakes Island and into Devonport Dockyard for refit.

I was pleased the my Rt Hon friend the Secretary of State announced that the £350m contract to refit and refuel the nuclear missile submarine HMS Vengeance had been awarded to Devonport in March last year. This will safeguard up to 2,000 jobs. Maintaining a continuous at sea deterrent is, in my opinion, essential. It sends the positive message that the UK is always prepared to respond instantly.

There is also the advantage of a moveable location, which assists security against any

possible threats. The Government have excellent principles to abide by when considering nuclear arms.

These include the use of nuclear weapons only in extreme circumstances of self defence, a commitment to a minimum nuclear deterrent and not to use any weapons contrary to international law. In other words these highly powerful weapons would only be used as a last resort. It is important to retain them.

I was concerned going in to coalition with partners who had the sentence "saying no to like for like replacement of the Trident nuclear weapons system" in their election Manifesto. Clearly from reports in the Independent Newspaper on 19 July last year I am still concerned they may scale down our vital nuclear deterrent, in increasingly uncertain times.

We need to remember that the UK's nuclear deterrent contributes towards the collective security of NATO. If the UK did not have an at sea deterrent, there would be a weakening of NATO's collective security, leaving the UK dependent on the US and France.

The UK has a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. It was awarded this position because our Nation was one of the most powerful countries in the world after WW2. The UK's membership of this important group could come into question without the continuation of our Nuclear Deterrent.

A British at sea nuclear deterrent has served us well for 60 years. It can and should serve us well into the future. I hope that refitting work on these submarines will continue to provide the much needed employment opportunities for my constituents in Saltash, Torpoint and throughout South East Cornwall.

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## Councillors Sit on Public Toilets

Saltash Town Council is to take over responsibility for the public toilets under the Royal Albert Bridge on Saltash Waterside to prevent them being closed. They will not, for the present, take over from Cornwall Council, responsibility for the town's other two public conveniences.

These were the preferred options decided upon after debate at the full Council meeting which considered the report of the public lavatory options panel (PLOP)

Cornwall Council had made clear its intention to close the Waterside toilets. Town Councillors agree that it was vital to keep these facilities in an area much visited by townspeople and tourists. After discussing management of the facility they agreed to subcontract this to Cormac at a cost to Saltash ratepayers estimated between fifteen and twenty thousand pounds per year.

Cornwall Council had offered Saltash the option of taking over Belle Vue Road and Longstone Park toilets, with an incentive of £16,000 to do so. However this was made clear to be a 'one off' payment, with no subsidies for future years. There is also a dire need for a complete refit of the Belle Vue facilities, currently in a poor condition, and the installation of a new disabled toilet. It was agreed by Town Councillors that they would not take on the operation of these two toilets at the present time, nor until Cornwall Council was in a position in the future to make the town a full three year offer allowing a mid-term financial strategy. The Town Council will also pursue the question of a report prepared by the former Caradon Council on the condition of the underground services of the toilets, together with potential costs and responsibility for refit and repair.

Currently the public are able to use the toilets in the Guildhall and in local public houses under agreements negotiated with landlords. While this is a useful facility for the town it was noted that these agreements could be varied by landlords at any time, and facilities withdrawn as they have been in the past.

## Local Council Tax Hike Feared In Order to Subsidise Rebate

Those who currently pay their council charge in full could have to pay more to subsidise those who are eligible for rebates. Central Government will no longer pay the subsidies to local authorities, including Cornwall, forcing local authorities to raise the subsidies themselves.

All residential properties in the county are 'banded' according to their value. Council traditionally decides on its budget for the year, then apportions this sum between each property, one pays according to one's 'band'.

As Central Government ceases to pay local authorities the shortfall from properties where householders receive rebates, and therefore pay only a part of their assessed Council Tax, the local authorities will have no choice other than to increase the money demanded of those already paying the charge in full to cover the shortfall.

While the increase may be relatively minimal for the Cornwall county tax, spread across the county, it could mean a considerable hike for town and parish council taxes, fears the Mayor of Saltash, Cllr. Martin Gee. Band 'D' households, instead of being limited to the 5% increases already agreed, could, he believes be looking at local increases of up to 18%. 'I understand that Government money is coming to Cornwall to help mitigate this and I would ask that Cornwall Council disclose how this is to be used - they have so far failed to do so, he added.

## Saltash Colts XV, pictured recently in their new warm up shirts sponsored by Mannheim Auctions.



L-R Standing Martin Rodea, Mark Hancock, Rob Eatwell, Damian Stovell, Pete Griffin, Rhys Carpenter, Ryan Horn, Ollie O'Keefe, Toby Anderson, Sean Bramwell, Cayden Denton, Graham Martin, Mark Goss, Pete Vickers - Mannheim Auctions Saltash. Kneeling L - R Kieran Down, Triss Rodea, Phil Eatwell, Dug Shirley (c), James Williams, Tom Martin, Pearce Hancock.

## Year 11 Students Celebrate January Maths Results!



Year 11 students at saltash.net had an excellent start to the new year when they returned to school for the Spring Term. Having been awaiting the results of their Maths GCSE examination which they had taken in November, many students were delighted to find out that they had already secured an A\*-C grade eight months early!

Out of a large year group of 236 students, 62% have now achieved at least a C or better and the remaining 38% of students will have other chances later on in the year to strive for a top Maths Grade. saltash.net was particularly pleased to have received this set of results as last year's Year 11 cohort had been adversely affected by the GCSE 'fiasco' and the last

minute raising of grade boundaries. The school is still involved in an ongoing appeal against the AQA exam board, contesting the 2012 Maths Modular results. It was faced with a very difficult set of circumstances at the start of the Autumn Term but the decision to switch exam board and move to a Linear exam was clearly the right one.

On receiving the excellent news about the latest results, headteacher Isobel Bryce said, "We are so proud of our Year 11 students who responded brilliantly to all the help and support given to them by our Maths department. The 62% achieved places them 18 percentage points higher than similar schools nationally at this stage of the year. It shows that last summer's AQA

results were completely anomalous and we will continue to do all that we can to fight for justice for the young people involved."

## Amazing ICT Enrichment Visit

Recently a large group of 6th Form A Level ICT students travelled to Bristol to visit Aardman Studios and the Pervasive Media Company buildings.

The group, led by Mr Angus Reith, Head of ICT at saltash.net was given a unique opportunity to see first hand the amazingly creative 'tour de force' that led to Wallace and Grommit making an appearance on our TV screens, as well as other animated characters such as the Duracel Rabbit and the Creative Comfort animals. In addition, the group was treated to an inspirational workshop led by Clare Reddington, Director of Pervasive Media, which had students lost for words, such was the brilliance of the projects and ideas they were introduced to.

Speaking at the end of the visit, Year 12 student, Jack Brown, said - "The experience has made me change my perception on the world and realise that with a little bit of elbow grease and collaboration, anything is possible.

My thanks go to Clare Reddington for setting up the day's events and to Mr Reith who organised the amazing trip."

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## Saltmill Park Secures £50,000 from Sporting Legacy Fund

Community Sports Facility in East Cornwall has secured Olympic legacy funding from Sport England's Inspired Facilities fund.

Sport England today revealed that more than 1,000 local sports projects across the country have now received National Lottery funding through Inspired Facilities, which is part of the £150 million Places People Play legacy programme. Every sports facility that receives funding will carry the London 2012 Inspire mark - celebrating the link to the Games.

Saltmill Park will receive £50,000 for the creation of an indoor training facility (installation of modular building) to add additional facilities to the existing Pitch and Pavilion. We plan for the centre to become an accredited sports training centre which together with the existing All Weather Pitch facilities will offer a range of sports coaching and training opportunities to the local community. The indoor space will also be used for children's holiday sports activity programmes, children's parties, as a community meeting space and as a volunteers training space.

Sport England's Chair, Richard Lewis, said: "This National Lottery investment is helping us deliver a lasting sporting legacy in Cornwall from last year's successful Olympic and Paralympic Games.

"With so many clubs in the South West having benefitted from this fund already and

building on the success of last summer, this is the legacy people want for their local community."

Nicola Davey, Devon & Cornwall Operations Manager for Groudwork South said "we are delighted to have secured this funding. Having an indoor space will enable us to offer the community even more - from sports coaching courses to childrens parties to a meeting venue for community groups and organisations."

Mayor of Saltash, Councillor Martin Gee, said "Saltash is extremely lucky to have an all weather pitch at Saltmill Park. This investment will enhance the existing facilities by adding an indoor space, which will in turn increase local sporting activities."

Saltmill Park is one of 310 projects across England to have received lottery investment from the third round of the Inspired Facilities fund and one of over 1,000 to benefit overall, with the milestone being achieved one year ahead of schedule.

Many more communities can still benefit from the fund, with a further two rounds remaining. Bids will be accepted for the fourth round of Inspired Facilities Funding from the 4 March 2013.

You can find out more at [www.sportengland.org/inspiredfacilities](http://www.sportengland.org/inspiredfacilities).

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## Awakening of Lost Garden Related to Saltash Old Cornwall Society

Considered by many to be most beautiful gardens in Cornwall, those at Heligan must surely have the most fascinating and romantic history.

During World War I the team of 24 gardeners went to the front in France, few of them to return. Following the peace Jack Tremayne, the last of the family who had lived there for four centuries declared that he could no longer live with the ghosts and moved away, never to return.

The tale of how the garden went to sleep, to be awakened and eventually opened to the public in 1992, was related to Saltash Old Cornwall Society by Peter Lavis. He illustrated his talk with a wide selection of slides showing the dereliction discovered by Tim Smit and his team in the 1980's contrasted with the glories of the gardens today. He related how the team that unearthed the gardeners' shed discovered the signatures of those last gardeners from just before their departure to the 'War to end Wars' in 1914. He also told of how in the derelict Italian garden, the plinth to a missing statue supporting the fountain had been uncovered, and the firm in Florence that had cast the statue in 1907 still had the mould from which a perfect copy could be cast. Many of the original garden

tools were discovered and are preferred, by today's gardeners, to their modern equivalents, Social Secretary Martin Lister thanked Mr Lavis for bringing the glories of a spring and summer garden to a wet winter evening.

The Society's next meeting has been put back to Monday 4th March so that it can include a St. Pirantide Eve Celebration

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## SALTASH U3A

The Mayor and Mayoress of Saltash were greeted with songs by our Singing Group when they opened our Show Case Meeting in Saltash Wesley Church. The January Show Case is an annual event when we welcome anybody who wishes to see what our U3A does.

More than twenty interest groups displayed stalls which were spread between three rooms, and each was attended by a member of the group who answered questions and gave information about the activities of the group. The Mayor and Mayoress spent time at each stall and it was a busy and enjoyable afternoon. Several new people joined bringing our membership to over two hundred.

Plans are underway for a Music and Art Study Day in July, and anybody who is interested should book their ticket soon as spaces are limited. (contact 01752 843789)

## A Chart Topper for Saltash

A resident from a care home in Cornwall is gearing up to break into the top 40 record charts. Audrey Masztalerz 87, who has lived at St Anne's Saltash for 12 months, was joined by staff and older people living in Anchor care homes and retirement properties in Cornwall/Plymouth to record their song called "See Yourself".



Audrey and other members of the Anchor Community Band spent several weeks rehearsing.

The lyrics of the song, which were written by Anchor Well-being Manager Carl Martin, were shaped by answers to questionnaires completed by older people from Cornwall/Plymouth and the rest of Britain about their life experiences.

All the money raised from the sales of the record will go towards Contact the Elderly which aims to combat the loneliness and social isolation faced by many older people aged over 75, who live alone.

Volunteer hosts hold free, monthly Sunday tea parties in their own homes for older people, with drivers collecting and accompanying the guests to the events.

Audrey, who has been singing from being a small child, said that now "See Yourself" had been written she was looking forward to the challenge of getting the record into the charts.

She said: "The song is so powerful because the words reflect the life experiences of older people across the country. I hope lots of people buy the record because it's a true celebration of older people's achievements. It should hopefully raise lots of money for Contact the Elderly which is such a worthwhile cause."

"The real work starts now. We've got a few weeks of rehearsals before we look to record the song. We've invited people living in Anchor properties across the region to take part so it's going to be fun."

Keith Arscott, Director at Contact the Elderly, said: "We are extremely grateful to Anchor and can't wait for the single to be released. The money raised will be invaluable in helping us to extend our vital lifeline of friendship to more isolated older people."

## 'Strictly Saltash: Athletic Teachers Wow Year 11 Audience!'



In recognition of all the hard work that had taken place during the Autumn Term of 2012, the Year 11 pastoral team at saltash.net gave students a special treat during the last period before everyone finished for the Christmas Holidays. Only the 9 students selected as judges and compère were 'in the know' about the end of term entertainment; for the rest of the Year 11 students it was 'Strictly Confidential'.

Upon entering the school's main hall, however, the glowing image of a disco ball on screen, plus atmospheric lighting, gave the secret away and soon six 'fabulous' couples were strutting their stuff on the dance floor.

Bruce Forsyth wannabee,

Assistant Head, Kasim Langmead, ably assisted by his glamorous compère, Jasmine Smith from Year 11, kept the judges in

control, before the final winners were announced. It



was a close fought victory with Science teachers Mr Chris Henderson and Mr Leigh Hotchin just pipping ICT teacher Mr Paul Horrell and Science teacher Mrs Nicki Bovey into second place. The judges all agreed that the winning duo's combination of Salsa and Gangnam style dancing had stolen the day.

Head of Science, Mr Chris Henderson, commenting on his unexpected success said: "Mr Hotchin and I had been on a strict diet and exercise programme during the previous month. There had been many late nights, watching 'Dirty Dancing' and a bit of 'Fame'. I was worried about the lift but he held me well, then when we got into Gangnam style it was all about the freestyle. We just let our hair down and went for it to create perhaps one of my proudest moments in teaching. As always the students were amazing, showing great support and enthusiasm at the end of a long term. We are just waiting to see footage on the next 'You've been Framed' or YouTube show."

## Conundrum Answers

Flipchar  
LateX  
Nine-letter word:  
Alto 7 Henry 8 Chile 9  
Pear 4 Rock 5 Finland 6  
I Toto 2 Inishmore 3

## Saltash Leisure Centre



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## Mother's Day! Sunday 10th March...Enjoy a lovely walk in our local Countryside with the family before heading off to lunch!

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