



SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

January 2011 - Issue 222

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

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FREEDOM AWARDED TO FORMER MP

The highest honour that the Town can bestow' was conferred by Mayor Cllr Adam Killea on one who has devoted himself to Saltash and South East Cornwall since the early 1980's.

The Freedom of Saltash was granted to Colin Breed in recognition of his service as Town Councillor over two decades in which he twice served as Mayor, and for thirteen years serving him home town and district as constituency member of parliament. He was elected as the Liberal Democrat member for South East Cornwall in 1997 and served continually until his retirement at the May 2010 election.

During the decades he has "Supported all councillors no

matter what their politics may be," Cllr. Sue Hooper MBE was reported as saying. He has also been a mainstay of the Saltash Wesley Church and his financial expertise is largely responsible for the much admired church complex that adorns the town today.

During his parliamentary career Colin's responsibilities included serving on the Defence Select Committee and as Liberal Democrat Agricultural spokesman. He has also been , and continues to be, involved in the Democratisation of Iraq.

"I came to Saltash thirty years ago intending to stay around eighteen months," Colin stated in reply. "Since then my involvement with the Wesley Church and with the Town has changed our lives and perhaps in some ways, the life of the Town."

Contrary to popular belief, the Mayor explained, Freedom of the Town does not give the right to drive one's sheep over the Tamar Bridge, to walk down Fore Street with fixed bayonet, or even to be hung with a silk, and not a hempen rope, if one comes to a sticky end.

It does however, as in this case confer on the honoured recipient a badge, a scroll, a bouquet present by the Mayoress to Colin's wife Janet, a name inscribed on the board in the Council Chamber and the satisfaction of knowing one has been singled out among Saltash Citizens for a rare accolade awarded only to those most appreciated by their fellow Townsfolk.

BURRATON CHILDREN RISE TO SHOEBOX CHALLENGE



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Excited school pupils at Burraton were thrilled to find that they had succeeded in the challenge they set themselves, to exceed the thirty shoeboxes full of toys that they had collected for children less fortunate than themselves the previous year.

Burraton CP School had previously entered keenly into the Rotary International Shoebox campaign organised locally by a committee including Rotarian Mary Crawford.

She, together with Rotary past president Brian Stoyel were invited by staff member Mr Jones to give a presentation to the school on the Shoebox Campaign which works

alongside Rotary International's acclaimed Shelterbox and Aquabox assistance for national emergencies.

Shoeboxes are sent throughout the world, especially at Christmas, to children who will have few if any toys to enjoy otherwise. Burraton Pupils were clearly fascinated by the presentation and all were eager to put in a special effort to help other children this Christmas by seeing how many extra boxes they could fill.

By the time Rotary President David Brown accompanied by Mary Crawford went back to the school just before the Christmas break the children were thrilled to be able to show them around 150 shoeboxes which they had generously filled to the brim with toys for other children to enjoy, they are on target to reach 200 boxes, when all have been returned.

Together the children set up a human chain right through the school to pass the boxes past David and Mary, Mr Jones and Head Teacher Mr Bell to the van which was to take the boxes on the first stage of their journey. The children were notably proud to accept their well deserved and highly esteemed Rotary Certificate of Achievement.

In thanking the children of Burraton CP School, Saltash Rotarians would also like to



Mr Jones accepts a Certificate of Achievement on behalf of Burraton CP School, from Rotary President David Brown

Plaques mark Rotary service to Town

Fifty years of service to Saltash and the wider community is being marked by Saltash Rotary by a presentation of permanent plaques.

One such plaque has been donated to St Barnabas Hospital for which local Rotarians have done much to support since their foundation in 1959. Others were intended to be presented to the library and Saltash Heritage. The fourth was presented to the Guildhall by former president Brian Stoyel. He was thanked by Deputy Mayor Cllr. Colin Oakes for all the work Rotary does helping the Town and was urged to "keep it up!"

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& our PL12 community

For Observer readers

From Councillor Bryan Preston
Burraton Ward Saltash



Your Cornwall Councillors Bob Austin, Derek Holley, Bryan Preston and Colin Riches would like to wish all the readers of the Saltash Observer a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Budget.

As Councillor Holley wrote last month the budget still dominates news from County Hall. Although the emergency budget was passed with a reduced majority, some of us in Saltash opposed it, calling it a decision too soon as the final settlement from Central Government was yet to be announced. We have to remember that the swingeing cuts demanded by the Coalition Government will not only affect the provision of services the Council is responsible for but will also lead to considerable job losses. Anything that can be done to alleviate these job losses should be done and pressing ahead too quickly with the budget cuts may prove not to have been the right decision, only time will tell.

Although we now know the extent of the budget reduction, it is yet unclear exactly where the axe will fall. The affect of the cuts will become more obvious as the year progresses and it is hard to understand how front line services will not be hit considering the savings that need to be made.

As always, your Saltash Cornwall Council councillors will be working together to make sure that our town is treated fairly by the Truro based administration

Car Parking

At the time of writing the decision by the Cabinet on car parking charges has yet to be made. We have all worked hard to explain the particular difficulties Saltash and indeed Torpoint face with a big city on their doorstep. The proposal was to set the cost of the first hour of parking at 50p. We hope that we have successfully argued for that to be reduced to 30p in Saltash to offset the competition from Plymouth. The panel receiving evidence about parking charges agreed with us but the Cabinet will make the final decision. Watch this space.

Contrast the 50p or even the 30p charge if it is reduced with the situation under the previous administration just 2 years ago. Then the first hour was 10p or only 5p for residents of Saltash with a parking card. This really benefitted the town and its traders and brought life back to Fore Street. It will be a great shame if these proposals by the new Council drive shoppers away again.

Over 60s bus pass

For those of you with an over 60s bus pass be warned that

the Council is changing its validity, a passenger travelling between 9.30 am and 11.00 pm Monday to Friday will still get free travel but outside these times they will now have to pay the standard fare. During the election campaign, we were told by David Cameron that the bus passes would be safe; this is obviously not now the case. Although only a small change we will need to keep a sharp eye on any proposed changes in the future. Travel on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays is not affected.

Police Authority

The Police Authority which sets the Devon and Cornwall Police budget is also having to deal with deep cuts proposed by the Government. Calls from the Home Secretary to cut back office functions and cut down on bureaucracy come after 4 years of the Police and the Police Authority doing just that. "00 officers have already been taken out of the back office and returned to the front line. To achieve the cuts demanded there will have to be cuts in police numbers with the 3500 officers today being reduced by 700, in addition the number of civilian staff which has fallen already over the last 4 years will e reduced again.

Recruitment of officers has been frozen and a regulation called A19 which retires officers after 30 years service is likely to be invoked. The Police Authority is working closely with the Chief Constable and his senior officer team to make sure that despite the cut backs, visible policing which is what the public wants will not be reduced. One piece of good news is that the Home Office grant that supports our PCSOs is being maintained.

All this comes at a time when the Government is proposing replacing Police Authorities with a single directly elected Policing and Crime Commissioners.

Devon and Cornwall Police Authority and the national Association of Police Authorities oppose this move. Their 3 main points of opposition are

Geography. How can one person deal with an enormous geographical area like Devon and Cornwall, the biggest force area in England, and will Cornwall be disadvantaged if they are based in Exeter.

Politicisation. It is likely that the Commissioner will come from one of the political parties who have the organisation to fight an election campaign. This could bring an unwelcome political dimension into policing. There is likely to be a low turnout at elections allowing fringe candidates to succeed, the BNP have already said that they are preparing candidates

LOCAL LASS IS LIB-DEM COUNCILLOR

Cornish born Hilary Frank has joined Saltash Town Council after a closely contested three way election for Pill Ward.

Self-employed and building up her own business, Hilary stood as Liberal Democrat candidate against two independents. Living with her husband and two young daughters aged 4 and 17 months, education is one of her main concerns. "Talking to other mothers I have become especially concerned over the huge intake into local schools and especially those moving from junior to secondary schools. I am anxious to discover and to monitor the local situation," she told the Observer after her first full council meeting. "I am also keen to help bring the heart back into a Fore Street clearly still feeling the results of economic recession."

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to stand.

Cost. The first elections are proposed for May 2012, there are no elections in Cornwall that year and very few in Devon. Independent assessors have put the cost of the elections alone at £1.9 million, which is £350,000 more than the whole Police Authority costs to run at the moment.

At a time of financial restraint is this a wise way to spend scarce resources. The money would be better spent on Police officers. Do we want Commissioners or Constables?

There is a Public consultation, you can send your views to scrutiny@parliament.uk or to Devon and Cornwall Police Authority at polauth@devonandcornwall.pn n.police.co.uk or write to Devon and Cornwall Police Authority, Endeavour House, Woodwater Park, Pynes Hill, Exeter, EX52 5WH
Bryan Preston

Esther shared her Century with Club's Christmas Party



One of Saltash Age Concern's luncheon club members had a double reason to celebrate with her Christmas lunch at the 'Ploughboy Inn.' As well as Christmas she was enjoying a hundredth birthday party with family as well as all her friends in the luncheon club.

Esther Cockerill was presented with a special birthday gift by Age Concern Chairman Ken Wasley, he was ably assisted by Barbara English Saltash and District Age Concern's Lunch Club Co-ordinator. Barbara with her

STALL BOOKING

Stall booking for the Saltash May Fair street market will take place at the SHADO Centre in Plougastel Drive, Saltash on Tuesday February 1st at 7.00p.m. Stall spaces are offered on a first come, first served basis and, with limited spaces available, anyone interested in booking a stall for the market on Fore Street should arrive as early as possible. Prices per pitch vary, but Registered Charities can reserve their place for just £15.00.

May Fair has become more and more popular over the last four years and in 2010 the Committee increased the amount of sites available, which proved to be a wise decision as more than 70 sites were booked within the first week of February.

team is responsible for the regular Thursday lunches provided at the Burraton Community Centre.

Esther was delighted to accept a framed photograph of all her luncheon club friends, which had been taken at an earlier date by Bernard Melling.

An excellent Christmas spread was enjoyed by Esther, her family, guests and fellow club members, including Mayor Adam Killeya and his wife Merryn who congratulated Esther and presented her with a beautiful bouquet.

Following the meal, entertainer "Jim" on his accordion, played "Maybe It's because I'm a Londoner" for Esther. As Jim played and sang Christmas Carols it was noted that Esther raised her voice to join in with the seasonal songs that she had shared with family and friends over so many decades during which the joy of Christmas continues unchanged.

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Central Performance Area and Market 'Brilliant' believe Local Youth Panel

A performance area where young people can show off their talents, a mixed market where people can meet up as a community and an aesthetically pleasing consistent theme of Fore Street shops are among ideas favoured by our school age citizens for enhancement of the town.

Students from saltash.net school from juniors to sixth form met with representatives from three local junior schools to let the Mayor and Councillors hear their views. They had been selected by their own school councils to attend the inaugural meeting of the Saltash Mayor's Panel for Youth.

A presentation by Les Williams of the Saltash Community Interest Company's proposals for Town Centre regeneration led to

lively debate over which aspects young people would favour. All seemed agreed that a "performance area where kids can show their talents" would be "brilliant" though one girl was concerned that this would lose the Town parking spaces which her mother already had problems finding. Other green-minded students believed that if this encouraged less car-dependency it might be advantageous. Alexandra Square as a site for a Town Square and Performance Area seemed to find favour, most believing that visitors to it would also use Fore Street facilities.

A 'mixed market' held fortnightly or occasionally would boost business and bring the generations together as a community, it was felt.

The shopping centre itself looks tired and the building fronts are unattractive, needing to be brought to life. A more consistent theme bringing more aesthetic pleasure could attract shoppers and visitors it was felt. "Who is the most famous person is Saltash, after whom a school has been named?," one saltash.net junior boy asked, urging that the Brunel theme be promoted to enhance visitor numbers to the town.

The Mayor invited his Youth Panel to raise other issues of concern to them. Topping these concerns was clearly anti-social behaviour with younger members in particular citing areas where they and their friends were concerned to go. These included in particular Salt Mill, where some were too intimidated to use the young peoples facilities. They asked for more uniformed police patrols, adults without the authority of a uniform are ignored, they believed. Tincombe is another 'no go' area for some of our younger citizens who were also distressed at the litter in the area and the overgrown and damaged state of the park and nature reserve.

The Mayor thanked all of the young people for their attendance and their strongly felt views. He promised that they would be put to the full Town Council and, where appropriate, the police would be asked to increase visible patrolling in certain area. A police representative would be invited to attend the next Youth Panel meeting intended to be held in January 2011.

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FROM THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR...

I trust you all had an enjoyable and safe festive season despite the dreadful weather. Those with more Saltash experience than I tell me that they haven't seen anything like it since 1961!

Mayor's "Gaffe"

Having managed a 'gaffe-free' year of office so far my perfect record has been spoilt by a small piece on page 7 of last month's Observer which reported that after the Guildhall fire drill I joked that 'when a fire practice causes the school to be evacuated a few of the less enthusiastic students take this as an excuse to bunk off home for the rest of the day'. My joke was actually about schools in general, but it has been suggested to me that the odd reader more familiar with Grange Hill on TV than saltash.net in reality might have taken this remark seriously. I know no-one present at the time did because they laughed! So for the record: saltash.net, with record exam results this year and two consecutive 'good with outstanding features' Ofsted reports, has no truancy difficulties during fire drills or at any other time!

Having removed foot from mouth, Merryn and I did have a lovely time this month visiting several residential homes and public services within Saltash. We made it to The Elms, Malvern House, St Anne's, Marray House, Beech House, Rowan House, Kingsleigh House, Tamar Nursing Home, Saltash Police Station, Saltash Fire Station, the Tamar Bridge Office and Saltash Postal Sorting Office. Unfortunately our visit to Cresta Abbeyfield had to be postponed due to the weather but we hope to get there in the New Year. Many thanks to all of those who made us feel so welcome and exchanged Christmas greetings with us!

In addition this month I hosted the first meeting of the Saltash Mayor's Panel for Youth and was greatly encouraged for the future by the quality of the contributions made on a range of issues, particularly town centre improvement and anti-social behaviour. Many thanks to Declan, Abbie and Robin from saltash.net; Patrick from Bishop Cornish, Megan from St Stephen's and Jasmine & Neve from Burraton.

Merryn and I also attended the Bishop Cornish Christmas Fayre, the Caradon Cobras Swimming Gala, the Guide's Carol Service, The Age Concern Wednesday Club Christmas Lunch, the splendid production of 'Oliver' at saltash.net, the St Anne's Waitrose taster evening, the St John's Ambulance Cornwall Carol Service, Bishop Cornish Christingle Service, The Age Concern Thursday Club Christmas Lunch and celebration of Mrs Esther Cockerill's 100th birthday, the 6th form presentation evening at saltash.net, the Babcock

Marine Carol Service, and the Saltash Wesley Christmas Lunch. We also had a couple of sad postponements due to weather!

The Town Council is of course very aware of the difficulties that all residents experienced in getting around Saltash in the week or two before Christmas. Councillors have been working very hard, with some success, to take forward all reports of difficulties in Saltash and get them sorted. Please also rest assured that we are putting the general issues across to Cornwall Council very forcefully. You may be aware that from next year Cornwall Council will not provide Grit bins at all, and this is something that the Town Council has been forced to take on as an alternative to having no grit bins in Saltash. We will then also be responsible for refilling the bins and are already working on plans for the best way to do this.

We were also disappointed that the 5 days free Christmas Parking in Saltash was withdrawn by Cornwall Council, but delighted that Saltash & District Chamber of Commerce agreed to contribute to the Town Council's decision to pay for the free parking ourselves. I hope that many of you took advantage of this to make use of our excellent town centre shops in the run up to Christmas Day.

The final event Merryn and I attended this month had a very mayoral theme: the evening began with the much deserved investiture of Colin Breed, our former double-mayor and MP, as a freeman of Saltash; for his decades of service to the community on the council, in parliament, as Saltash Wesley and in many other areas. I am assured that Colin did not realise that this honour was about to be sprung on him until it actually was, which suggests that he may be the only person in Saltash not to have worked out that he thoroughly merited it! The same evening we took a photo of all the Mayor's of Saltash who could come, some 14 in all, and then I was delighted to receive from my immediate predecessor, Cllr Mrs Sue Hooper MBE, a new link for the Mayor's chain. Sue and her husband and consort John had very kindly approached the rest of the council and offered to donate a link to commemorate both Sue's 4th term as Mayor, and the 150th anniversary of the Royal Albert Bridge last year: an offer we were very pleased to accept. If you see me with the chain on please do take a look at the new link on the back.

I will finish this month by offering you all my best wishes for a successful and enjoyable year. May your resolutions all be kept: mine is not to make any more jokes that might possibly look serious in print, so let me know how I get on!

Santa's Sleigh got through the Snow



Santa is of course well accustomed to snow and ice on his Christmas deliveries and the Rotary sleigh too brought its welcome white-bearded and red-robed visitor through Saltash streets despite the pre-Christmas snowfalls.

It is now an eagerly welcomed pre-Christmas Saltash tradition for the sleigh to wind round Saltash's streets with Christmas music playing and the jovial old fellow waving and wishing excited youngsters and those not so young a merry Christmas. Santa's not so little helpers, well-wrapped up Rotary members, also faced freezing conditions to collect a total of around £2,500 for Rotary charity funds.

Meanwhile, Rotary members were also touring Saltash, this time in a 4x4 vehicle, to admire those houses that had entered into seasonal

spirit by decorating their exteriors and selecting those which would win the grand hamper, kindly donated by Waitrose, as the best decorated, as well as the champagne and chocolates for runners up. Winners were Raymond and Margaret Harris of Howard Close followed by Marlene Jones and Mary Thomas. All were delighted to attend at Waitrose to collect their prizes

from Waitrose Marketing Manager Graham Morris, Sophie Jarvis of P.R. and Marketing, and Saltash Rotary President David Brown.

Another fine hamper, kindly donated by Hazel Woolford of Treasure Island, was raffled during the pre-Christmas period while temptingly displayed in the Fore Street shop window and raised a further £238 for local charities.



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The Thames frozen in 1684

"The Frost continuing more and more severe, the Thames, before London, was still planted with booths in formal streets, all sorts of trades and shops furnished and full of commodities. Coaches plied from Westminster to the Temple and from other stairs to and fro as in the streets; sleds sliding with skaites, a bull-baiting, horse and coach races, puppet-plays and interludes, cooks, tipping and other lewd places; so that it seemed to be a Bacchanalian triumph or carnival on the water; while it was a severe judgement on the land, the trees not only splitting as if lightning-struck, but men and cattle perishing in divers places, and the very seas so locked up with ice that no vessels could stir out or come in. The fowls, fish and birds and all our exotic plants and greens, universally perishing.

London, by reason of the excessive coldness of the air hindering the ascent of the smoke, was so filled with the fuliginous steam of the sea-coal that hardly could any one see across the street and this filling the lungs so as one could scarce breathe.

There was no water to be had from the pipes and engines; nor could the brewers and divers other tradesmen work, and every moment was full of disastrous incidents."

John Evelyn's Diary 24th January 1684.

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That was 2010 That was...

Janus is traditionally pictured with two faces and, like Janus, in January we look back at the year just past and forward to anticipate the year to come. As we glance back through the Saltash year just gone we see as ever a pattern of events and developments, some enjoyable and hopeful, others less so. Above all however, we can be proud that our friendly town has retained its centuries old sense of community, local events have been well supported. Local business are, for the most part, holding on in the face of recession and competition from the out of town megastores. With our support, and with the hoped-for gradual improvement in the economy, let us hope that our local businesses, the heart of our community, will remain and will flourish as the new year takes hold. And now our review of Saltash in 2010

WINTER

"Summer's pleasures they are gone like to visions every one And the cloudy days of Autumn and of Winter cometh on."
John Clare (1793-1864)

The year 2010 began – as it ended – with a big freeze. Snow which brought delight to the children, turned to ice which brought frustration to the motorist and the pedestrians as Saltash's roads and pavements turned to skating rinks. Not surprisingly a number of



addressed our Chamber of Commerce – we were to hear more of her as the year progressed. 'Brunel Bridge to go white or grey,' it was reported in March advising that scaffolding would go up ready for the repaint in October. We still see no sign of it. We also reported on concern of the deteriorating state of our station building – it still stands empty.

Other topics on which we reported and on which we were to hear more during the year were the three day public enquiry into proposed Bridge toll increases and the local concern at keeping shoppers' parking charges limited to twenty pence.

We on the Observer made our own news during 2010 as we celebrated our 'coming of age,' eighteen years of producing what many tell us is your favourite paper.

As part of our celebratory charity fund raising we enjoyed hosting an evening of fun and live entertainment in the 'Railway Hotel' one Winter's night with promise of more fund-raising to come.



our stories were weather-related with complaints about lack of grit in the bins, complaints about residents taking the grit for their own drives, and news of the milk getting through the hazardous side roads to maintain doorstep deliveries.

One headline read 'World Cup could benefit Saltash,' Plymouth Argyle having high hopes of hosting some 2018 games. The pain of losing the games to Russia was later to be felt locally.

In January we also introduced readers to prospective candidate Sheryl I Murray as she

SPRING

"And frosts are slain And flowers begotten And in green underwood and cover Blossom by blossom the Spring begins."
Algernon Swinburne (1827 – 1909)

"Bridge Toll Shock" was our banner headline in April. Not only did the public enquiry somewhat reluctantly accept the need for a fifty per cent toll hike, it was immediately implemented. This together with increasing petrol costs (not for the last time) spelt bad news for local commuters.



There was better news for local environmentalists. Saltash was saved from having an incinerator with giant chimney dominating the town from across the Tamar. The argument still continues regarding other sites.

"Plans for Celtic Cross recommence" we reported and with a visit from Eden Project's Tim Smit who lent his backing to the scheme, the cross, and the relandscaping of the current scrubland around it, are now forging ahead.

With the Spring Saltash celebrates. Once again the sun shone on a

successful May Fair which spread right through the town from Longstone Park and Victoria gardens to the foot of Fore Street. A popular new attraction was the Town Criers' competition and, unique to Saltash we believe, the Junior Town Criers' competition was won by eight year old Clare Jones



the civic front. Sue Hooper MBE completed her fourth term of office as Mayor and Adam Killea assumed the robes and chains of office with his wife Merryn, also a town councillor, as Mayoress. A d a m introduced a new tradition to Saltash by appointing 'M a y o r s Cadets' from among our unformed organisations. We also said farewell to long-standing Town Clerk Marilyn Small on her retirement. After a few months interregnum we were pleased to welcome Ray Lane who is now happily settled into that office.

On the national front we also saw changes. After long years of service as Liberal Democrat Member of Parliament for East Cornwall, Saltash resident Colin Breed stood down at May's general election.

A close and hard fought contest saw South East Cornwall elect its first female MP as Conservative Sheryll Murray pipped Liberal Democrat Karen Gillard to win the Westminster seat.

"Third supermarket planned for Carkeel;" we reported in June as Tesco put forward their proposals. Meanwhile a plethora of fun and entertainment continued. The Emergency Services Road Awareness Day held at Warfelton Field on one of the Summer's hottest days proved a popular success as was Forder Fete on the same day. Burraton Community Centre celebrated its fiftieth anniversary with a packed programme of music; drama and other entertainment.



There were changes on

SUMMER

"Made one long bathing of a Summer's Day."
WILLIAM WORDSWORTH (1770 – 1850)

A hot dry spell of balmy days and warm nights heralded in our Saltash Summer as our lawns turned brown and our residents turned to the beach. We will never forget our own day on the beach as our readers and honoured guests, including newly elected Sheryll Murray MP, and our Mayor and Mayoress joined us at Seaton Beach for an afternoon and evening of fun and entertainment to celebrate our eighteenth anniversary of the Observer in fitting style. This culminated in our grand thousand duck race with Ace Reporter Martin resolutely pacing the muddy river urging recalcitrant ducks seaward.

Closet to home live entertainment was enjoyed over a weekend down on the Waterside as the Town's first 'Saltfest' brought together a range of live music to suit all tastes.

Plans for regeneration of the Town were published and have since attracted much comment positive and otherwise. The foremost feature of the plan is a town square as a gathering centre. While many agree on the principal suggested siting, Alexandra Square, has attracted some controversy.

More immediate short term improvements to the town came about following our report "Saltash Councillors clean up."

A working party of councillors and spouses made a long empty shop suitable as a showcase for local organisations and events and several shops are to be used for this purpose before, hopefully, they are re-occupied for business.

There was mixed news for local walkers. The promised pedestrian footbridge over the bypass at Carkeel was one of the first victims of public spending cuts. And while walkers were delighted that Cornwall Council had agreed to designate a vital link in the footpath past Antony Passage as a right of way, a subsequent appeal against this decision is yet to be heard.

Another controversial matter raised its head in late Summer – the issue of Saltash being absorbed into a Plymouth "Devonwall" parliamentary constituency, again this story was to run.




AUTUMN

"When lofty trees I see barren of leaves Which erst from heat did canopy the herd And Summer's green all girded up in sheaves Born on the bier with white and bristly beard."
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (1564 – 1616)

"Town says yes to Tesco" we headlined in October. Our Town Council recommended approval of the third supermarket adjacent to the Carkeel Roundabout. We now understand that Cornwall's planners are to consider the recommendation in February.

As we welcomed our new Town Clerk there were changes to our Council's organisation. A new staffing committee was set up and the Burial Board Committee expanded as the extension to the cemetery at St Stephens proceeded apace.

A lively programme of green-minded events was organised by Saltash Environmental Action (SEA) as part of its campaign to make Saltash a Transition Town. A 'green army' marched over the Tamar Bridge to herald the events which included a picnic, free car boot sale, fashion show, orchard planting and a number of talks and film shows.

"Hundreds rally by the river" we reported in November as staunch Cornishmen from throughout the county gathered to urge that Cornwall keep its own parliamentary seats separate from Devon. There was a splendid atmosphere and a sense



of unity reminiscent of a much sung about gathering of twenty thousand Cornishmen. This did not however, persuade the Commons when they subsequently voted. We still await the eventual outcome.

We were pleased to report on the regeneration of our popular youth club K3 (as it is now) and the stimulating speech given by 'Afghan war victim' Ben McBean.

Threatened library and bus service cuts were reported as public spending cuts began to bite – though we now are told that the libraries themselves should be safe. And our budget conscious Cornwall Council also appears to have undergone a reversal of its plans to let Saltash retain its reduced shopper's parking charges.

We were pleased to attend the inaugural meeting of the Mayor's youth council and to hear its opinions enthusiastically expressed – here at least the proposed town square in Alexandra Square meets with keen approval.

We were pleased also to hear that the long promised NHS Dental surgery at last appears ready to become a reality, hopefully in February 2011

A more exciting and spectacular development, the Celtic Cross taller even than the renowned Angel of the North, now seems likely to rise above a regenerated Elwell Woods, alongside the Tamar Bridge by next Summer. That seems likely to be a highlight of Saltash 2011 on which we will be fully reporting.



AND OF 2011?

"Through all the circle of the golden year."

ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON (1809 -1892)

As the sun went down on Christmas Eve that magic in the air was almost tangible. And Saltash had an extra excitement in it being for once a white Christmas. Though many with journeys ahead cursed the snow and ice, as one looked out across the frozen Tamar Valley, at pale patterned fields and the vivid white massifs of Dartmoor and Bodmin Moor beyond there was an additional enchantment to that most magical of nights and the day to come. Fortunately, the snow had vanished by the time Saltash celebrated the New Year with the pealing of bells from ancient churches and the flash and bang of fireworks.

Now, as we return to the daily routine we look to 2011 and what it has to offer Saltash. We have already mentioned the Celtic Cross, the erection of which should be a drama almost to match that of Brunel's Bridge 152 years before. The landscaping of Elwell Woods will also bring a new natural attraction to



the heart of Saltash.

We will hear more no doubt of the town square, market and other proposals put forward in the recent regeneration plan.

And we should at long last see the repainting of Brunel's Bridge commence.

Will there be any action on the derelict station building?

A decision is to be made on the Tesco supermarket at Carkeel, a cause of concern to some of our Town's traders. And we should at last have our NHS Dental surgery.

We will also have to brace ourselves for a year of government and local government spending cuts likely to impact on us all.

And if, as seems now likely, Saltash finds itself as part of a new "Devonwall" parliamentary constituency is this the beginning of the end for Saltash's proud history as the Gateway to Cornwall?

You may be sure that we will be reporting to you on all these issues as they

arise through 2011. We will also of course continue to keep you informed of all the celebrations and events that help make Saltash such a wonderful place in which to live.

We are now in our nineteenth year of producing each month the paper that so many of you say is "the local paper that I always read right through - it's the one that's full of real local news." But of course, we can only continue delivering your Observer with our compliments each month as long as our friendly local businesses which support us continue to be supported by you, the people of Saltash and District.

Hard times may be ahead, let us all pull together, support each other and in particular support the local businesses that are so important to our local economy and our community.

Happy 2011 to all our readers!

Now visit.... www.saltash-observer.co.uk

MAY FAIR PRINCESS 2011

The Saltash May Fair Princess 2011 will be chosen at a special event to be held at Ashtorpe Rock on Saltash Waterside on Saturday 5th February between 4.30p.m and 6.00p.m.

The May Fair Committee will be looking to choose the Princess from an age range of 10-12 years and two attendants from an age range of 8-9 years. The role of the Princess and her Attendants lasts far beyond the fun of the May Fair itself. During their year long reign these young ladies will represent Saltash at civic events and therefore the informal interviews are designed to elicit an indication of each girl's personality and her ability to communicate. An interest in becoming involved in the life of their home town and a pride in representing Saltash will be more important to the judges than looks alone.

The 2010 May Fair Princess, Casey Rossiter who attends Saltash.net Community School, along with her attendants, Katie Syass and Maxine Denton, have enjoyed a busy year at a number of local events and it is hoped that even more dates will be added to the May Princess's 2011 calendar.

For further information on Princess Choosing and her commitment for the year please contact Theresa on 01752 848142.

FESTIVE FARE FOR ALL AT ROWAN HOUSE



As the pre-Christmas freeze closed in residents of Rowan House were warmly sharing their traditional Christmas party with a large number of relatives and friends as well as staff. Always a highlight of the Rowan House year, fund raising through the past months ensured extra fun was had through a magnificent prize draw with the top-prize a lap-top computer. A resident's relation proved the lucky winner.

Community Care for Senior Citizens Home and Away

Whether the wish is for fun and entertainment, shopping and leisure trips or simply friendly company to break up the week, there are activities for all of our local elderly or housebound residents as part of Rowan House's Community Care Programme.

As well as their range of domiciliary care services within the home, which include helping with housework, getting dressed and providing tempting hot meals, the Rowan House outreach services include twice weekly social gatherings at the SHADO Centre near the library. Each Monday and Friday the

Rowan House's own minibus collects singles and married couples from throughout the town, bringing them together for what, for many, is a highlight of their week.

As well as an opportunity to socialise over a home prepared meal there is a wide variety of entertainment on offer. Games may be shared and sometimes live music enjoyed before patrons are returned home.

In addition those who enjoy the day centre are invited to join in a variety of outings. These range from shopping visits to Plymouth to leisure trips into our superb countryside.

All are welcome to join in the wealth of social activities organised through Rowan House domiciliary care service. The residential home in Port View also welcomes housebound elderly who wish to avail themselves of its specialist services including its specially adapted bathroom. For more information on the range of services offered to local senior citizens within and outside their own homes contact Rowan House on 01752 843843.

Ladies Jumped for Saltash Seniors!

The sky was the limit for Kim Coumbe, and Gina Shiers, administrator and business manager of St Annes Residential Home, when it came to raising funds for a new minibus.

Fifteen thousand feet up in the sky in fact was the height from which they made a sponsored parachute jump over the Devon countryside.

As a result they were able to raise not only £2,000 towards the St Annes mini-bus fund but also to donate £100 towards the Memory Cafe held by the Alzheimers Society on the second Wednesday of each month at Burraton Methodist Church. A cheque for this sum was presented by the intrepid lady sky-divers to Mrs Ann Trevor, Chairperson of the Memory Cafe, at the cafe's Christmas afternoon at Burraton Methodist Church.

"It was a lovely experience," first-time jumper Kim told the Observer, "Especially as the parachute opened and we slowed down." Both had jumped "in tandem" with professional parachutists at Dunkeswell Airfield. Kim added that having tried the experience she would do it again.

Rosemary Conley Diet and Fitness classes

Jenny went from size 20 to 10!



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CAMELFORD
Cleas Hall,
Cleas Road, Camelford, PL32 9QX
Tuesday 09:30 - 11:00 am

LISKEARD
Liskeard School and
Community College,
Luxstowe, Liskeard, PL14 3EA
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Monday 7:30 - 9:00 pm

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February

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Seasonal singing for the Lodge



The Saltash Masonic Hall's rafters rang to the sound of Christmas Carols sung out by the school choir and glee club of Keyham Barton School.

Zetland Lodge member

Martin Lovegrove's wife Louise teaches at the Plymouth school and Martin and Louise between them organised a Christmas Carol evening that brought delight to Lodge members,

families and friends. The children performed a wide variety of traditional carols and more up-dated Christmas songs and Lodge members gave seasonally appropriate Christmas readings.

The concert concluded with the choir, who have recently been taught sign language for the deaf by a former teacher who now teaches hearing impaired children, showing off this new-found skill while singing a finale of 'We wish you a Merry Christmas.'

This was followed by a sumptuous buffet supper and a grand raffle, profits from the evening being divided between the school and the Lodge's charity fund.

Saltash Lodge members warmly thanked Keyham Barton students and staff for helping them and their guests enter so fully into the Christmas spirit.

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A Moving Tribute from her Many Friends..... Irma Bogatko 1947 - 2010



Irma held a Private Pilots Licence

Subsequent to her diagnosis, between dialysis cycles, Irma set out to gain a private pilots licence much to the horror of David. She also decided to take up motorcycling and embarked on training for and gaining her C.B.T. certificate and had her own motorcycle.

Not content with this she acquired a boat to enable her to spend her valuable free time on the sea and also a horse to go hacking with over Dartmoor.

Stained glass glazing became a passion and several spectacular commercial and private pieces were produced.

With the care home, dialysis three times a week and her recreational pursuits, Irma was flat out, just as she liked it.

U3A

The last monthly meeting for 2010 took place at the Guildhall on Dec.9th and again the hall was full. The meeting started with notices being given out by our Chairman, and a warning to shoppers to check their invoices at the till when buying by Debit Card, as a cash back scam has been operating in some stores.

Thanks was expressed to the group of members who decorated the Christmas tree which was on display in St. Nicholas and St. Faith Church. Along with many others exhibited by other organisations they made a spectacular show.

Our Chairman also pointed out that each U3A is independent, but comes under the umbrella of the Third Age Trust (T.A.T.). For a yearly fee TAT provides insurance, advice and information, as well as regular magazines posted to members homes.

'Arctic Adventures' was this months talk given by Robin Grisby. He told us about Alaska, its history and geography, showed us gold dust he had panned there, and introduced us to the 'Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race'. This race covers almost 1200 miles and up to 60 teams, each with 16 dogs, take part every year. Membership is open to any retired or semi-retired people, there are no age limits. We hope to see you there.

Three decades spent rendering quality and loving care to the elderly of her adopted town were remembered when Irma Bogatko finally surrendered to the illness that had caused her and her husband David to relinquish their residential home at Rowan House in 2007.

Irma was not Cornish, nor indeed English, having been born in post-war Germany and brought as a child on a perilous overnight journey from the Soviet zone to live in Düsseldorf. A desire to travel brought her to England where she was to meet David, her husband of 35 years and in 1984 settle with him in Saltash. Here they both rapidly became part of the community as they established Rowan House in Lower Port View as a high quality home for elderly individuals wishing to maximise their potential in later years. The historic and attractive home was soon modernised and extended for the sole purpose of making life comfortable for every resident. She is well remembered among residents and staff for promoting fairness and demanding only the best.

Her enthusiasm and energy in promoting aid for the elderly led to the Rowan House brand of care moving into the streets of Saltash and beyond as Irma took on domiciliary care services or 'care in the community' and subsequently to the setting up of a popular day centre with its own minibus and dedicated team of carers.

Only David and a few of those closest to her realised that at the time despite her drive and constant care for others, she was herself suffering with what was in 2006 diagnosed as advanced cancer.

With regret Irma and David retired from Rowan House as soon as they had found new proprietors who shared her caring ethos and could assure continuing excellence. Irma and David determined then, in 2007, to enjoy life as fully as possible and continued to do so until her death in November at her home with her husband at her side.

Her funeral was the informal and genuine celebration of her 63 years of life which Irma and David had planned during her final years.

Her colleague and friend of many years, Pearl, read a moving tribute, to a hard working and demanding but kindly and caring employer. "I have never known any two people so strong and determined to conquer and fight whatever fate and life threw at them as Irma and David." Pearl concluded.

To which David would add, "Irma would say..... "Make the most of your life. Don't waste it. Treasure it." She certainly did."

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'BATHROOMS AND BEDROOMS BY DESIGN...'

have become an increasing market for ISAMBARDS Clientèle

New Year – and an ideal opportunity to plan out that new look to the home. Here in Saltash the perfect bedroom, bathroom or kitchen can be planned to perfection by local experts to fit with your home and your ideas, installed by a team of craftsmen, all for a highly competitive price, ready to be enjoyed through 2011 and for many years to come.

Bathrooms and bedrooms by design have become an increasing market for Isambards Bespoke Kitchens and Interiors throughout 2010 and Head Designer John anticipates building upon this in the coming year. Since establishing the business in the heart of Saltash, Isambards has developed an enviable reputation for fitting kitchens but an increasing number of return customers, as well as new clientèle have discovered the same degree of quality materials and skilled craftsmanship applied to designer bathrooms.

Wet Room

Any bathroom of any age can be given a new lease of life with full matching bath, shower and toilet, including even a fully tiled wet room for added bathroom luxury. The same high quality of design can be applied to fitting a shower change as to a fully fitted body-jetted wet room and the Isambard team of experts will be pleased to arrange a consultant's home visit free of charge and entirely without obligation.

The consultant will listen to the home-owners views, put forward suggestions, and sketch out ideas which match the home owners hopes and his budget.

A visit to the Fore Street Showroom can then be



arranged and the suggested final version of the bathroom will be displayed on a wide screen plasma television screen while the customers can relax in the lounge area sipping coffee and suggest any amendments before deciding whether to give approval for the go-ahead.

Once every detail has been agreed a date is fixed for the team of experts to undertake the project-managed fitting out with experienced electrician and plumbers as appropriate

accompanying the fitting team. The result, a bathroom to be proud of and to enjoy for many years to come and to add value to the home.

Modern or traditional

The same standards apply for those wishing to transform a bedroom with a fully matching bed and bedroom suite in modern or traditional style.

Again a home visit without any obligation will result in a variety of suggested designs

to bring about a bedroom perfectly planned to suit individual need with, again, a plasma screen display to view subsequently in the showroom.

Meanwhile of course, Isambard's continue to offer a wide range of fitted kitchen to an almost limitless variety of designs through their own specially sourced manufacturer.

Save up to 50%

An additional spur to visit Isambards in the New Year is the opportunity to save up to fifty per cent on selected kitchen and bedroom designs during January only. A free plan and design from Isambards could save thousands of pounds.

The keen DIY person or tradespeople can save even more by a visit to Isambards in Fore Street or at their premises on Saltash's Parkway Industrial Estate (with their own customer parking).

All requirements needed to fit one's own bathroom, bedroom or kitchen from top quality materials can now be provided locally by

Isambards at a keen price which compares positively with all local builders' merchants. Studio quality kitchens at highly competitive prices can be constructed through purchase from the local experts in the field.

During the duller darker days of Winter brighten your life by planning out a brighter home, designed by your local experts at Isambards. A visit to their welcoming showroom will suggest exciting ideas of the numerous home-enhancing opportunities that they have to offer.

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STRIKE UP THE BAND



The tutor's names from left to right in the picture are as follows: Donna Townson, Nicola Pascoe, Ian Whittaker, Tina Fulcher, Chris Spreadbury and Olivia Norris.

Saltash Town Youth Training Band is practicing hard in time for their debut performance in the Saltash Music Festival which starts on January 24th until February 5th this year.

The Saltash Town Band have recently re-established their Training/Junior Band where for just 50p a week, they provide brass tuition, provision of a brass instrument and the opportunity for them to learn to play as part of an ever increasing brass ensemble.

At their first rehearsal in September this year they started with 7 learners and now have 14 very keen youngsters whose ages range from 6 yrs to 14 yrs and expect this number to rise as they are receiving a steady stream of enquiries from interested parents and children.

The Bands' ultimate aim is to give children and adults the opportunity to learn to read music and master an instrument without the financial constraints that prevent many people from ever discovering the pleasure that music can bring.

The youngsters are really looking forward to playing at the Festival and are working very hard in preparation.

The Training Band meet every Friday evening in the music block at Saltash.net Community School 6pm - 7.15pm. For further information please contact Nicola Pascoe Tel: 01752

842296

Email: pascoecrew@yahoo.co.uk

The Senior Band is currently seeking brass musicians and percussionists and would love to hear from anyone interested in joining the Band.

Council and Chamber of Commerce gave free Christmas Parking

Last minute Christmas Shoppers in Saltash benefited from free parking, despite Cornwall Council having removed this facility formerly offered by Caradon Council.

Saltash Town Council and Saltash and District Chamber of Commerce and Industry decided that the Christmas spirit should flourish and those keen to enjoy seasonal shopping in the friendly small town atmosphere that Saltash offers should not have to pay for parking in the week before Christmas. Accordingly Saltash, alone among East Cornwall town, agreed to pay Cornwall Council for the anticipated loss of parking revenue.

Banners at both ends of Fore Street proclaimed the news that the Town's official car parks were free during the shopping day that week. Costs for this were met by the Town Council with a contribution from the Town's traders through the Chamber of Commerce.

Light up Salt Mill

Young people are reluctant to use the skate park, BMX track and other facilities at Salt Mill for security fears, Town Councillors have ascertained. Members of the newly formed Mayor's Youth Panel in particular asked if regular police visits could be arranged.

Those using Salt Mill have also asked for extra lighting, particularly needed on long Winter evenings. They also asked for a litter bin. Town Councillors are seeking to provide these and to encourage all young people to feel safe while enjoying the facilities placed there for them.





**New for 2011.....
A Little Brain Teaser....**

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 How many toes does a sheep have?
2 What is the name of the family at the centre of H. E. Bates's novel The

Members of Tamar Trotters running club pictured with the guest of honour Colin Jackson at the evening herald awards ceremony held recently in the Plymouth Pavilions, the club was short listed in the category Sports club of the year 2010.

Darling Buds of May?
3 On which river does the Welsh town of Newport stand?
4 Which is the lowest female singing voice?
5 The eldest son of Cain and the first city recorded in the Bible share which name?
6 Which is the highest mountain in Turkey?
7 How is the singer Marie

McDonald McLaughlin Lawrie better known?
8 What name was given to the supporters of Charles I during the Civil War?
9 A liqueur made from beaten egg yolks, sugar and spirits has what name?

Answers to Conundrum:
1-Two 2-Larkin 3-Usk
4-Contralto 5-Enoch 6-Ararat
7-Lulu 8-Cavaliers 9-Advocat
Nine-letter word-CALCULATE

**SCHOOL PRODUCTION OF OLIVER!
WAS A GREAT SUCCESS**

SALTASH.NET'S recent whole school production of the musical 'Oliver!' was watched by over a thousand people during the week of 10th - 14th December. Those attending unanimously agreed that the quality of the show was equal to that which could be found on the West End stage in London.

Directed and produced by Mrs Loyn, Head of Drama, and Mrs Haighton, Head of Music, ably assisted by many other staff and students, the production was a massive hit, showcasing the considerable range of student talent at saltash.net. Over a hundred students took part either taking in a role on the main stage or behind the scenes.

Excelling in the lead roles were Lydia Rule as Nancy, Adam Riglar as Fagin and Jacob Hunt as Oliver Twist. Their singing and acting skills were exceptional and their interpretation of some of the main songs, such as 'If only he needs me', 'Pick a pocket' and 'Where is Love?' was extremely well judged and of a quality and maturity which belied their age. Supporting the lead actors were many other very gifted students who undertook their roles with equal ability and talent. They included Jamie Pullan, as a



menacing, mean and nasty Bill Sykes, Sam Crawley as an appropriately authoritarian Mr Bumble, Freya Morrison as a delightfully cheeky Cockney Artful Dodger and Sam Doney, in the wonderful cameo role of Mr Sowerberry, the funeral director.

The cast of 'Oliver!' played to full houses every night and they also put on a special performance on the morning of Tuesday 11th December for the year 6 children from the local primary schools. Not surprisingly, they were all exhausted but elated with their success at the end of the week. Commenting on the performances, Mrs Bryce, Headteacher, said, "This is without doubt one of the best school productions of a Musical that I have ever seen. Everything was first class - the acting, singing, dancing, costumes, staging, props and scenery were all so well judged - and led to such a good and entertaining show overall. I congratulate everyone who took part and thank the very large number of people who helped with the production."

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