

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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January 2013 - Issue 246

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New Housing Plans Concerns St. Stephens Residents

One of the last available green spaces within the Saltash urban area is now targeted for housing, concerned St. Stephens residents have discovered. The open field between Church Road, Fairway and Churchtown Vale is subject to pre-planning application for forty-two houses, all intended as social housing, a Churchtown Vale residents ascertained – "There is tremendous concern in the St. Stephens area surrounding the site", he told Saltash Town Councillors during public question time.

While sympathetic to their concerns, Town Councillors advised that there was little that they could do at this stage. "The government has said that it wants more pre-planning discussions of this nature between planners and developers", advised County Councillor Derek Holley. He added that the field had been allocated as housing land. Councillors could do nothing save wait for planning permission to be submitted. To express a view on the matter before then could preclude them from voting when plans were

placed before full Council. Once the plans were publicly available residents and Councillors would be able to discuss and express their opinions, A very limited vehicular access to the proposed new housing was a particular concern, the 'Churchtown Vale resident stated.

A Scene from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', performed by saltash.net students

A review and full report on saltash.net community school inside.



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Ramblers May Enjoy Circular Walk as Anthony Passage Footpath Confirmed

Local ramblers and lovers of the countryside were rejoicing that a vital link between the lane that terminates at Antony Passage and an undisputed public footpath commencing seventy metres away is itself a public footpath. As reported in your October 'Observer' the legality of the stretch of footpath in front of 'The Boathouse' has been disputed since at least 2007.

Cornwall Council had modified the definitive map to show it as a right of way in 2010 but the owners of the adjacent property did not accept this and sought a public enquiry chaired by an inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Environmental Food and Rural Affairs.

The enquiry began in September 2011 and concluded a year later following two lengthy adjournments. The inspector, Helen Slade, has now released her decision. During the enquiry written represen-

tations were provided by those who claim to have used the path in front of what was previously a lime kiln, some since the 1930's. Others, including local author and Observer reporter Martin Lister gave oral evidence of use. On the basis of the evidence before her, in a seventeen page judgement, the inspector upheld Cornwall's amendment to include the path as a right of way.

This enables walkers to enjoy a circular walk from Forder to Antony Passage, on to near Shillingham, and either back to Forder or out toward Ince.

The landowners were however partially successful in the order for costs which they sought against Cornwall Council, as reported in Octobers' Observer.

Their barrister, Mr. Stephen Whale, had argued that his clients' costs had escalated considerably as a result of Cornwall Council's having added a late submission that the route was not just a

footpath but a byway open to all traffic. The inspector was highly critical of Cornwall's presentation of the case for a road and found against there being any public vehicular rights along the route.

She also ordered that Cornwall Council pay the landowner's costs limited to their employment of an expert witness and the equivalent to one days' costs of the total four day hearing. It was open

to either party to challenge the decision in the High Court by lodging an application within forty-two days of the findings being issued.

Town Mayor Cllr. Martin Gee publicly thanked local ramblers and Town Councillor Peter Clements for submitting the original application for the making of the right of way and for tirelessly pursuing it up to the inspector's confirmation of the order.

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The Essa Files

by Adam Killea

The idea of 'self-determination' – the right of a group of people to choose how they are ruled and who by - is in the press a lot at the moment.

This includes the right of Falkland Islanders to decide which flag they follow, the right of Scots to decide whether to stay in the UK, and the right of Britons to decide whether to remain in the EU. These are all very important issues.

Cornwall Council often talks about something very similar to 'self-determination' – 'localism', the idea that local towns should be able to control their own services. The problem is that they don't actually seem to want us to choose. Instead they want to force local towns to take on extra services, and pay for them, by refusing to provide them. Unsurprisingly Cornwall Council don't reduce the council tax bills either.

On this basis Saltash Town Council 'chose' to take on grit bins nearly two years ago, and has just 'chosen' to take on the Waterside Toilets, paying Cormac, effectively an a cousin of Cornwall Council, to run them. We pay or they get closed: is that really a

choice? Is it really allowing Saltash to determine its own services and future?

Public services in Saltash are fortunately much less controversial than EU Membership, the Falklands or Scottish Independence, but it makes me wonder whether the principle is very much different. Just suppose that the government were to say to Scotland 'we're keeping the tax you already pay: now either pay us extra to run your schools, or else we're closing a third of them - your choice'. How well would that go down? Perhaps it's a pity that Saltash can't vote for independence, because if we could then perhaps Cornwall Council might treat us with a little more respect...

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For Observer readers
From Councillor Bryan Preston
Burraton Ward Saltash

A Happy New Year to
everyone.

Chief Executive,

Cornwall Council Chief Executive Kevin Lavery has confirmed that he will be leaving his job at the end of March to take up a new post as the Chief Executive of Wellington City Council in New Zealand. Kevin was appointed in November 2008 and has guided the Council through its first years as a Unitary authority. The last two years have not been an easy time with the cuts announced in Government funding. The Council has faced many challenges because of the financial situation and although I have not always agreed with his views he has worked hard and been committed to Cornwall. I wish him well in his new position.

Shared Services

The saga over shared services and the 'privatisation' of some services finally ended with councillors voting in favour of entering in to a reduced partnership with BT which will involve the transfer of fewer Council staff and services.

This means that the 'customer facing' services which attracted the most public concern, and many people contacted me about, will continue to be delivered by the Council. These include libraries and one stop shops, procurement, Council Tax, Business Rates and debt collection, benefits and the customer call centre.

I think that this is a victory for common sense and the voice of the people. The refusal of the Conservative Leader of the Council to listen to Members or the public resulted in him being ousted from power; he may now be able to reflect on how the original

proposals could have been handled better.

Local Government Funding Settlement

As I write, the Council has only just received details of the funding which has been allocated by the Government. The exact details are as yet unclear, but what is clear is that we are facing another reduction.

The Minister Eric Pickles insists further savings can be found and has issued a list of 50 ways to save money. Interestingly Cornwall Council has already delivered or is delivering on most of them. There is however no room for complacency.

The Council is currently drawing up proposals for the 2013/2014 budget. These will be considered by the Cabinet in January before a final decision is made by the Council in February.

Forder Carol Service

Just before Christmas I had the pleasure of switching on the Christmas tree lights at the Forder carol service. It was a magic evening with a good turn out and despite rain for much of the day it eased off in the evening and we all stayed dry.

My thanks go out to all the people in Forder who organise this event. They are a small bunch and very dedicated, also thanks to the Reverend Alan Butler who conducted the service, to the musicians and the young people who did the readings.

And of course, thanks to Father Christmas and his helpful elf who arrived with a present for each of the children and whisked them up on his magic carpet. A truly memorable evening which everyone including my family enjoyed.

Bryan Preston

Supermarket Extension Gains Approval

A proposed extension to the Lidl's supermarket at Carkeel which will take up eleven parking spaces has been given a cautious recommendation for approval by Saltash Town Council. A local resident had written a letter of objection to the loss of parking space and also expressed concern that enlarging the store would increase traffic flow, impacting on an already busy junction.

There was also concern at loss of business in Fore Street, to the detriment of the town, resulting from increased supermarket space out of town. The proposed extension was for freezers and general storage, it appeared to Town Councillors consulting the plans.

As it was not for sales space and as the current car parking area never seems to be full the loss of eleven spaces should not be a problem, they agreed, and recommended granting approval for the extension.

They did impose a condition that it was not a retail area and that all existing conditions applying to Lidl's, in particular the hours during which deliveries might be made, should apply to the extension.

New Councillor Co-Opted

A familiar Saltash figure has been co-opted on to Saltash Town Council to fill a vacant seat for the St, Stephens Ward. Mrs Jean Dent has lived with her husband Bill in Saltash for around twenty-five years and both of their adult children were educated in the town. They are both prominent in ex-servicemen's organisations and charities. Bill is President of the Saltash Branch of the Royal British Legion and Chair of the Cornwall branch.

He is a familiar figure in the town organising the annual "Poppy Day" collection and the "Remembrance Day Service" Jean is Vice Chair of the Cornwall branch Chair of the Welfare Committee for Cornwall. In putting herself up for co-option to the Town Council she told the Observer, "I hope to give back something to the Town which to me is important, vibrant, and an interesting place in which to live." She currently intends to stand for election when the entire Council is dissolved, prior to the full elections in May this year.

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A Pleasant Surprise for Susie

Former President Sue Hooper MBE was pleasantly surprised this week when she was presented with an engraved cut glass trophy by Bryan Preston Chairman of the Management Committee of Livewire Youth Project based on Saltash Waterside.

The trophy on behalf of Livewire was in recognition of her unstinting work on behalf of the Youth Club commencing almost 20 years ago when she organised a major face lift of the former Boys' Club over a 24 hour period involving many of the employees of Royal Mail locally and beyond and local organisations and businesses – all of whom either gave their free time and or sponsored various items and equipment valued at several hundreds of pounds. Sue continued to raise the club's profile and vital funds to help the club during their very austere time.

In addition - Sue - together with Chris Marsh (Cornwall youth co-ordinator) was instrumental in their long and successful bid to the National Lottery on behalf of the Boys' Club (now Livewire) which was granted £85,000 pounds for vital work and to employ a youth worker for an initial two years.

From this initial funding for the employment of Andy Rance – the club has gone from strength to strength – and Andy has continued to raise Livewire's profile and vital funding - hence with his team has put Livewire on the National and International map.

Chairman of Livewire Bryan Preston acknowledging Sue's efforts over a long period of time said: "Without that vital initial enabling grant of £85,000

Livewire would not be where it is today – therefore Livewire wanted to show its appreciation to Sue for all support and her hard work over many years and in particular for her major part played in that successful funding bid".

Sue said today: "This presentation came as a complete surprise – but I am delighted to accept this lovely trophy on behalf of all those that I worked so closely with in those early years – I am mindful that Livewire are restructuring – but I have been proud to be associated with the former Boys' Club/Livewire for almost 20 years mainly as President and I wish Andy his team and the club the continued success they justly deserve as the jewel in the crown for young people in Saltash and beyond".



Chairman of Livewire (Bryan Preston) with Sue Hooper MBE

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From The Mayor's Parlour...

Happy New Year to All

After a wonderful 2012 with the Queens Jubilee, and the Olympic Torch Event plus our usual festivals, 2013 could seem an anti climax but we do have the Celtic Cross to be celebrated as well as the usual annual celebrations which are being continually enhanced. During and over Christmas Maggie, my wife, the Mayoress and I made many visits to places such as care homes, St Barnabas, the police station and Tamar bridge, and were invited to many carol services and Nativity plays. It was fabulous to meet all the people, and we were welcomed everywhere. Thank you.

At last we have the lease from Cornwall Council for the land near Ashtorpe where the sculptural representation and historical record of the last Ferry will be constructed.

The government has said that council tax rebates must be paid by the council tax payers not through the governments council tax support grant. If Cornwall wants to raise the same amount of money as last year and no other actions were taken then the payers of the full unreduced council tax would have to pay approximately 16% more to compensate for the rebates given. Cornwall has recognized this possibility and has recommended that there will be a maximum rebate of 75% and along with other reductions in rebates will mean an increase of nearly 2% for tax payers who have no rebates. Those on rebates will have large increases. This problem has been created by central Government. The Town Council is subject to the same issues, but because Saltash has less rebates than the average parish/town of Cornwall we shall be better-off

than some poorer areas down west. I cannot at the moment confirm the effect on Saltash Town Council tax but it is only 4% of your total tax bill so any increase will be very, very minor over the year.

I have grave concerns for the Maurice Huggins room being disposed of by Cornwall to the highest bidder in April. This will mean that 2 of Saltash Town funded buildings are being left to decay (the other being the ToCH building) prior to selling. Are there any other buildings leased from Cornwall that we could lose? Are there any other organisations that cannot prove ownership of their buildings but pay for the lease of the land to Cornwall? Old council records often do not have details of what was agreed. If there are no details then a lot of buildings could revert to Cornwall. This may not be in the near future but must be considered. There are no more movements on any leases from Cornwall. No change there!!!!

The Tamar bridge and ferry committee report that there are less vehicles using these crossings than in previous years therefore less money is being taken. A rise is being proposed but details are hard to find. A pressure group is suggesting that there should be a larger increase on the ferry which costs up to 7 times more to function than the bridge. It is worth noting by the 80% users (i.e. the bridge users) that the chairman of the committee represents Torpoint and 60% of the Cornish representatives also come from the Torpoint area. Cornwall councillors do not want increases in prices and any differential prices discussed until after the elections.

To leave on a happier note, the car-parking is FREE on Saturdays until the end of March. Saltash is taking over the toilets at the waterfront (at a cost of about £16000 of our money-previously paid by Cornwall that is no saving to you and I)

The Cornish Cross has had a slight hiccup with the stone plinth and may result in a delay of erection. More firm details should be available at the end of the week.

We have been extremely lucky in the very heavy rain, there have been only 4 houses effected by flooding and only very little at that; the Fire Brigade attended and there was so little water in the houses that it did not merit the use of their pumps. The Town is better prepared for any snow than previously but if there is bad weather everyone will expect their own salt bin, a cost of which is prohibitive! I must also remind you that this is another saving by Cornwall – it is not a saving to the Saltash tax payer because Saltash town Council has to pick up the bill. (The cost is in the region of £ 12000). There have been reports of people stealing the salt already. Sad they steal from us all.
Lets us hope for good weather

Best Wishes Martin Gee
 Mayor of Saltash

Answers on Page 8

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Head Teacher Looks back on a Decade of Progress at saltash.net



Isobel Bryce...2004

The rapturous appreciation with which the school's outstanding performance of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' was received marked one of the many high points of her career at saltash.net community school, Head Teacher Mrs Isobel Bryce told the enthusiastic audience. It also marked a milestone as it was exactly ten years since she had become headteacher at what was then Saltash Community School.

Mrs Bryce had returned to her Cornish roots, having grown up in Polperro and been educated at Liskeard Grammar School. After obtaining a degree at London University she taught in London before returning to the South West in 1998 and teaching in Plymouth, prior to becoming deputy head of Devonport High School for Boys. She has two daughters, both of whom have received all of their secondary education at saltash.net - one is now awaiting university and the younger studying for GCSEs.

'The highlights of the ten years as Head Teacher of Saltash have largely been those moments of achieving something we fought hard for', she recalls, 'especially so when we gained specialist school status in combined science and mathematics and computing'. This enabled the school to forge important links with international companies such as Microsoft and to achieve global recognition, with associated exciting opportunities for students and staff. The more recent achieving of academy status also, Mrs Bryce believes, helped enable the school to source funding and opportunities to do what she believes the school is about, getting the very best for its young people. 'We do all that we can so that in the five or seven years that the students are here, they can leave feeling that they had a positive time at school. I love seeing children succeed, especially if it is against the odds. Not all of the students have privilege or family support and in such cases it is up to the school to give them care and nurture. Although achieving highly academically is really important, we also want to make each child feel welcomed, wanted and valued and reassure them that each one's worries will be listened to when needed.'

Over the ten years she has found the School Council to have been superb in working with the staff for the benefit of the school community and, she adds, the school has been 'blessed with its head students'.

'I am proudest of all of the incredible loyalty of the staff and the students, all of whom I can rely upon to go that extra mile'. She looks back upon occasions when serious illness has struck a student or family member - 'Always the whole school rallies round. It feels like a community - a community in which I am proud to play a role'.

The school's achievements over the last ten years would not have been possible without the friendly co-operation between staff and governors and Mrs Bryce pays a special tribute to former Chair, Ken Martin, now Chair of the Finance Committee and current Chair of Governors, Kate Waghorn. 'She is so hard working and committed to the school, and it is a pleasure working together, seeking always to ensure that each and every student can be the best that they can be.'



A Year of Achievements and Awards for saltash.net community school



A year in which saltash.net community school has been continuing its globally recognised efforts to embed technology at the heart of its learning, while encouraging students to achieve in other wide-ranging spectra of activities within and outside the curriculum, has once again won the school a host of awards.



Artwork Created by A Level Students from saltash.net has recently featured in a Unique Exhibition in Truro Cathedral.

With seven regional winners and one national winner of the National Teaching Awards over the last nine years the school had many reasons to celebrate once again its attendance at the London final of the prestigious awards ceremony during the autumn term. It was the only school to be represented twice at the Pearson Teaching Awards ceremony where history teacher Katie Boothman was the regional winner for the innovative use of ICT and the whole of the science department were regional winners in the Team of the Year category. As well as attending the ceremony, hosted by Claire Balding, the award winning staff had attended a reception at the House of Commons where local MP Sheryll Murray was among those welcoming them.

through use of mobile technologies. They were especially interested in the year 8 students' project 'Cre8agame' and discussing with them the impact of ICT based learning on their progress in school.

'Star Wars Day' back in May was celebrated by a fun but educative mathematics and science themed experiment to test students' strength and find the strongest student. Entitled 'May the 4th be with you' it taught students what forces are, how they act and can be measured. The results in showing comparative strengths of boys and girls proved interesting.

Top ten,

The Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion national final at the Heritage Motor Centre, Warwick, welcomed two Saltash students from year 8 and two from year 11, the only school to qualify in two age groups out of over 100,000 entries in total. All did well to qualify in the top ten, with Alex and James of Year 11 winning their age range and coming a close second nationally.

Technology also came to the fore as A level politics students embraced the latest in order to hold a video conference with an MEP in Brussels. Sir Graham Watson, MEP for the South West, spent half an hour discussing a variety of issues with students at the school.

More physical links with Europe were once again enjoyed when your 9 students participated in the school's thriving European Exchange programme. After hosting students from Saltash's Breton twin town of Plougastel they returned with their new friends to immerse themselves in French culture and attend a French secondary school. They thoroughly enjoyed sampling true French cuisine.

Savoy Trust

The school's own cuisine has benefitted from a grant of £30,000 from the Savoy Trust which, with match funding from the school, has enabled refurbishment of the food technology room to provide a stimulating, more industrial environment to help promote enthusiasm for the subject.

In the arts world, A level students from the school worked in Truro Cathedral for two days, drawing inspiration to prepare and mount an exhibition, drawing upon a variety of media, which drew great interest during the weeks it was on display in



A Turtle's Tail – and Whole Body

It would be fair to say that when taught from a textbook, volume of a cone and sphere aren't the most three dimensional of lessons. However, that wasn't the case when Enrichment Co-ordinator Mr Wieprecht's pet turtle came to pay a visit to his top set Year 11 class. After spending time finding how to work out a volume using the radius or base, the class were really put through their paces when they had to instead do all the measurements themselves. Making sure all the pieces of the turtle were accounted for, the class then came up with his total volume. Mr Wieprecht said, "It's important to not just understand the theory behind a formula or equation, but to actually see it in practice and embed the memory of it into our young people's learning. I don't think there are many people in that room that will forget the day Toby Turtle came to teach them about volume." Whilst the turtle may not have been real, it certainly was made of real bread, and proved for a very nice plenary to what had been a unique way at looking at complex volume.

the Cathedral. Back home National Shakespeare Day 2012 was celebrated by the school's English department setting out to make every student aware of just how many of today's everyday words and phrases were invented by Shakespeare. Eclectic words and phrases, including 'hobnob, schoolboy, zany and 'fight fire with fire', adorned the corridors for a day.

'Live at Home Scheme'

The school has always been proud to play a vital role in the community and as such the school's involvement with the senior residents of Janeva Court, especially in helping them enter the computer age, has continued. Residents were among those invited to the party held at the school to mark ten years of the town's 'Live at Home Scheme'. Elderly residents, who seldom otherwise leave their homes, were waited upon by students who concluded by donating a cheque for £1000.

Ethics Day 2012

Students have also become especially involved in the

Storybook Dads Charity since two former students outlined its objectives during assemblies. They have raised awareness and funding to support the charity which aims to preserve links between children and parents absent for reasons varying between armed service commitments and serving prison sentences.

To send out caring citizens into the complex world of today remains a key objective of saltash.net and to this end a washing line, a wheelie bin, and a traffic cone came together to contribute to the moral maze of Ethics Day 2012. Year 12 students explored the role of ethics in decision making through provoking, challenging and light-hearted activities, each making up their own ethical personality to be placed on 'The Washing Line of Truth'.

Bringing students together to share fun activities which provoke thought into such mind-bending subjects such as ethics, the arts and the school's mathematical, science and ICT specialities have remain at the core of its 2012 activities shared by each student at saltash.net.



saltash.net community school is a thriving, highly successful 11 to 18 mixed, community comprehensive school. On April 1st 2011, the school achieved Academy status, another significant milestone in its history. Becoming an Academy means the school can continue to strengthen and develop all areas of the curriculum, including its specialism of Science, Maths and Computing.

Situated in an area of outstanding natural beauty our school secures high levels of academic success as well as many outstanding sporting and other extra curricular achievements. It offers excellent ICT facilities, state of the art science labs and has an on site farm with world famous pigs and chickens! It also has a brand new All Weather Pitch.

The school works very closely with its seven partner primary schools to ensure Year 6 students have a smooth transition to secondary school. We strive to provide the highest quality education for all children in our care. We are proud of what our young people achieve and we look forward to welcoming you to our school soon.

For a Prospectus or more information please contact:

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Wearde Road, Saltash
Cornwall
PL12 4AY

Tel: 01752 843715
enquiries@saltash.cornwall.sch.uk
www.saltash.net



Community Links to the Fore as School's Future is Forged

As saltash.net puts together its strategic plan for the next five years, Head Teacher, Isobel Bryce, considers that at the heart of this must be continuing to build on working with partner primary schools in the Saltash area.

The school's logo is believed to be unique showing, as it does, the geographical lines from seven local primary schools all coming together at the secondary school, idyllically situated above the confluence of the Tamar and Lynher estuaries below Saltash's iconic bridges.

This logo symbolizes what is a very real link with the primary schools in Saltash and the villages around from

which most of the intake will come. The contrast between primary and secondary school can be an alarming one and saltash.net's strategy is increasingly aimed at strengthening the transition by outreach to its partner schools and welcoming primary pupils to the fun events at the secondary school.

At present, saltash.net Deputy Head, Dan Buckley, is looking at the development of

student leadership with a view to creating a scheme to recognise excellence in leadership from primary through to secondary school with a continuity of learning from age five to eighteen.

Whether it be involvement with the youngest citizens of Saltash and surrounds, yet to embark on secondary education, or the most senior Saltash citizen, with the school's internet cafe held in sheltered accommodation for the elderly, the future of saltash.net is firmly connected with continuing, and building upon involvement in the community.

Laptop Tops Wish List of Senior Surfers

A lap-top computer featured on the Christmas wish list of one 88 year old lady in sheltered accommodation thanks to the students of saltash.net community school.

She was just one of those who had enjoyed meeting with other senior citizens and young students in the weekly Internet Cafe held at Janeva Court, Burraton.

Here the saltash.net students teach those who wish to learn, and who may have studied with the aid of slate boards and lead pencils in their own schooldays, the skills of the digital age. Some are thrilled to be able to prove their new found abilities by communicating with grandchildren in the methods of the computer age.

And one lady who recently was proud to send her first e-mail at the age of 88, is now able to receive news direct from the front line in Afghanistan where her nephew is serving. She certainly considered requesting a lap top computer in order to further her twenty-first century skills.

Tell your friends & family to visit us at...
www.saltash-observer.co.uk

Air Cadets to the Fore in Community Event

The eager and well disciplined teenagers who form the Saltash Air Force Cadets could be relied upon to play a vital role in the town's Christmas celebrations on 1st December, as they are in so many community events.

The youngest of the boys and girls aged 13 to 19 were as eager as any to sign up for what was likely to prove a demanding day of up to fourteen hours non-stop activity.

Their nineteen years old Flight Sergeant Chris Tandy volunteered them for a variety of event management activities ranging from road traffic control, building of the marquees and platform and assisting in carrying display items from vehicle to stalls. Chris himself had enjoyed his years of service as Air Force Cadet, including being selected, aged 16 as the first

official Mayor's Cadet by Councillor Adam Killeya.

He is now studying software development at Plymouth University, anticipating to a career as Simulator technician. He and his fellow teenage cadets at 335 Squadron have been conspicuous helping out at many local events, including in particular May Fairs and Regattas as well as less conspicuously doing hard physical work in such projects as Elwell Woods restoration.

They also recently paraded in the towns Remembrance Day service subsequent to attending at the Plymouth Pavilions remembrance event where they had the demanding duty of performing a five minute continuity drill sequence 'from memory'.

When not performing community duties the cadets enjoy field craft, shooting and other activities indoors and out, as well as flying at RAF St. Mawgan and gliding at Portreath. They have been thrilled recently to receive a substantial lottery grant of Ten Thousand Pounds to enable them to construct an aviation suite, to include an aviation themed room adjacent to their headquarters by the drill hall north of the Tamar Bridge. This is due to be opened early in 2013.

Letter to the editor

Hi Mary,

Read the December edition of the Observer, cover to cover. Impressed!

We went on a 'Walking for Health' ramble around Saltash last month. We were shown around the Heritage Centre, the Old shoppe, Cottage and Station. We also bought the odd sweet from 'Truly Scrumptious' not long after the shop opened. We marvelled at the enthusiasm and warm welcome we received from the people who gave up their time to open especially for us. There is so much heritage and history which people have little knowledge of on our doorsteps.

I was staggered to see that you are in your 21st year with the Observer. How ignorant am I for not knowing what a really good publication it is. I've got you on my browser bar now so look forward to the next edition.

Anyway, keep up the good work and have a lovely Christmas.

Fondest wishes

Rob & Jo Monk, Plymouth

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We welcome our Plymouth readers again this month, to enjoy the Saltash Observer

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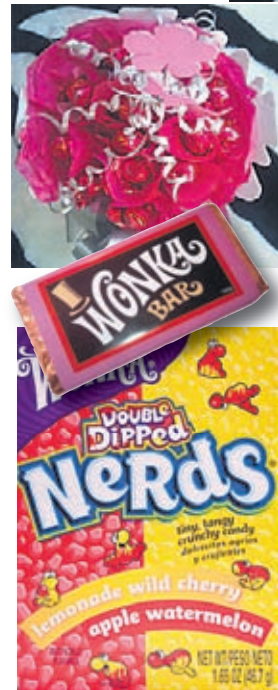
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SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...

I am pleased that George Osborne announced in the Autumn Statement that the Government would cancel the rise that was planned for January 2013. This keeps fuel 10p cheaper per litre than it would have been under Labour or roughly £5 every time you fill up depending on the size of your tank.

In October I sponsored a motion which was debated in the Chamber of the House of Commons calling for the Chancellor to do precisely this.

I believe people who live and work in South East Cornwall will be thrilled that the Chancellor has cancelled Labour's planned rise in fuel duty. There are so many motorists in this constituency who will benefit and the cancellation will help so many people in this rural Constituency who rely on their cars because of a lack of public transport. Coupled with the income tax cut, this is a fantastic boost for households

working hard to make ends meet.

I was also pleased to hear that the A30 in Temple was also to be dualled. I will continue to push for other road improvements in particular on the A38. One such improvement is for a footbridge over to the Tamar View industrial estate. I see this as a priority.

I was also really pleased to see so much activity in Saltash in the run up to Christmas and would like to offer special congratulations to the Mayor Cllr Martin Gee and his wife Maggie who have supported the town so much during 2012.

My Chief of Staff, Bob Davidson and I, were delighted to join them at the Saltash Sailing Club presentation evening



which was held at the China Fleet Club. I would like to pay a special tribute to everyone who works so hard to make the club such a wonderful success. I was particularly impressed by the cadet membership.

I hope everyone has enjoyed the Christmas season. I attended a Concert at Burraton Community Centre. It was a delight to be entertained by so many talented people and I am grateful to the Burraton Ladies Barbershop Harmony Chorus for organising a very enjoyable evening.

Finally I would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy New Year and I look forward to meeting many of you as I travel around this beautiful constituency in 2013.

£1,340 for Leukaemia Ward



Deputy ward Manager, Becky Hick receives a cheque from Mike at the Ploughboy for £1340.00, on behalf of Birch Ward at Derriford Hospital. A recent darts tournament, organised in support of the Leukaemia ward at Derriford Hospital, chosen as several friends from Saltash have suffered the condition, has been an outstanding success. Darts players from all over Saltash ensured that this became a two-nightly event including play-offs raising a grand total of £1,340.



It's a Mathematical Christmas!

When you think of Christmas you traditionally think of presents, trees and Brussels sprouts, but this year the children in 7B1 at saltash.net didn't think of any of these; they instead, turned their attention to Christmas maths. The top set group, having spent a few lessons talking about the methods to calculate the area of some more complex shapes, decided to see exactly what sort of waist measurement we might expect Santa to have, and what amount of material we may need to make the jolly old man's suit. Their miniature models, however, never quite made it to human size, as the event transcended into more of a challenge on how small they could make the area of the mythical man. The winner of this challenge was Amelia Horne who managed to make her Santa an incredibly small 2cm high, with an area of 1.4cm. The event was a great success with the children finding out a lot about the deep maths behind compound areas... and also finding out Santa is slightly too large to purchase his belt from Primark.

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Adam Brings Music to the Christmas Masses

Bringing together the various talents that were to create the line up of entertainment at Saltash's big Christmas event on December 1st was no great problem for eighteen year old Adam Riglar who organised and produced the post-lights switch on concert. "I had already worked with most of the young people involved and know that they would jump at the chance" he told the Observer.

Adam already has plenty of experience in both performing and in putting on shows. A former 'Youngstager' and with plenty of experience in drama at saltash.net school he has recently organised concerts for the 'Saltash Live at Home'

scheme and the seniors at Janeva Court. After serving as head boy last year at saltash.net he is currently undergoing interviews and auditions in anticipation of being accepted on a BA Honours course in musical theatre.

Meanwhile, not only has he been busy organising the pre-Christmas entertainment which he found to be 'good fun' he is a founder member of a newly formed locally based young peoples' theatre company 'Page 2 Stage'. Following their debut at the pre-Christmas concert they are now working on a production of Josef Weinberger's 'Peter Pan' to be performed at saltash.net school in the spring.

Thank You

The town's Christmas event was a glorious, family occasion. Saltash Town Council would like to thank all those who were involved in making it such a success, and particularly the volunteer contributors, including:

- * 335 Saltash Air Cadets and the Saltash Fire Cadets, who worked tirelessly putting up marquees and staging, assisting the road closure, stewarding the Lantern Parade and various other gruelling tasks.
- * Local schools, St. Barnabas Hospital, Ashtorre Rock Community Centre, Saltash Baptist Church and Saltash Library as well as the local businesses who helped out. Without these groups there would have been no Lantern Parade.
- * Saltash Heritage, who created the intriguing photographic display of Victorian Saltash and welcomed visitors to the Museum throughout the day.
- * The Hopper Bus, for numerous trips transporting lanterns, tables, marquees and traffic cones.
- * saltash.net community school, for transforming the Maurice Huggins in to a Santa's Grotto.
- * Page 2 Stage, RWindBand, U3A and the Flute Choir, for their marvelous musical contributions.
- * SEA (Saltash Environmental Action Group), for setting up a Christmas Craft Table for children.
- * The Festival Lights Committee for the twinkling lights.
- * Youngstagers for staging 'Consider Yourself' and a Nativity Play.
- * Children of St. Stephen's Primary School, for judging the window dressing competition.
- * Town Centre traders, for dressing in Victorian costumes, participating in the Treasure Hunt and for decorating their windows. The children awarded 1st prize in the window dressing competition to Stylus Engravers with Highly Commended going to Petit Pain and Truly Scrumptious. But really it was the whole town that won as there were many shops with magical displays over the Christmas period, including Treasure Island and Newell's Travel. Above all, though, the town wants to thank the volunteer members of FROST (Festive Representatives of Saltash Town). For many months and over many meetings, this dedicated group of volunteers planned and organised the town's 2012 Christmas event. A big resounding 'Thank You' to you all.
- The Christmas event will be held on the first Saturday in December again this year (7th December). Do you have any comments or suggestions? Or perhaps you'd like to join FROST and help put your ideas in to action? Please contact the Guildhall on 01752 844846.

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2012 - A Year to Celebrate

The year that has just passed will be remembered for two national triumphs standing out to lighten an otherwise more gloomy twelve months of financial cut-backs, austerity and the wettest summer on record.

Yet when we think of 2012 we are more likely to recall the glorious summer Olympics and the national rejoicing over our monarch's diamond jubilee. On a more local theme none of the thousands who turned out for it are likely to forget the magnificent lantern parade that formed the climax of our pre-Christmas celebrations.

Your local community newspaper was of course as ever on hand to mark these great days in the life of Saltash. We have so many marvellous photographs that we thought we would mark the half-way of our own celebrations our twenty-first year of serving as your community newspaper, by enabling you to look back on one or two of those occasions in 2012 when Saltash particularly came together to celebrate as a community.

Unique atmosphere

They will, we hope, help our readers to recall the unique atmosphere of that sunny summer day when young and old entered into the Olympic spirit by participating in a variety of sports and activities organised by local clubs and businesses before lining the streets to cheer the Olympic Flame through at the end of its first day of travelling from Lands End to the Olympic Stadium. It was a far from sunny day when Saltash came together to thank Queen Elizabeth II for her sixty years of devoted service to our

country. Yet the weather did not dampen spirits on that very special day.

Our Christmas was as busy as ever and we would like to take this opportunity to give thanks to those who invited us to join in seasonal celebrations in particular at Rowan House and Kimberly Day Centre. We would also like to thank on behalf of the whole town the traders who so fully entered into the spirit of the pre-Christmas celebrations, as our photographs will show.

Childhood magic

We feature in particular the globe-trotting teddies of Newell's Travel and the Father Christmas's of Treasure Island. Hazel's Treasure Island customers were particularly enhanced by watching her put her grandson Jett's football as a head and niece Shelley's black boots, as well as partner Mike's glasses on to a home made Santa that formed the centrepiece of a display truly bringing the childhood magic of Christmas to our town.

That magic and the community spirit that drew thousands into the town to share it must be our legacy of 2012. And let us hope that the same spirit of friendly local community carries us into 2013 and beyond.

Space is limited for photographs within the pages this month, during the next few months as we continue our 21st anniversary



The Cornwall photogallery captured the Christmas event... we had to show you a couple of our favourites Chough...Lantern Parade & Kingdom Brunel, Living Statue www.cornwallphotogallery.co.uk 07511 146525



celebrations, we will try to bring out a few more of our many 2012 unused photographs.



Treasure Island...Hazel's fabulous home-made Santa caught the eye of many



Newell's travel...featuring their Globe Trotting Teddies










Torch Relay was celebrated in Style...and Saltash folk certainly know how to come out & join in the celebrations...seen here preparing to attempt a Tai-Chi record



The Mayoress celebrated with Kimberly Day Centre at their Christmas Lunch

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School Students' 'Dream' Still Weaves Its Magic

The timeless magic of Shakespeare's most whimsical play transformed a dull December evening in Saltash into a magical midsummer night near Athens. Saltash.net Community School students this year broke away from their tradition of pre-Christmas musical shows but proved themselves as adept in weaving Shakespearean magic as in the wizardry of Oz last Christmas.

'A Midsummer Night's Dream' lends itself to adaption – most controversially that of Peter Brook in the 1970's. saltash.net director Jo Loyn opened the action with the 'hempen home spuns' as the band Nick Bottom the Weaver and his 'Mechanicals' playing in a pub in Athens. But from when prim Petra Quince entered to cast 'Pyramus and Thisbe', the 'play within a play', the production adhered strictly to Shakespearean script. And the cast well rose to it, not only word perfect in this far from easily learned blank verse, but excellent in their actions and movements.

Shakespearean

Each and every one from Mortal rude mechanicals and Athenian courtiers to the immortal fairy court and attendants threw themselves fully into their roles. The fairies singing and dancing in particular was pure magic, ideally suited to the Shakespearean staging in the round. The Mechanicals led by Bottom played by Jamie Pullen, recently seen in town in a singing role, each played to character bringing out all the

humour of the individual role.

The Athenian court, in proving as the play proclaims that 'the course of true love never did run smooth', showed true dramatic talent in playing the more challenging parts of the ill-matched lovers eventually, during the course of the magical night finding their partner.

'I had a dream, past the wit of man to say what dream it was', and the Bard himself would surely have approved could he have dreamed of generations of teenagers entering so fully into the roles he dreamed up and bringing such pleasure to audiences four centuries hence.

Congratulations must go to the full cast who clearly worked to hard to achieve this degree of



perfection, including the four Pucks (there were some surprises!) as well as all of those who worked equally tirelessly backstage and behind the scenes (metaphorically the play being in the round).

We look forward to next year's production, be it the Bard again, or back to the future of lively musicals.

Lock Your Sheds and Garages, Police Warns

While crime in and around Saltash continues to fall there have been rises in certain criminal activities.

Overall crimes reported had fallen to 77 offences as against One 119 the previous year, Sergeant Andrew Dunstan told the Town Council. There had however been twelve burglaries from sheds, garages and other outbuildings. Pedal cycles and tools had been targeted, especially in the St. Stephens and Carkeel areas. Access had been gained through unsecured premises and the answer is to keep all such buildings, locked at all times, Sergeant Dunstan warned. Theft from motor vehicles was also on the rise with nine offences reported from a variety of residential areas throughout the town. Sat-navs and handbags in particular had been targeted and here again Sergeant Dunstan's message was clear, never leave anything of possible value clearly visible in a motor vehicle.

Responsible person required to deliver the Observer in The New Road area
Tel Mary Crawford 07971484872

The Late John 'Geoff' Lewis

John Geoffrey George Lewis (known as 'Geoff' to all) who passed away before Christmas played a prominent part in the Saltash community. He and his first wife Pat were active in a dance club, Saltash Third Forum of which he was Chairman, and Age Concern for whom he was a driver. Following the sad loss of his first wife, mother of their sons Stephen and David, Geoff was an active member of the Civil Service Retirement Fellowship through which he met Patricia Wakelin, also recently widowed.

Geoff was persuaded to become fellowship Chairman, Patricia served on the committee, and they were twice selected to represent Cornwall at the annual national council meetings.

In 1994 they were married at St., Stephens Church, and they both attended St. Stephens and Saltash Wesley alternate Sundays.

They were also active in the Churches Together movement and organised a number of concerts under the title 'Mixed Company' for various charities. Geoff, following a decline in his normally robust health, died two month's after the 18th Wedding Anniversary of himself and Patricia and the Rev'd Canon Alan Butler conducted the funeral service at St. Stephens Church.



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Memberships

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Adult Membership (16+):

Free induction Free fitness assessments
Unlimited use of fitness suite
Unlimited swimming during public sessions
Unlimited use of classes

Junior Membership (under 16's):

Unlimited swimming during public sessions
Free entry to weekly inflatable and fun sessions
One half hour swimming lesson a week at your chosen centre,

Choose from...15 Carrick Leisure facilities across Cornwall.

New To Saltash Leisure Centre...

Street Dance Classes For Children

New Workout class starting January 2013:

CXWorx: the 30 minute Revolutionary Core Workout.

Tel: 01752 840940 www.cornwall.gov.uk/leisurecentres

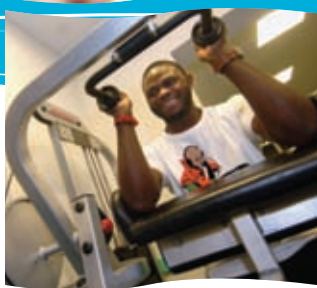
No Joining Fee On Memberships

Lifeguard courses

We are running National Pool Lifeguard courses throughout the year. For further information please contact the centre.

Visit your local leisure centre

Mon-Fri 6.30am-10pm
* Sat-6.30am-8pm
* Sun-7.30am-7pm
Contact the Centre for more information!



Answers: 1 Forty 2 Brassica 3 Lillibet 4 Asia 5 Lanhdyrock 6 Slave 7 Blue 8 Handel 9 Ungulate Nine-letter word: Flashbulb

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