

# SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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January 2014 - Issue 258

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## 'Guys and Dolls' – Good Enough for Broadway!

If ever a show was made for a whole school production at saltash.net, then this was it! The musical, 'Guys and Dolls' by Frank Loesser, seemed 'tailor made' to showcase the incredible range of talent that now exists across all year groups at the school.

Playing to full houses for four nights from Tuesday 10th - Friday 13th December, all who attended agreed that it was the best production the school had ever staged, with the professional quality of the acting, singing and dancing simply outstanding.

For three Year 13 students, now in their last year at saltash.net, this show was to be their final one but, in a moving speech of thanks at the end of the show on the Friday evening, they acknowledged

how much they had learnt over the last five years, since first performing in the 2009 production of 'Grease'. They paid tribute to Head of Drama, and director of 'Guys and Dolls', Jo Loyn, as well as to Head of Music and Musical Director, Viv Haighton, stating that their commitment to the annual performances had given them so many opportunities and had helped shape them as young people.

Year 13 student, Jamie

Pullan, seemed born to play one of the lead roles, Nicely Nicely Johnson. The maturity of his voice, coupled with his excellent comic timing entertained his audience superbly. Jamie's fellow Year 13 students, Ollie Gilford and Megan Day also delivered well judged portrayals of the Salvation Army's Arvide Arbathny and General Cartwright.

Excelling in the other principal roles were Laura Kelly as Sarah Brown, Joe Day as Sky Materson, JJ Harding as Nathan Detroit, Joe Lang as Benny Southstreet and Lowenna Rule, whose delivery of Adelaide could easily have graced a West End or Broadway stage, such was the maturity of her performance.

There were also many first class cameo roles throughout the production, including Alex Tucker as Rusty Charlie and Richard Tolman as Big Jule, as well as an enthusiastic and polished chorus.



Headteacher, Isobel Bryce, praised everyone involved in 'Guys and Dolls' for giving the community of Saltash such brilliant entertainment. "A show like this is not just the product of 3 or 4 months of rehearsals during the Autumn

Term; it is the result of a 'company' of actors working together over a number of years and making the most of the staff expertise which exists at our school. I could not be more proud of this team of students and staff."

## Businesses must be Involved in Towns Future

Call by chamber chairman December 2013

With so much going on in Saltash, I am disappointed that the business community takes so little interest or involvement", says William Cotton the Chairman of the Saltash Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber has been in existence for over 60 years and represents its member on the Neighbourhood Plan Forum and Saltash Town Centre Improvement Group (STIG), but how can we express the views of the business community if they are not part of the Chamber?

STIG is making decisions that affect the town centre and its trading viability. The Neighbourhood Plan will decide on the extent and the location for future employment land and could impact on future expansion for trading companies on the business estates. It will also determine the extent of future housing which will provide the work force.

If you cannot spend the time to go to meetings of STIG and/or the Neighbourhood Plan, why not join the Chamber, whereby we can present your opinions at the meetings. If you cannot spare time to come to monthly meetings you can keep in touch and express views through the chamber blog or by e-mail.

The local councillors represent the opinions of the population of Saltash but, other

than the Chamber, there is nobody speaking for the business community; however we can only speak for business if we know their views.

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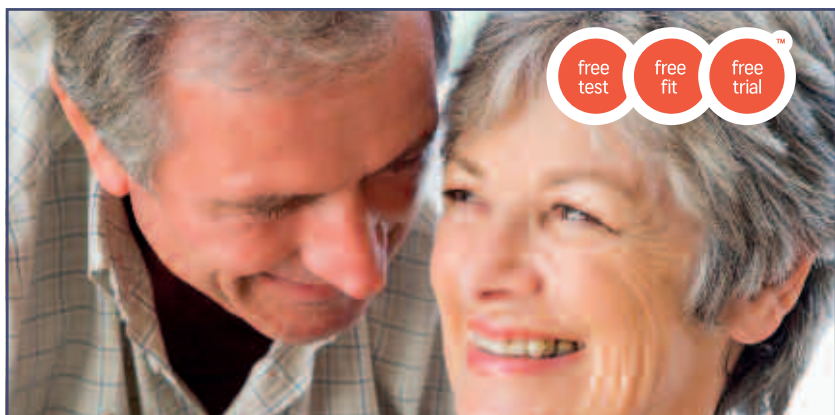
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## A Happy and Healthy New Year to all Saltash Residents

I suspect there are many questions in all our minds as we enter 2014 - the probable main one of these is how will our earned pound pay for our living expenses and our expected quality of life?

How will the economy of the country perform with the expectation of several grass shoots appearing in business and commerce and will this improve as we proceed into the year?

I for one am optimistic - I believe we are now meeting the bottom of the recession and life is on the up!

How will this affect the Cornish economy and what actions will Cornwall council take with regard to the budget cuts?

The Cornish economy is quite vibrant and as I travel around the county I often hear of Cornish businesses doing well despite the recession. Money is starting to flow now in the business and building sector as loans become easier to obtain. This has been a cry in the past that small businesses could not get the loans to start new projects. The cuts that Cornwall Council are having to make are now being set against the Government's reduced budgets which were received at the end of last year and these will be set in stone for at least 12 months. What will be interesting is, as the country climbs out of recession, will the Government and hence the Councils pick up the vibes quick enough to make a real difference for 2015. We, as Cornwall Council, have written to Eric Pickles (Secretary of State) to explain our situation and we have complained bitterly about the horrendous cuts that we have had to endure over the last five years. To date, to my knowledge, we have not received a reply - watch this space



CORNWALL COUNCIL

& our PL12 Community

For: August 2013 Observer readers

From: Councillor Bob Austin

West Ward, Saltash



### How will this situation affect us as Saltash Residents?

You folks may tell me otherwise but I believe Saltash has prospered in general during the recession. When I walk through the town centre I only find one shop empty and comparing this to other towns in Cornwall we seem to be surviving quite well. Life out on the industrial estates is improving and the units that were empty are now filling up e.g. B&M have taken over Focus and business there over the Christmas period was certainly vibrant, "Screw Fix" is also filling in on the Waitrose roundabout. I am repeatedly being asked about Tesco and as far as I know they will be starting the new development in March. There are several pre-planning requests coming through one at Churchtown Farm, which had its consultation last month at the Burraton Community Centre, so I suspect their application will come to planning in the first quarter of this year. Secondly, Broadmoor Farm agents will be holding their public consultation at Saltash Wesley on the 10th January, and thirdly there will be an application for housing on the NE corner of Latchbrook alongside the A38. This is very much an outlined application with very little detail available at present. Summing all this up there is a lot of potential and interest for future growth in Saltash both from the housing and business sector. In addition there is European funding available to Cornwall to the tune of around £53 million so I for one, along with my

Cornwall colleagues, will be chasing this for Saltash and SE Cornwall. This will help provide the infrastructure for the above mentioned projects.

### Town Toilets

I now feel like a rant! - Cornwall Council is looking to devolve both the Belle Vue and the Longstone park toilets to the Town Council as part of the budget cuts in a similar vein as the Waterside toilets were devolved last year. Cornwall Council have closed the toilets at the top of the car park because they were not up to standard and will eventually be demolished to make room for more car parking spaces. It is the intention to refurbish the disabled toilets in Belle Vue at Cornwall Council's expense and add a new additional unisex toilet to the current building. Meanwhile negotiations with the Town Council are on hold - to my disappointment and disgust, the Town Council debated the priorities for the town toilets and it was agreed to be put at low priority (bad decision in my opinion). Toilets being a low priority is not the feeling I get when I am talking to residents - in fact it is completely opposite. I always say that when people come into a town centre the first thing they look for is a car parking space and the second is a decent toilet and most people agree with that. So what I suggest is if you agree with me please contact your local ward Town Councillors and let them know your thoughts. A separate subcommittee is set up at Town Council to decide this in the New Year. Yes, this will cause a slight increase in your Council Tax probably to the tune of around £3 per household per year - in my opinion well worth it. Some people may argue that this is double taxation - not true, this will simply be moving the costs from the Cornwall Council budget to the Town Council. I believe the Town Council is in a much better position to maintain the toilets to a much higher standard than what is currently being provided by Cornwall Council, which will be getting less and less as the budgets reduce. End of rant!

If you wish to speak to a Saltash Cornwall Councillor on a one to one basis we will be in the Saltash Library every Saturday between 10 and 12 noon, we each take it in turn and there is a rota at the library reception if you would like to speak to a particular individual.

Bob Austin

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Dermot Drought (left) and Sue Hooper (right) presenting the cheque

## Christmas Harmony Concert

Two choirs were singing in harmony to celebrate Christmas and to welcome new singers into their choirs. Western Approach Close Harmony Chorus and Brunel Ladies Harmony Chorus shared a musical platform at the Burraton Community Centre in Saltash recently and delighted their audience with their delightful Christmas attire and Christmas spirit.

Both choirs alternated their Christmas songs and for the finale they joined forces to sing a medley of Festive harmonies.

Dick Knight directing the Western Approach Chorus and his equally talented wife Delyth directing the Brunel Chorus welcomed new singers to their choirs following intensive singing workshops for each chorus.

Special guests of Western approach was Sue Hooper MBE representing the Sue Hooper Charitable

Foundation - Sue presented Western Approach chairman Dermot Drought with a cheque for £197 in payment of their services to the Trust over recent weeks - and South East Cornwall MP Sheryl Murray.

A marvellous time was had by the choruses and the appreciative audience - if that was not all their supporters provided delicious homemade refreshments to finish off a delightful evening of festive entertainment.



## Huge Boost for Hospice and Volunteer Team

Generous Saltash shoppers (with a bit of help from Father Christmas) have helped to donate around £400 of craft materials to Little Harbour, Cornwall's hospice for children with life-limiting illnesses.

The funds were raised during the Christmas lights shopping evening, when market traders and volunteers held a 'showcase' event, giving visitors a taste of what's on offer in the Community Market and Hub at 4 Fore Street. Youngsters queued to meet Father Christmas in his specially built grotto, as adults enjoyed mulled cider and mince pies while browsing the stalls. The event was hosted by Saltash Gateway CIC, the voluntary group responsible for the market, Volunteer Hub, Saltash Card, Hopper Bus, and Timebank. CIC Directors were on hand to meet and greet visitors and to explain more about the organisation and what it does. Around 70 people signed up to join the

CIC and received a free Saltash Card to get discounts in local shops. Market manager Rosie Waters said the evening had been a huge success for the market, the CIC and the Hospice: "People were extremely generous. We made a small charge for Santa, but some parents gave us more, and although the refreshments were free many people made donations. We have been able to purchase hundreds of pounds worth of craft materials which will be displayed in the market before we hand them over to Little Harbour. It was a brilliant evening for everyone involved and has raised the awareness both of the market and the other activities which go on here."

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## Essa Files

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a pleasant festive season and are looking forward with anticipation to whatever 2014 brings us. This is of course the time of year for New Year's resolutions, but am I not normally a fan, for two reasons. Firstly because if something is worth resolving, then why wait until January? Just do it!

Secondly because the ritual of making them often seems to be more important than actually keeping them, most people I know who do set resolutions have given up on them by mid-February. However I have decided that this year I will make an exception, resolution number 1 is to tell everyone that Belgrade is a good place a visit. Resolution number 2 is not to lose my phone again.

I went to Belgrade during the October half term. It is not a place you'll find featured in many holidays programmes or columns which is a shame because it is a lovely city with a great café culture, full of history, open spaces and nice restaurants.

What particularly impressed me though was a single incident that occurred during my stay: I lost my phone. This is actually relatively unusual for me as usually I lose my keys. A day later my Mum received a text from a Serbian person whose own Mum had found the phone. She had bothered to pick it up and give it to her English speaking son, who had in turn bothered to look up who my last text message had been to, discovered that it was my Mum, and texted her offering to arrange return of the phone. I got it back shortly afterwards.

I am not suggesting for a moment that this would not happen in this country (although most of us would

struggle with decoding the Serbian language!) but this did give me a rather warm fuzzy feeling about human nature and the trouble people sometimes go to to be helpful.

So if you get chance to visit Belgrade do so. Well that's resolution number 1 done, and the year is only 18 hours old as I write this (there's efficiency!). Unfortunately Resolution number 2 might not survive the year.

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## From The Mayor's Parlour...

May I start by wishing everyone a happy and prosperous New Year. Let's hope the experts who say that the economy has turned the corner are right!

As far as Saltash is concerned the Christmas event in Fore Street gave the town a real buzz. A series of events aimed at all ages and ending in a fireworks display filled the town with people. A number of people have told me, both during the day and afterwards, how much they enjoyed it. Can I thank all the organisations and individuals involved in making this such a successful day. Anyone interested in helping us to move onto the next stage in making this a sustainable, annual, event should contact the Guildhall.

Over the Christmas period Stephanie and I had the opportunity to visit a number of groups and organisations to share their Christmas celebrations. These events, together with, for example, our attendance at awards ceremonies and highly entertaining youth theatrical performances at Saltash .net School and Burraton Community Centre, showed what a huge range of community activities are available to us in Saltash to support people of all ages.

As one of the visits we made on Christmas day we had the opportunity to tour St Barnabus Hospital which confirmed, once again, just what a fantastic asset the hospital is and how important it is to the town.

Well, as predicted, we did

have some very bad weather over the last few days it was just not the cold weather with the snow and ice that I expected. As a result my foldable snow shovel has stayed unused in the boot of my car!

Instead of the ice and snow we had high winds and torrential rain. Being one of many people caught on the wrong side of the Tamar Bridge when the number of lanes in use on the bridge was restricted brought home to me just how much we rely on being able to go where we want when we want.

Undoubtedly this is not the end of the bad weather, it's raining now as I write and there are further gales and torrential rain expected with eighty flood warnings in place. The government has called for Local Authorities, amongst others, to make improvements in their emergency plans to reduce the impact of bad weather in the future. As part of this if anyone has suffered from flooding this winter please contact me so that we can make sure that we know of all the potential flood sites and can pass them on to Cornwall Council.

I'll close by wishing you a prosperous new year once again.

*Cllr. David Yates Town Mayor*

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*Sheryll with local residents and Councillors*

### Burraton Community Players

*Burraton Community Players are pleased to announce the forthcoming production of:*

## MOTHER GOOSE

This pantomime, their 23<sup>rd</sup> pantomime since forming in 1991, is directed by Jill Price and features an original script written by Leigh Hughes, Jill Price and Christine Woolcock.

Once again the Players have taken a traditional pantomime plot and subjected it ruthlessly to the "Burraton Process" with strange twists of fate and bizarre characterisations.

The emphasis here is on youth with several new members joining for the first time to lead the action and adventure.

Fourteen songs are included together with the typically subtle (!) jokes and repartee.

Performances take place at:  
Burraton Community Centre Saltash  
February 7th-9th at 7.30pm,

There is also a Saturday matinee performance at 2.00pm  
Sat 9th Feb

Tickets will be available from "Piglets" in Fore Street, Saltash from early January at £6.00 (Concessions and children £3.00)

For further information, please contact:  
Leigh Hughes Tel: 01752 842109 or  
[troutmask@supanet.com](mailto:troutmask@supanet.com)

## Devastation in East Cornwall

### Sheryll shows Minister Dan Rogerson MP around flooding issues in Looe

Sheryll Murray MP, welcomed Minister for the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Dan Rogerson MP to Looe today to discuss flooding issues after recent high tides. Dan and Sheryll were also joined by experts from the Environment Agency to look at options and defences put in place by local people.

Sheryll explained, "I am always pleased when a member of the Government can come to South East Cornwall to see for themselves the damage that the flooding can do.

"I was keen to raise a number of issues with the Minister including the importance of the Flood Re Insurance as outlined in the Water Bill which is currently going through Parliament.

I sat on the Committee which went through this bill line by line and was keen to emphasise to the Minister the practical aspects of this bill



*Sheryll and Dan listen to the experience of one local resident*

for local people.

"It was also useful to be able to speak with the representatives of the

Environment Agency and discuss some of the incidents which had happened recently in South East Cornwall."



recounted to Sheryll how she had walked along the wall with her dog at 6.15am and when she looked back from the cafe just before 8am saw that it had collapsed.

Sheryll also visited the cafe and found many local residents helping mop up following the sea and spoke to the cafe owner.

Sheryll said, "I was surprised to see this fairly new sea defence collapse and will be calling to see what

foundations were used.

"I felt terribly sorry for the cafe but was impressed by the amount of local people helping out this important local business.

It was heartening to see a local community work together in this way - something I have seen during other flooding incidents which makes me so proud of the people I represent."

Contact: Sheryll Murray MP 01579 344428

### 'All Options Must be Explored' says Local MP after Calstock Landslip

Local MP Sheryll Murray MP has called for all options to be explored following a meeting with residents and local Councillors for the Calstock area today following a landslip in Lower Kelly in Calstock which happened during Christmas.

During her visit Sheryll had a look at the site itself and explored local access to the site including an old track at the side of Cothele.

Sheryll explained, "I am very concerned about the slip that has taken place. There are many questions which need to be answered and I will be pushing for these. The key issue is repair to the site itself, whether the footpath access will be able to be maintained and the timescales involved. We must also look at the needs of the local residents whilst work is undertaken and see how these can be resolved. Some of the houses also need oil and work off septic tanks and these will need a certain amount of servicing.

"There are clearly a number of options for temporary access including an old track, the river, air and the remaining footpath. These must be

explored as a matter of urgency for the needs of local residents including if there is an emergency.

"I am contacting the Council and national agencies to have a look at this case. It is important that information is shared and that local residents are kept informed and consulted on what actions are being taken."

Contact: Sheryll Murray MP 01579 344428

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**February 2014**

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## Hospital Anniversary Celebrates Many Thousands of Pounds Donated By Friends

The tremendous amount of work done for our local community hospital, raising awareness and raising funds for patient comforts and medical needs, was highlighted by Mayor Councillor David Yates at the League of Friends of St. Barnabas annual general meeting. 'They have given a tremendous amount of equipment and it is difficult to imagine how the hospital could function without the Friends', the Mayor added. 'We must play a part as a community in what happens to the hospital and not leave it to the faceless bureaucrats' Bureaucrats previously decided there was no place for small community hospitals such as St. Barnabas and threatened it with closure before once again deciding that they do have a useful role in today's NHS.

'The response of the public to St. Barnabas always surprises me', said the Friends' President Dr. Colin Randall. 'So many people come up to me in the street to tell me how much they appreciate it'.

The meeting came at the end of an exciting and

eventful year when, to mark the 125th Anniversary of the hospital and the 50th Anniversary of the League of Friends, during which there had been a variety of activities organised on a monthly basis. Friends' Chairman Mrs Joyce

Mepsted paid tribute to the support received from the hospital, committee, sponsors and the local community. Awareness had been raised of the services provided in our local hospital which include the wards, physiotherapy,

acute care at home and occupational therapy.

As a result of the fund raising retiring Treasurer Peter Gammage was able to report on gifts to a total of £17,796 between October 2012 and November 2013. These included £7,800 for four electric low profiling beds, £5,547 for hoists and slings and £2,120 for covers for hydrotilt chairs. As well as these there were eleven extra gifts ranging from pedestal and desk fans, a pulse oximeter and seat cushion pump, to two kettles, a microwave and toaster for the occupational therapy unit. Gifts already promised for the next financial year include a vein locating machine for use in acute care at home as well as hospital costing £3,350 and curtain railing replacement at £3,800.

Peter and Marion Gammage were retiring as Treasurer and Secretary after ten years of service and Dr. Randall paid tribute to their work while presenting them with a framed print of the hospital.

Following the meeting the hospital locality manager Jo Beer outlined exciting future plans for the hospital which we hope to report upon once they are confirmed. Darren Berry then spoke of the work of Cornwall Blood Bikes, eighty-eight volunteers who answer around 140 emergency calls each month to speed blood and other medical needs across the South West using their fleet of five 'blue light bikes' as well as their own machines

## A Night of Forfeit and Fun



A night of forfeit and fun at the Ploughboy Inn resulted in a grand total of £266 for one of the pub's preferred charities, Macmillan Nurses.

The Ploughboy regulars Colin, Phil and Michael together with the Ploughboy's own euchre team were supported by other players from the league in a night of pre Christmas fun and frolic resulting in this sum being ready for landlord Mike Carroll to hand over to the nurses who do sterling work for cancer patients. Mike looks forward to building on this in 2014.

## Letter to the Editor



Dear Marye

I don't know if this would constitute a "letter to the Editor" or not, please be the judge.

Back in the very early 60's I was in a rock band in Saltash, some of your readers may remember us. We were called "Rigor Mortise and the Gravediggers" Having recently returned to live in Saltash, and still playing, I would like to form a Rock Orchestra, to this end I am looking for old, retired, recycled musicians and singers to get together and make music. With the emphasis on having fun and perhaps raising some money for worthy causes in Saltash along the way. If there are any like minded folk out there among your readership perhaps they could contact me on 01752 848881.

Kindest regards  
Alan Tout

## Mandy made Merry for Kimberly Christmas Party



Those who regularly enjoy the facilities at Kimberly Day Centre enjoyed a special celebration thanks to manageress Mandy.

Rowen House Home

owners Mike and Chris under whose auspices the day care facilities are organised shared the fun.

They welcomed special guests Cllr David Yates, Mayor of Saltash and our

own editor Mary Crawford.

Between the festive lunch and the musical entertainment the Mayor called out the numbers for bingo while Mary served as runner.

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## Conundrum Corner

A slight change in the Quiz for 2014! Taking the initial letter to the one-word answers to the following nine questions can you rearrange them to make the name of a Town or Village in our locality?

1 In which Shakespearean play does Desdemona appear? (7)

2 The deepest Lake in the World is Lake Baykal - In which Country will you find it? (6)

3 What is Winnie the Pooh's favourite food? (5)

4 During whose Reign were England and Scotland united? (5)

5 What was the name of the Fairy in J. M. Barrie's Peter Pan? (10)

6 Which Irish River rises in County Wicklow and flows through Dublin into the Irish Sea in Dublin Bay? (6)

7 Which Ugandan Airport was the scene of a hostage incident in 1975? (7)

8 How many musicians make up a quintet? (4)

9 Which is the World's largest Rodent? (8)

Answers on page 7

## Observer Telephone Numbers

07971484872 or  
01579 345699

## Mayor Shares Age Concern Christmas Celebration

There is no need for the elderly in Saltash to feel lonely and isolated as was evidenced at the Christmas dinner enjoyed in the Burraton Community Centre as organised and prepared by Saltash Age Concern.

Members who had enjoyed a variety of meals, entertainment and other organised activities during the year came together to share a home cooked turkey dinner with trimmings followed by accompanied community singing of carols and other Christmas favourites.

They shared their special lunch with a special guest, Mayor Cllr. David Yates, who afterwards thanked all the helpers for all that they do for the towns' senior citizens at Christmas and throughout the year. "We in Saltash are lucky to have an organisation such as this," he concluded.

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# Christmas is Long Gone but Memories of the Saltash Christmas Festival will Certainly Linger Longer

## Hundreds enjoyed Best Christmas Festival-Ending in Blaze of Lights

The spirit of Christmas came early to the hundreds who packed the town for what was widely acclaimed as the best Saltash Christmas Festival ever. Even the weather was on the side of those who had worked so hard to ensure a seasonable start to the festive season. A dry and mild December day witnessed Saltash Shoppers lining the pavements in the morning to view the drive past of Santas on motor bikes, each bearing a festive gift to a child in the Little Harbour Hospice

### We Three Girls have Travelled Afar

Many shoppers took the opportunity to visit the spectacular display of over sixty Christmas trees in St. Nicholas Church.

Then as the early December dusk fell Fore Street closed to traffic and the crowds started to flock to Saltash's Christmas Market, stall selling seasonal food, drink and gift ideas were busy as families wandered between groups of singers, morris dancers, and our own youth performance groups, Youngstagers and Page 2 Stage.

Anticipation grew as darkness fell and the rumour ran that Father Christmas was on his way. Santa himself led the civic parade as it processed up the street to the rostrum where the town's Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year, Brian Whipp and Aaron Bezant, to a chorus of 'oohs and aahs' switched on our spectacular display of lights.

Christmas had officially arrived in Saltash!

The town was in hearty voice for the open air carol service in which our own community choir, which had successfully rehearsed for the event - joined in full chorus.

There was plenty else to amuse young and old,



throughout the afternoon and evening. A steady queue in the 'For Saltash' shop waited patiently to tell Santa of their secret seasonal desires, while an early fall of snow delighted youngsters, thanks to a snow making machine.

Finally all foregathered again to line the pavements as hundreds watched the amazing lantern parade of local school children with their own-made lights and groups with incredibly lit ships and peacocks.

As they reached the top of

From Torquay and Liskeard Megan Faith and Lily came together to sing their hearts out at the open air carol service as part of the Saltash Christmas Festival, they still had enough voice afterwards to tell us how thrilled they were to share in the Saltash Christmas spirit

the street with their parade of light the evening skies lit up as the event concluded with a magnificent display of fireworks.



### Please Father Christmas

Amalie a young visitor from Liskeard expresses her Christmas wishes at the For Saltash Community Market Shop

Below: Danielle from Truly Scrumptious happily receives the Childrens Champion Award for her Christmas Window

Deputy Mayoress & her Consort with May Queen and Princesses



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**SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...**



I hope that everyone had a good Christmas and would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

I was pleased to be able to join many people in a variety of festivities in the run up to Christmas and would like to congratulate everyone involved in the organisation of these events. It was a particular pleasure to have been able to join Mayor David Yates for the switching on of the Saltash Lights this year.

I was also pleased to be able to open the new Spa at the China Fleet Club. This facility is certainly a fantastic asset for Saltash and the surrounding area. I really hope that the new Spa will attract visitors from across the Tamar and benefit Saltash Town Centre as well.

Early in 2014, I will have the Committee and Report stage of my latest Private Members Bill in the House of Commons. I am very excited at the prospect of my Deep Sea Mining Bill receiving Royal Assent. Deep Sea Mining is a very new way of sourcing rare metals and through my Bill has the potential of generating up to £30 billion of income for the UK by 2030. I am hopeful that Plymouth University will be one of the winners in this area.

The first item on the agenda in the House on our return is the report stage of the Water Bill. This Bill is very important to us all. We have already seen legislation passed that allows us to receive a rebate of £50 per year off our water bills and I am delighted that after so many years of campaigning, George Osborne listened

and recognised the high cost of water bills in the South West area. The Water Bill includes a section on flood insurance. Through the Flood Re Insurance scheme, people who have had difficulty in the past to obtain flood insurance will be able to at a reasonable price.

As in past years, I was pleased to attend the Babcock Carol Service and I would like to thank Phil Jones and all the staff at Babcock for making this such an enjoyable event.

Finally, I would like to reassure everyone that my Office is there to help anyone who find they need us. You can contact us on 01579 344428 or email me at: Sheryll@sheryllmurray.com My staff and I are there to help.

**Shops Quick Response to Retail Crime**

A 'Shopwatch' scheme, such as is successfully operated in Plymouth, could reduce theft and anti-social behaviour in Fore Street.

All shops have been invited by local Police to participate by being in radio contact with the police and with each other. If each is equipped with an analogue radio any suspected shoplifters or other offenders can be instantly reported and descriptions circulated while they remain in the vicinity, improving information flow and helping build a safer community, Police believe. There had been 42 recorded incidents of shoplifting in the town this year to date.

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**Nights On Broadway Brought to Saltash.Net School**



The main streets of New York with their colourful cavalcade of gamblers and their gals are a long stop from a mystic wood near Athens, but following their success in the classic drama of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' saltash.net academy's theatrical magic transported this season's audience to the honky-tonk world of Broadway in Damon Runyon's adopted short story, 'Guys and Dolls'.

The male cast members eagerly adopted appropriate accents and adapted to the

colourful characters of Big Jule, Harry the Horse, Nicely Nicely Johnson and especially Sky Masterson and Nathan Detroit. The female leads rose to the challenge of such diverse roles as tragic-comic permanent fiancée Miss Adelaide and the Salvationist Sister Sarah Brown, played with just the right combination of earnestness and vulnerability. Meanwhile the skilfully choreographed girls' chorus ensured lively entertainment at the Hat Box Club while the boys' rhythmically stomped and

sang to such numbers as 'Luck be a Lady' and of course the show stopping 'Sit down you're rockin' the boat'. The natural talent and exuberance of the youthful cast was once again well honed in a finely tuned production by Jo Loyn. The backstage crew too deserved mention, musical, technical and choreographic crew all abetted the difficult direction of such a big show on a small stage. The final feelgood chorus brought about a well-deserved rousing reception from a clearly enraptured audience.

**Panel to Sit On Public Conveniences**

Saltash Town Council is still considering whether to take over the running of the town centre public toilets from Cornwall Council. It has already taken on those on Waterside.

A panel has been appointed to consider all the issues before making representations to the Town Council. Chaired by local businessman and Vice Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Peter Ryland it will include two Councillors, one of whom is broadly in favour of, and one against a Town Council takeover.

**"Patient Power" Needs Voice of Local Community**

Significant changes to the running of the NHS in Cornwall and in particular plans for a 'revolutionary' approach to a more individual centred care of older patients, locally co-ordinated, were outlined at a local public meeting. The public attendance totalled around two dozen, the second highest attendance at such meetings in Cornwall but still considered low given the vital importance of our local health service.

The provision of a Commissioning Group who organised the public meeting made clear. This means that if Saltash wishes its voice to be heard it will need to do so, primarily through Patient Participation Groups in our two surgeries. Saltash Gateway CIC urges local residents to contact their surgery and discuss membership of the group. Active support from councillors and other local bodies is also needed, Gateway CIC stressed, to ensure that Saltash's health and care services are maintained and improved to the highest standard.

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## 'Apprentice' Star, Claire Young, is Guest of Honour at saltash.net's GCSE Presentation Evening



Saltash.net community school was delighted that one of the 2008 'Apprentice' finalists – Claire Young – was able to accept its invitation to be the Guest Speaker at the annual GCSE Presentation Evening held on Thursday 5th December. Claire had visited the school on two previous occasions to lead motivational Business and Enterprise workshops for Key Stage 4 students, some of whom were Award recipients at the presentation event.

'We really wanted to make this particular occasion, extra special,' said Mrs Bryce, headteacher. 'The Class of 2013 achieved an outstanding set of GCSE and Vocational pathway results

last August. Their work ethic was exemplary and we wanted as many people as possible to come along to the Awards Evening to help us celebrate the numerous successes of this terrific group of young people.'

In Claire Young's address, she congratulated all the students stating that it was evident that they clearly wanted to be 'the best that they could be.' She shared with the audience details of her childhood and education, and the female role models who had inspired her: her mum, and her secondary school headteacher. She encouraged the young people present to aim high – 'Have a wish list of things you want to have and achieve over the

next ten years and go for it!' Also contributing to the Presentation Evening were Chair of Governors, Kate Waghorn and Head of Year, Mark Feldwick. Musical entertainment was provided by Year 12 student, Flo Bonner, and the Vote of Thanks was given by Year 12 representatives: Alex Tucker and Laura Kelly. After the presentation of the GCSE and Vocational certificates, the individual awards were given. The school would like to thank Spinnaker International Ltd, Tamar Valley Meats, Florabella Ltd and the Friends of saltash.net community school for their sponsorship and support of the event



Alex Tucker receives the John Griffin memorial shield

### Pay to Float Your Boat Proposal For Waterside

Improvements to the waterfront area of Saltash including removal of derelict boats, as well as the possible charging of launching fees, were among suggestions put to the Town Council by Town and County Councillor Joe Ellison.

The slips at Ashtorpe Rock and Jubilee Green are the only free access launching places in the area and on fine summer days there are lines of vehicles, mostly from outside Saltash, towing vessels to be launched here. These people spend little or nothing in the town and Cllr. Ellison suggested that since all harbours in Cornwall charge around £10 to £12 to launch, and a card operated barrier could be programmed to collect from trailer launches while allowing the dinghy launches to continue.

There is an increasing number of boats illegally moored along the town's waterfront, many derelict,

### Force Increased with Ex-PCSO'S

Saltash Police numbers have been increased following the appointment of two former local PCSO's to full Police officers based in the town. Kim and Natalie's local knowledge will be of great benefit to the town, Sergeant Chris Chilcott told the Town Council. A further new officer appointed that day together with eight local PCSO's and more to come, meant that the Saltash-based Police force was considerably boosted. The aim was on cutting ties with Plymouth and no longer being so dependent on officers coming over the bridge when problems arise in the town.

deteriorating and detracting from the amenity area. A scheme based on giving 28 days notice and local advertisement before destroying or selling apparently abandoned boats would improve the area considerably, Cllr. Ellison suggested.

He also suggested that management of the pontoon, where the twelve hour stay limit is frequently disregarded and income not collected, and which is overdue for a major refit, should be investigated. Management of the boat park too he described as currently poor.

A working group, chaired by Councillor Richard Bickford, is to look into the various waterfront concerns put forward in the brief by Cllr. Ellison.

The closure of the "Harbour Lights" club in Torpoint is also good news for Saltash he added, with less likelihood of officers being deployed to Torpoint especially on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Other local policing changes have seen Andy Dunstan, who has long served Saltash's neighbourhood policing, being promoted as Temporary Inspector and now serving as Critical Incident Manager for Cornwall. Sergeant Chilcott, who previously served in the neighbouring rural area, replaces him as Saltash Neighbourhood Team Leader. On a higher level Area Inspector Tony Joslin has moved to St. Austell to be replaced by Inspector Dan Ivey

### Carkeel Roundabout Upgrade Gets Go Ahead

The improvements to speed traffic and provide a safe passage for pedestrians at Carkeel are due to commence next Autumn.

The Highways Agency confirmed in April that the £1.5 million scheme to reduce delays and achieve wider benefits in supporting growth at Saltash was one of six road schemes for the South West aimed to keep traffic moving on strategic routes.

Now specific plans to widen the approach from Plymouth to three lanes, with a two lane exit, have been put forward to improve traffic flow, especially at peak periods in the rush hour and the holiday season.

Walkers will benefit from a

pedestrian footbridge which will also allow safe access to those who shop and work in the stores and industrial units north of the A38.

Work is expected to take around six months and be completed by Spring 2015.

#### Conundrum answers...

1 Othello 2 Russia 3 Honey  
4 Anne 5 Tinkerbell 6  
Liffey 7 Entebbe 8 Five 9  
Capybara Re-arranged the  
letters spell out the Village of  
Crathole

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### Help for the Homeless

For me January is an awful month, it gets dark too quickly, is frequently accompanied by appalling weather, and for those of us paid monthly, it is a long month with little money.

Of course you may not feel that way if you have a birthday or anniversary to celebrate, but for me it is a month I need to get over before the real year begins.

But I know I am in a privileged position, I have my health, my family and a lovely home, but for some that is not the case. Saltash, like every town, will have a number of homeless people. They are easy to miss, hidden in our back lanes, in parks or staying temporarily on someone's sofa. An organisation called the St. Petroc Society (and started in 1986 at the instigation of the Bishop of St Germans), recently counted the number of homeless people in the county. Nearly 60 people were found on one night in December sleeping rough in our streets and fields in Cornwall. A fair proportion of those will have a substance addiction, some will have mental health issues others have a history of being abused. St Petroc's, supported by our local churches, focuses on helping single people who fall between the system and prove an invaluable service to our community.

Of course the surprise is why in this day and age we have anybody sleeping rough at all. Certainly beds can be found at Christmas and many charities try to keep those beds available throughout the winter. But it is not the choice for some and for others their

addictions/history/mental health can contribute to being unable to stay for too long.

In my profession as a Social worker I have seen first hand the effects of abuse, mental health issues and addiction in all too many families and although they rarely end in homelessness, the devastation to the families and future generations is frankly depressing.

But I know so much more could be done. More resources certainly would help, but more than that we need to change the way we see and help such people. Communities and charities like St Petroc are brilliant at pitching in, but real change can only be driven by national politicians leading us on how we understand and deal with such issues. It will be difficult to achieve, but for me it is a worth fighting for, because 60 will always be too many.

Phil Hutty PPC for the Lib Dems

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## Welcome Return for Children's Choir...



The Pearl of Africa Children's Choir from Uganda have made a welcome return visit to saltash.net community school on the last leg of their 2013 UK tour.

Ten members of the choir provided a stunning song and dance routine for spellbound Year 7 students, before leading workshops on African drumming, singing and crafts.

There was also an opportunity for staff and

students at saltash.net to purchase African jewellery and other goods at breaktime on the day of the visit.

Jude Hollyman, headteacher's PA who coordinated the visit said, 'In 2011, saltash.net hosted the choir for a week and we still have some contact with the original members, so it was

excellent to be able to welcome friends and colleagues of theirs from the same part of Uganda. The choir's performance was, once again, incredible!' saltash.net will be holding a non uniform day later this term to raise money to support the choir as they return to their homeland.

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

## Sixth Form Students Discover A Well Of Information

The iconic Cornish Cross stands on a site that is itself a part of local history, school students are discovering. A group of sixth formers from saltash.net academy have been working with Saltash Heritage with the aim of preparing and designing a board to be placed by the Cross outlining the history of the land on which it stands.

The sixth formers, with school history staff, enjoyed examining old maps, photographs and documents in the Heritage local history centre. These showed the orchard formerly growing at Elwell Woods supported a cider house of which walls have been restored adjacent to the cross. The Elwell well itself, which supplied a flow of water when all others had run dry, was used by the Saltash brewery which also stood on the site. The research, financed by the Cornish cross project, should result in an information board being mounted during early 2014.

## Open Invitation to Burglars Alarm Police

'Even on a chill Winter's evening I have noted windows left open, a sure invitation to burglars,' said Sergeant Chris Chilcott as he arrived late at a Town Council meeting from having investigated one such opportunist burglary. The six burglaries that he reported as having occurred over the previous month marred an otherwise satisfactory report of almost 25% fall in reported crime over the same period last year. He was however pleased to report that recently two men had been reported as arrested locally for going equipped to steal and he anticipated further arrests for burglary. Others of the 55 crimes reported for the month included seventeen thefts, fifteen assaults, and six criminal damage. There was a dog bite, a driver under the influence of alcohol, a production of cannabis and a possession of a prohibited weapon. The local police annual drink drive campaign, with random stops, was under way and would continue over Christmas and New Year. A recent 'Speedwatch' on the Callington Road at Carkeel over a 35 minute period had recorded 330 vehicles with only seven driven over the speed limit.

The regular police 'surgery' continues to be held at Saltash Library on Thursday mornings from 10.30am to midday with all welcome to drop in and discuss matters of concern.

## Council Thanked for Supporting Open Space

Cornwall Council's planning officer rejected the recommendation of Saltash Town Council which opposed building five large houses on what residents understood was promised to them as permanent open space.

The Town Council had agreed with Delohay Park residents that the area should remain green as an amenity and play area for local children.

Following the planning officer going against this and granting permission to build, the Town Council voted twelve to one not to accept this but for the application to be 'called in' for consideration by the full 'planning east' committee. This committee went against it planning officer and unanimously supported Saltash Council in refusing the development.

A letter on behalf of the residents, and especially the 28 children, was sent to the Town Council warmly thanking them for their support, especially County Councillors Holley and Ellison.

It is still open to the developers, Wain Homes, to appeal the refusal.



## Lantern Parade

Two Lantern making workshops took place during the second half of the Autumn Term as part of the preparations for the Saltash town Christmas Festival. Organised by International Coordinator, Vicky Higgs, the first one took place on the morning of Saturday 23rd November and involved making fish lanterns.

The second one took place after school on Wednesday 4th December and was designed to provide an opportunity for services families to create a Dove of Peace.

The lanterns were paraded from the Guildhall to the top of Fore Street in Saltash on the evening of Saturday 7th December, preceding a firework display which concluded a day of Christmas themed activities.

International Coordinator, Vicky Higgs, said, 'It was great to see the students being creative and coming together with their families to create the lanterns. The amazing sense of community at the parade was an excellent opportunity for the students to show off their creations.'

## Saltash is Blooming Lovely

The hanging baskets that bedeck our busy shopping street and the flower boats around the centre and the Waterside have won Saltash two prestigious prizes. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor Councillors David Yates and Jean Dent were delighted to receive, on behalf of the town, two of the Cornwall in Bloom awards for 'Town centre' and 'Full Bloom' categories. They were told that it is rare for the awards to come to East Cornwall.

The judges were said to have been most impressed at how the towns community had come together to achieve an attractive array of blooms.

In addition to a shield the Mayor was given £250.00 to be put towards ensuring an equally colourful or even better floral display for Saltash 2014.

## Food Market Gains From Solar Farm Fund

The increasingly popular food market held in 'For Saltash' at the foot of Fore Street has been awarded £4,700 by Cornwall Community Foundation. This is money payable from the Howton Solar Farm Fund, a payment made when a solar farm is established in the neighbourhood and put towards a local community project.

'This will help to develop and promote our local food market in particular and sustainable shopping in Fore Street in general during 2014,' said Chairman of Saltash Gateway Community Interest Company Peter Thistlethwaite. 'We look forward to working in partnership with the Town Council and town centre improvement group to deliver this'. He added that any local producer of fresh food would be welcome to participate in the regular market

## Guildhall and Allotment Charges Increase

Those wishing to rent the Guildhall or the Council Chamber downstairs face a rental increase of between 15% and 25% for 2014/2015. Casual bookings charges for the Guildhall, now set at £13 weekdays and £16 weekends per hour will go up to £15 and £20 respectively. The hourly rate for the Council Chamber will similarly increase from £11 and £14 to £14 and £17. Use of the piano, currently by donation will now incur a fixed charge of £10 per session.

Allotment holders face a lesser increase with those currently paying £20 or £30 per annum dependent on their site, seeing a rise of only £1 to £21 and £31 - This follows increases of up to 25% the previous year.

The Town Council has not put forward proposals to increase burial fees, currently set at £630 for Saltash residents, £250 for burial of cremated remains, and double this sum for non residents.

## Saltash Leisure Centre

Feel Fit for the New Year... Treat yourself to a...

Breeze leisure membership - Live the Breeze... Breeze Card for Cornwall



Everything you need to know... About your Leisure Centres

Introducing the Breeze card...

- NO JOINING FEE ■ NO CONTRACT ■ UNLIMITED USAGE
- NO OFF PEAK RESTRICTIONS ■ FREE INDUCTIONS
- FREE HEALTH ASSESSMENTS ■ FREE PERSONAL PROGRAMMES
- ONLINE BOOKING ■ VERY COMPETITIVE MEMBERSHIP FEES

Junior, Intermediate, Concession and Swim Only Memberships are also available

Ask about Breeze Membership Options or Pay and Play for further details. Contact us during opening hours.

New for 2014!!!

**SH'BAM!** The new workout dance sensation from Les Mills.

Featuring simple, fun but seriously hot dance moves to stay in shape and tone up.

Mon 10.15-11am, Weds 6.45-7.30pm, Thurs 10-10.45am, Sun 10.45-11.30am

**Balance - Holistic, stability class to improve flexibility, build core strength and focus on the mind.**

Weds 11.30am-12pm

**Aqua natal - Gently enjoyable class designed to help release the worries and stress of pregnancy.**

Thurs 9.15-10am

**Junior Street Dance 5-10years- high energy fun fitness class with choreographed routines to the latest music.**

Fri 4.15-5.15pm

Please see our website or contact the centre for our full class timetable and further information.

Tel: 01752 840940 [www.tempusleisure.org.uk](http://www.tempusleisure.org.uk)

Opening Times  
Mon-Fri 6.30am-10pm  
Sat-6.30am-8pm  
Sun-7.30am-7pm



Tempus  
Making time for leisure