

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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January 2015 - Issue 270

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Minister Confirms Bridge Over A38 in Saltash



Sheryll with the Secretary of State for Transport, The Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP, when he visited in May 2013.

In a letter to local MP Sheryll Murray the Rt Hon John Hayes MP, Minister of State for Transport, has confirmed that works, including a pedestrian bridge, at Carkeel are due to start this month and will be complete within 3 months.

His letter states, "I am writing to let you know that the Highways Agency is proposing to carry out works to improve the A38 Carkeel Roundabout. These works are part of the national pinch point programme which forms part of the UK governments' growth initiative outlined during the Chancellors Autumn statement in November 2011.

"We are widening the westbound approach from two to three lanes and widening the Westbound exit to allow for a two lane exit and installing a pedestrian footbridge on the A38 eastern arm.

"The works are planned to start in January 2015 and are estimated to last for 3 months. The scheme improvements will result in improved flow through the junction, reduced conflicts between merging traffic streams and improved

safety for non-motorised users."

Sheryll explained, "I have long campaigned for this crossing and even brought the Secretary of State for Transport, The Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP, down to see for himself what a hazard crossing this road is. I am pleased that the work is scheduled to start this month on this improvement.

"I am continuing to push for other improvements along the A38 in particular at the Looe junction which has seen too many accidents."

Long Park Road Home Build Rejection Overruled

A host of neighbourhood objections were made in respect of a plan for a new dwelling at 28 Long Park Road. While immediate neighbours complained of loss of light and of privacy others saw the existing parking problems in the road made worse by the extra property. This, they stated, was a particular problem due to the proximity of a school and pre-school.

Town Councillors agreed and recommended rejection of the plan due to highway safety concerns and loss of parking, especially near a school, as well as loss of light to a neighbouring property and overdevelopment of the site.

Cornwall council subsequently went against the recommendation and approved planning permission subject to conditions.

Share a Gift this Valentine's Day...Spend Time Together, enjoy a Romantic Walk in your own Local Countryside!

Cottages, Creeks and two Castles

One of the Delights of living in Saltash is how easy it is to get out of it! Once the outermost housing estates of this bustling, friendly little town have been left behind, one is immediately in the most bucolic of Cornish countryside with the lark on the wing, the primrose on the hedgerow, and lanes and footpaths inviting one and all to explore and enjoy them.

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See Page 5

Council Must Ensure Broadmoor Promises are Performed

Now that outline planning permission for a thousand homes at Broadmoor has been recommended by Saltash Council and approval by Cornwall, what does the Town Council intend to do on a regular basis to monitor the performance of the developers? This question was raised by a concerned resident during the Council's public question time.

He cited the 'rather shaky history' of the Commercial Estates Group also responsible for the Carlyon Bay development. It was vital to ensure that the developers provided the infrastructure planned and kept to the social housing promised, as against actually provided shrunk from that agreed.

Councillor Gloria Channon firstly advised that not all Councillors voted for the development while Councillor John Brady, who had also opposed it, added that his local Carkeel Residents Association was currently considering seeking a judicial review of the decision.

'Any planning application has strict monitoring by the planning authority, County Councillor Joe Ellison replied. 'A legal and enforceable agreement has been signed to provide £11 million by way of a 'Section 106 Agreement' to include provision for education, affordable housing and infrastructure'. He assured the public that a constant eye would be kept to ensure that as development commenced

these promises would be kept.

However County Councillor Derek Holley added that there is always a big problem in enforcement of all major applications, such as this, which are in two parts.

'What is agreed does not always happen, as occurred at Pillmere', said Councillor Sue Hooper, while Councillor David Yates added that Councillors had learnt from Pillmere, would seek to impose on that and must set up a monitoring system. All of the public were welcome to attend the monthly meetings of the Neighbourhood Plan steering group which was considering such issues.

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Letters to the Editor...

Forder, Saltash, Town or Village Green - The Intrigue?

We read last month's invective with both interest and incredulity, not being aware of any connection between London-based Richard Belfield and Saltash - nor indeed his data sources. However, he is said by some to have a penchant for conspiracy theories, as apparent in his television "documentaries" such as Diana: "The Secrets Behind The Crash", etc., etc. We cannot corroborate those views of Belfield which are freely available in the media but, as with his letter concerning ourselves, a number of opinions exist of him and his organisation, Fulcrum TV.

For example, Jonathan Boyd Hunt cites Belfield's works as "dishonest journalism" using "decidedly dubious witnesses bearing odd testaments" and although respected book reviewers, Kirkus Reviews, don't go quite as far as that, they do advise readers of Belfield's work to "... keep a tumbler full of salt grains close at hand". We offer the same advice with respect to Belfield's letter and it's relevance to the real people who live in Saltash, rather perhaps, those who live or work in London. However, he may be interested in the appropriate facts, which are as follows.

Local families who, for generations had used the "Village Green" site as of right, together with older public rights of way which cross that land, were concerned by the previous owner's statement to Cornwall Council in 2007 that "We are suffering persistent trespass... and plan to fence off all of the boundaries... as well as forming an area for standing and turning our car...". Saltash residents were rightly anxious that such developments, and possible others, would exclude them from the site. There are recorded reports at that time of intimidation and other attempts to prevent persons using traditional routes.

The Application for "Town

or Village Green" status was submitted in February 2008, with 144 Saltash residents having each completed eight page Evidence Questionnaires and in July 2010 Cornwall Council's own Modification Orders Panel decided that the issue should be decided at a public inquiry. This follows the same path as most UK Village Green Applications. However, Cornwall Council's legal team did nothing until this year when the Local Government Ombudsman, at his second attempt, forced them to name a date. This was to be November 18th 2014 in Saltash Guildhall - until we received a letter on November 8th in which Cornwall Council revealed that they had forgotten to inform the new landowners, Mr and Mrs Ramsden and that the Inquiry could not proceed on that date. Their representative then said, "I confirm that I will use my best endeavours to ensure that the inquiry is rescheduled as soon as possible". We have heard nothing further since then, certainly nothing about Inquiry cancellation or High Court actions, so do wonder from where Belfield gets his information? We made a point of introducing ourselves to Barrister Mr Ramsden in 2011, within a few weeks of his

moving in to Shillingham Manor, with contact details for our Application. However, no communication has ever been received from him since that time. There is no reason of course why he should have done so since he is not the Objector to the Application, the Council's deadline for valid Objections having been July 30th 2008.

Belfield, as appears to be his wont, uses many emotive and inappropriate terms such as "revealed", "flawed", "inexplicable", "untrue" and "shameless" in his letter. It is important to note that, if some of the papers he quotes from have indeed been "lodged" at the High Court in London, they are merely the surmises of the agents who lodged them, not an agreed consideration of their contents by the High Court.

In particular, Belfield wrongly states that an offer "of a long lease of the whole of the land in question at a peppercorn rent" had been made to the Forder, Saltash, Town or Village Green Registration Group and had been "dismissed" by them. Pure nonsense. We do understand that - perhaps to circumvent our own legal Application - a three-year lease had been offered to a local charity Association in 2011 but which had been rejected by them, due to prohibitively high associated costs and responsibilities. Apparently, Mr Ramsden was advised to contact ourselves, perhaps to offer this as an alternative to the impending Inquiry, but he never did so. Had he done, we would have had to reject it, since not only is the Group comprised of disparate Saltash ratepayers but, more importantly, any "lease" would have destroyed the "as of right" and "in perpetuity" guarantees that the Group requires via Section 15 of the Commons Act 2006.

Belfield's bluster suggests that those campaigners - who in 2008 were already older citizens of Saltash due to the Act's 20 years land usage requirement - might be held responsible for the costs of the impending Public Inquiry. We hope that this is not devised to coerce elderly Saltash ratepayers into recanting their witness statements for fear of retribution. Surely this is not what the new landowners, Mr and Mrs Ramsden, could have intended?

We have now submitted our third formal complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman asking that Cornwall Council carries out the tasks which its ratepayers and, since 2012, the Ombudsman's office, have required it to address. In particular, Council officials must reassure older rate-paying Saltash residents, some well into their 80s, that they do not have any responsibility for Cornwall Council's past, and current, inept handling of their affairs. Any queries to ForderInquiry@aol.com please. *Colin Brown, for the Forder, Saltash, Town or Village Green Registration Group*



Village Green Public Inquiry "Shameful Waste of Local Taxpayers' Money."

Letter to the Editor in December's issue of the Saltash & District Observer.

I agree. It is a shameful waste of taxpayers' money: but, I don't agree that this cost should be paid by the 'Applicants Group' (whoever they may be?)

Anyone can apply under section 15(1) of the Commons Act 2006 to register land as a green if it has been used by local people for lawful sports and pastimes 'as of right' (i.e. without permission, force or secrecy) for at least 20 years.

Since 1967, when I met and later married my wife, I've made such use of the land. Nobody ever gave me permission to do so; I've never used force; nor used it in secret.

My wife was born and brought up in Appletree Cottage, Forder. She lived there with her siblings and parents till our marriage in 1969. Before our marriage she, her immediate family and other relatives, their neighbors and friends made frequent use of the land by right (i.e. not by permission, force or in secret). Subsequent to our marriage my wife and I have continued to make occasional lawful sports and pastimes use of the land 'as of right'. We were and are well aware that many local Saltash and other members of the public have made such use of the land.

Now no landowner or lease-holder can give or withhold their permission for the public to continue to use it for lawful sports and pastimes as of right.

I do agree that any public inquiry would be a shameful waste of taxpayers' money. But, it is my personal belief, that in the face of such an overwhelming body of evidence of public use by right for well over 20 years the cost of any public inquiry or other legal process should be paid by the group who are objecting to the Village Green application.

Yours sincerely Peter Clements.

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The Essa Files

Happy New Year. I have had an interesting last few weeks for various reasons, not least that in early December I had to have a steel plate put into my shoulder (moral of the story: never play football with a Geography teacher).

Happily all seems to have gone well, with thanks to all involved, and I seem to be more or less fighting fit again. One thing that recovering an operation does though is give you a lot of time to sit still and think - if you're like me then it's more sitting still than you can normally put up with. Amongst the topics I covered was a lot of thinking about 2015 which promises to be an interesting year.

It's general election year obviously, but it's also the year in which the 1989 film 'Back to the Future II' was partly set.

For someone who remembers the film coming out it is very disappointing not to be able to fly to work in my car, although perhaps a relief that there is not such a foodstuff as 'rehydrated pizza' and that fashion turned out somewhat differently from what the film predicted.

It was a short step from this to wondering how accurately we can predict what the world, and Saltash, will be like in 2045.

It is only certain that some things will have changed and that others will have stayed the same - hopefully we will not have lost the great sense of community and beautiful setting. Equally we can only hope that some challenges - environmental, social, medical and others - will have been overcome even if, sadly, overcoming the environmental challenges might mean me missing out on the flying car.

by Adam Killeya

New Police Team Leader

'I'll be back', said Sergeant Chris Chilcott who is leaving his post as neighbourhood team leader for Saltash while he is seconded to work on a project looking at reducing the demands on the Police. He hopes to return and thanks the town for help and support, after having enjoyed his time here and 'meeting some wonderful people along the way'. Meanwhile Sergeant Angela Crow will be taking over his duties around Saltash and well as being responsible for Torpoint.

Facebook followers can now contact the local team at 'Saltash Neighbourhood Policing Team'. However they are warned that as the site is not constantly monitored they should still call 101 to report an offence or speak to an officer, or 999 in an emergency. The Police team invites facebook readers to look around and tell them what type of posts they want to read.

THE ONLY WAY IS PANTO!!!

A troupe of young entertainers head off from Saltash to a talent contest. What could possibly go wrong? Well plenty does when Burraton Community Players present their 24th pantomime...

THE ONLY WAY IS PANTO!!!

What with some competitive mums, a less than competent coach driver, an eccentric "theatrical" landlady and a mischievous young boy all does NOT go to plan. Though the panto has an entirely original plotline, conceived by Leigh Hughes with the assistance of Jill Price, all the traditional elements of panto are present ("oh no they're not!") and audiences will relish seeing some new faces amongst the familiar talents that have worked with the company in the past. As usual Burraton Community Centre is the venue for the four performances, beginning on...

Thursday 5th February including a matinee on Saturday 7th February

Tickets are available from "Piglets", Fore Street, Saltash & further information can be obtained from Leigh Hughes on 01752 842109



CORNWALL COUNCIL



and our PL12 community

For Observer readers

From Councillor Joe Ellison

THE CASE FOR CORNWALL... AND SALTASH

First of all, Happy New Year to all our readers, and I would like to think it would be a prosperous one. It has to be said that it hasn't started well - my Cornwall lap top was upgraded just before Christmas, and since then has been unable to connect to the Cornwall Council server - so apologies if anyone is waiting for a reply to emails.

The last few weeks have been relatively quiet in the wind-down to Christmas, but a lot of effort is going in to The Case for Cornwall, seeking additional regional powers for Cornwall. This is almost an unintended consequence of the recent Scottish independence campaign: with the polls in the final weeks too close to call, all the major political parties fell over themselves to promise additional powers for Scotland (tax-raising, health, education etc), in order to secure a "No" vote.

Since then other regions in England, including Cornwall, are rightly saying "What about us?" and seeking additional powers of devolution and decentralisation. Cornwall's case is particularly strong - we are as peripheral as can be, we have a ready-made unitary structure, we are geographically separate with the Tamar as a boundary, and we are recognised officially as a national minority by the EU. Therefore, we believe that we, and not Westminster, know what is best for Cornwall and how best to spend increasingly limited resources.

Cornwall's proposals to Government are intended to address specific issues such as an ageing population, low salary levels but high property prices, and poor transport infrastructure. There is a wish list of ten short term measures and

twelve long term aspirations, too detailed to list here, but publicly available on the Cornwall Council website.

Alternatively, I would be delighted to supply them on an individual basis.

New methods of service delivery are not confined to Cornwall. It is no secret that Cornwall Council faces budget cuts of £196 million over the next four years, but effectively is unable to raise council tax by any greater margin than 2% each year. So services will suffer.

Saltash Town Council has therefore taken the brave decision to become proactive in seeking to take on some property assets, and some services from Cornwall Council, which would be funded by an increase in the town precept. No fundamental changes are likely in 2015, but a working group is examining options - it rejoices in one of Cllr Killeya's very favourite acronyms "DOG" - Devolution Options Group. The group will carry out research and preliminary negotiations with Cornwall Council officers across a wide spectrum:

Property and assets - such as public toilets, the CAB building, Waterside structures and greens, Victoria Gardens, Longstone Park, street furniture, and significantly - car parks

Services - such as grass cutting and weed spraying, land lording services (sports clubs) even consideration of our own civil enforcement.

Inevitably, devolution will involve significant extra costs for Saltash, in terms of additional staff and/or equipment, and it is a basic principle that the town will need assets that can generate income - car parks for instance.

Some people with long memories will recognise in this, echoes of the old Saltash Borough Council, last seen in 1974. Plus a change!

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From The Mayor's Parlour...

Happy New Year One and All!

What a great Christmas we had, a somewhat hectic schedule but very enjoyable. We had Christmas in primary schools, churches, residential homes, St Barnabus Hospital and even the plate shop in Babcocks (used to be the dockyard!). We also had prime seats, one of the Mayoral perks, at an amazing production of Oklahoma in saltash.net. I think we celebrate Christmas well in our town; apparently the tree in Victoria Park was well appreciated.

We had some concerns recently when the Minor Injuries Unit at St Barnabus was seen to be closed. Was that the end of a huge community asset? Having spoken to the matron it appears that this is going to be a short hiatus due to the necessity for staff training. 2 very experience nurses both left and it will take a short while for more nursing staff to be trained up to the level needed to treat 'minor injuries', which often aren't all that minor. Let's hope that remains the case.

Bill and I have just returned from a short trip to his family in Yorkshire and let me tell you it gets somewhat chilly 'up north'. One of the many good reasons for living in Cornwall is that it is rarely gets below freezing, having said that it will probably snow heavily now and put Councillor Yate's grit bins to good use.

Whatever the weather I hope the New Year brings you all what you most wish for.

Cllr. Jean Dent
Town Mayor

Creative Space Launch for Maurice Huggins Room

The Maurice Huggins Room in Victoria Gardens has opened as a hub for creative activities and meeting room available for private hire, following refurbishment by Saltash Town Council.

Saltash Creative Space (SCS) is a new community project led by local artist and designer Chloe Bernie, supported by Community Enterprises PL12. She aims to transform the once neglected building into a busy focus for

art clubs; craft workshops including print making, felting, knitting, quilting, weaving, rug and dress making; a toddler art club; and creative displays – all with café facilities.

Chloe said: "I'm on a mission to make the Saltash Creative Space a sustainable use for the Maurice Huggins building. It is in a fab location at the top of Fore Street, though it's not the prettiest building so I have my work cut out! It's all looking very crafty and a good place to stop for coffee and a chat, with knitting and sewing projects on tow if you like."

Local craftspeople will run workshops depending on demand. A Toddler Art Club will run every Monday morning, and it's hoped to build a regular programme of events as time goes on. The SCS aims to teach new skills and create a centre for creative learning, community support, intergenerational skills sharing and promoting a 'make do and mend' attitude. You can follow developments and contact Chloe at www.facebook.com/SaltashCreativeSpace.

Community Enterprises PL12 is managing the Maurice Huggins Room. When not being used by the arts project it will be available for public hire as a meeting room with kitchen facilities, with transport provided by the Saltash Hopper Bus if required. Bookings can be made at 4 Fore Street, either in person or by phoning 01752 848348.

Public Display of Civic Regalia Too Costly

The town's historic civic regalia, including priceless sterling silver maces of the seventeenth and eighteenth century should not be hidden in a bank vault except on special occasions but should be on public view, it was suggested to the Town Council.

However while Councillors agreed that in principle the historic regalia was something to be proud of, it was priceless and irreplaceable and the insurers would require a further £8,000 spent to ensure its security in the Guildhall.

Replicas of the silver maces, though scaled down in size, together with original wooden maces form part of the permanent display in the Saltash Heritage Museum, opposite the Guildhall.

After discussion it was agreed that a display in the Guildhall would not justify the additional expenses of providing security.

Sir Vernon Seccombe True Son of Saltash

A full Civic Funeral, led by black crepe covered town maces, was attended by the present and two past members of parliament, the Town Mayor and Councillors, all paying respects to a former Mayor of Saltash, and Chairman of Caradon Council.

Sir Vernon Seccombe, whose family kept a baker's business in North Road, Saltash and who was born in Forder, had died 86 years after a life devoted to Cornwall and to his hometown. He had served as its youngest ever Mayor, aged 34, in 1962 and served as Magistrate for almost three decades. He was heavily involved in many local organisations while still being at heart a family man. Among the mourners who filled St. Stephens Church was Sheryll Murray MP with former MP's Colin Breed and Sir Robert Hicks. His widow Lady Margaret Seccombe and four sons Michael, Paul, Anthony and Patrick led family mourners.

There were also many representatives of local health

organisations, Sir Vernon having dedicated his professional life to the provision of public health facilities in the region. He was the first Chairman of Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust and was honoured with a knighthood for his services to the NHS in 1988.

A true man of Saltash, Sir Vernon will be fondly remembered by many as a proud Cornishman who was, equally at home sitting on an NHS board, chairing the Town or District Council, dispensing justice with wisdom from the bench, or enjoying a pint with his cronies in the Essa Club,

The Saltash Observer sends its condolences to Lady Margaret and her extended family

Saltash Self Help Group Take Breath

Up to five hundred patients registered at Saltash's two health centres could, it is believed, benefit from a self help group set up by those suffering respiratory illness.

Saltash Breathers Group was set up in 2012 and now around 25 members meet at St. Barnabus Hospital one afternoon each week 'All have identified respiratory illnesses, mostly chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases (COPD) and all need exercise', explained group Chairwoman Chris Phillips, 'But because of their condition they cannot join mainstream exercise groups'.

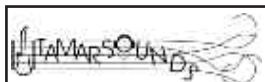
At their weekly meetings all age groups and are brought about by many causes.

Anyone interested in invited to contact Chris Phillips on Saltash 844402 or to turn up at St. Barnabus Hospital on any Tuesday between 1.30 and 3.00 p.m.

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Since the weekly £2 charge to members does not cover costs funding is always sought and the group is grateful to Cornwall Community Foundation, Saltash Town Council, Waitrose, The Co-Op, The Buffalos and Zetland Masonic Lodge for assistance.

Group members are of all age groups, many but not all being aged over fifty and suffering from a variety of medical conditions. Breathing conditions affect



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Feb: Sat 14th Shannon Price Guitar Girl (Bar)
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From the opening bars of 'Oh What a Wonderful Morning' the audience at saltash.net community school were transported from a dull December night to the sun-baked mid-west during the school performance of 'Oklahoma!'. This, the first of the Rodgers and Hammerstein collaborations, proved curiously controversial at its original opening, with its dark subplot in the tale of the tensions in America's westward expansion.

However this gave open opportunity for a lively score to include a wide variety of tuneful musical numbers, all of which our Saltash soloists and chorus entered into with gusto. From the romance of 'Out of My Dreams', to the foot-stomping 'It's a Scandal' (when we feared for the stage floor) the chorus of prairie girls and cowboys and farmers showed dedication and discipline, their choreography well matched by their singing. Of especial note was the smokehouse scene, sometimes omitted by amateur groups, Joe Lang excellently entered

into the enigmatic role of the tragic Jed contrasting with the cheery hero Curly play by JJ Harding, a Saltash school stalwart. Lowenna Rule well rose to the difficult challenge of being cast as the elderly Aunt Eller, Bronwen Hall's irritating laugh as Gerie brought genuine laughter from her audience, and Emily Lambert proved the perfect personification of the fickle fun-loving girl who can't say no. Laura Kelly as Laura well performed her role as hard to get heroine while Kalum Wilmot, having just rode in

from Kansas City as Will, brought added comedy as he and Tyler House, as pedlar Ali competed for the doubtful honour of the hand of Ado Annie. Despite the tensions and the tragedy lurking below the surface this is above all a feel good show and the rousing choruses of 'Kansas City' and 'The Farmer and the Cowman' proved a fine follow-on to last year's excellent 'Guys and Dolls'. As did the finale ensemble performance - Oklahoma was more than OK!!

PARALYMPIAN, STEVE BROWN, IS A MEMORABLE SPEAKER AT PRESENTATION EVENING

The annual GCSE presentation evening at saltash.net community school was made all the more special this year as a result of the Guest of Honour being none other than the Captain of the Great Britain wheelchair rugby team and Paralympian, Steve Brown.

Steve joined teachers, governors, families and friends to help congratulate the Class of 2014 on their excellent achievements in their GCSEs and vocational courses last summer. Welcoming everyone to the event, headteacher Mrs Bryce, praised the students, not just for their academic success, but also for the way in which they had so consistently upheld the values of the school.

Steve Brown's inspirational speech encouraged all present to keep going, even in the face of adversity and to always strive to be the best that you can be - whether in your career or in your personal life, especially in your day to day relationships with people you meet and with whom you interact. Steve presented all of the GCSE certificates as well as a number of special individual awards.



Landulph's Golden Year Group



Listed as One of the Top Primary Schools in the Country! The Department for Education has released this year's performance tables ranking primary schools across the country based on pupils' performance in reading, writing and mathematics in the 2014 Key Stage 2 SATs examinations.

Landulph School, on the outskirts of Saltash, were delighted to hear that it has been named as one of the top schools in the country with 100% of the Year 6 cohort achieving a Level 4 in reading, writing and numeracy.

Esther Best, Head of School, contributed the success to a range of factors including the hard work of all the children and the staff at Landulph. "We have put in a great deal of hard work towards enabling children to achieve their best through proactive next step marking, children knowing how to move their own learning forward and making it possible for children to aim even higher."

Judith John, Class 3 Teacher, "This year's group were a really special cohort of talented children. Being a small cohort, they have to be involved in everything here at Landulph including many sports which really develops the confidence of all the children."

Landulph became an academy in January and joined the Saltash Multi Academy Trust with Saltash.net Community School. The ethos of this trust is based on school's working together to achieve the best for all children.

Dead Badger Discovery

Five dead badgers, apparently poisoned, have been discovered on the local wildlife reserve at Churchtown Farm. Local nature lovers have long enjoyed watching the badger colony emerge from their setts and the young ones playing on Summer evenings.

There is concern that the deaths might be associated with badger baiting. This criminal act involves setting dogs to fight badgers and placing baits on the outcome. Devon and Cornwall Police's Wildlife Officer has been informed and police are investigating.

En route to Victory!

Saltash.net was pleased to take ownership of a brand new 17 seater mini bus during the Autumn Term 2014. The school's ever increasing sporting success story has meant a greater demand for transport to and from sporting fixtures so the school's business manager, Mrs Jo Lumbar, investigated the most cost effective lease scheme to increase the fleet of mini buses.

It certainly arrived at the right time as it coincided with the girls' U14 football team securing a superb 3-2 victory against Devon side St Cuthbert Mayne school, to reach the 5th round of the schools' national cup and making them one of the remaining 32 sides in the competition.

On top of this success comes the U16's boys' football team's victory against Torpoint last week, which now sees them in the final of the East Cornwall county cup.

Good luck is wished to these two sides and all of the other teams currently competing in sporting competitions.

Flying the Flag for saltash.net

On Sunday 26th October, teacher of Maths from saltash.net community school, Scott Wierprecht, travelled to London to attend the National Teaching Awards Grand Final which this year took place in the Guildhall for the first time.

Accompanied by members of his family, as well as saltash.net's headteacher, Mrs Bryce, deputy headteacher, Mr Buckley, and the school's mascot, Sophie Bear, Mr Wierprecht was flying the flag for the South West of England as regional winner for the outstanding use of technology in education.

The star studded event was made extra special as a result of saltash.net's school logo being displayed prominently on the decorative banners providing the backdrop to the presenter, Dan Snow, and the celebrity guests.

When the ceremony was televised the following Sunday on BBC2, saltash.net was thrilled to see its distinctive logo, celebrating its partnership with other schools in the area, so much in evidence during the TV programme.

The student council at saltash.net were feeling particularly proud of Mr Wierprecht as they nominated him for the Award. He became one of just 59 regional winners in ten different categories from over 20,000 nominees in total across the UK.

Mr Buckley, who endorsed Mr Wierprecht's nomination said, "It is excellent that outstanding teachers are recognised nationally for the work they do every day in the classroom and even better when it is the students themselves who have made the nomination. It is clear to see why saltash.net students chose Mr Wierprecht."



Head Teacher Retires after Twenty Years



Pupils, parents, staff and governors, past and present, packed St Stephens Church for the Bishop Cornish C of E Primary School Christingle at which thanks were given to Headteacher Mrs Jenny Thomas who is retiring after over 20 years of leading the school.

A joyous service, led by the children, included a rousing 'Twelve Days of Christmas', new carols written by the School's music co-ordinator, the debut of the new Gamalan orchestra and Bishop Tim speaking about the important role of the Children's Society.

Mrs Thomas was thanked for leading Bishop Cornish in nurturing the individual talents of

hundreds of children, developing the personal qualities that enable children of all abilities to try to do their best for themselves and others, and providing a beautiful, stimulating environment with plenty of wonder, awe and challenge to encourage a life-love of learning.

It was Mrs Thomas' belief that children would benefit from a Pre-

School at Bishop Cornish that led to the school community raising the funds to build the Bishop Cornish Education Centre. Her vision, passion and commitment in

seeking to make a positive difference to the lives of everyone in the school community are qualities shared by the school's new Headteacher, Mrs Sue Green, who starts this January.

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Conundrum Corner

Taking the initial letter to the one-word answer to the following nine questions can you re-arrange them to make the name of a Bird which will form the theme for 2015?

- 1 Which musical features the character Daddy Warbucks? (5)
 - 2 What was the name of the Wright Brothers' machine which made the World's first man-powered flight in 1903? (5)
 - 3 The Great St. Bernard Pass crosses the Alps from Switzerland into which other Country? (5)
 - 4 What name is given to a female Trout? (3)
 - 5 At which Battle in 1801 was it said that Nelson held his telescope to his blind eye so that he could ignore a signal ordering him to withdraw? (10)
 - 6 What name is given to the three tall chalk pillars which form the western extremity of the Isle of Wight? (7)
 - 7 In Beatrix Potter tales what kind of animal was Tom? (3)
 - 8 What name is given to the metal ribs on the fingerboard of a guitar? (5)
 - 9 Which ingredient gives Mead its sweet taste? (5)
- Answers on P7

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As Saltash Welcomes in a New Year.....

Once again our church bells have rung in a new year, fireworks flew above the Tamar to welcome in 2015 and we are in January. Named for Janus, the two-headed god looking both back into the old year and forward into the next, this is a time for recalling some of the many local issues raised in your 'Saltash Observer' as it entered its 23rd year as well as look at what is likely to be of burning interest in and around Saltash over the next twelve months.

Nationally the centenary of the outbreak of World War I has played a dominant role in 2014. Here in Saltash it has been marked with record visitor numbers at the Heritage Museum to visit the exhibition with its reproduction trench (retained for 2015), and with a similarly well-patronised display in Elliott's Shop. A service was held in St. Nicholas Church in commemoration and the annual Remembrance Day service concentrated especially on this.

The pressing need for extra housing has also dominated the national press as well as your local "Observer". From February's headline "Hundreds of homes and jobs promised for Broadmoor" we have followed this controversial story through to November's "Broadmoor Go-Ahead". But while this thousand home development has been concentrated upon we have also covered other lesser, but perhaps equally controversial plans. In April we wrote of "housing threat to rural St. Stephens scene", a plan that has recently come back, in amended form, while in August Latchbrook residents were concerned at proposed development across from their valley. A planned industrial estate bordering the Tamar area of outstanding natural beauty at Carkeel also promises controversial issues of jobs versus environment.

The storms that battered the South West early in the year threatened our mother church of St. Stephens. Other threats, resulting from local government funding cuts have affected our library opening hours, with more cuts threatened by Cornwall Council in 2015. Bus services have also been cut, with Pillmere and the Derriford hospital service losing out, while paradoxically 'bus wars' have resulted in doubled up First National and Citybus

Services often trailing each other around the main routes in town.

On a more positive note we have been pleased to report 'full shops - town booming' and although Fore Street shops close and re-open the appearance is far better than in many other local towns.

The town's first and highly successful Arts Festival boosted business in the summer and we look forward to reporting on the second such event in 2015.

Another good news story was that of Salt Mill which as we continue to report, has been gaining a reputation as centre of excellence for sport and leisure. And our young people can also enjoy the renewed facilities of K3 youth club in which we spotted Spiderman on its climbing wall in early summer.

So as the fabulous Saltash Christmas celebrations and our own family Christmas and New Year revels slip into memory what do we anticipate will hit the 2015 'Saltash Observer' headlines? Well local housing development plans at Broadmoor, Bearblock's Field, Latchbrook and St. Stephens are likely to continue inciting local feelings, for and against. Our recent request for ideas for use of the Council owned buildings in Belle Vue Road and Victoria Gardens brought forth many suggestions for consideration. And our front page headline concerning the town's proposal to regain many of its former borough powers will certainly be followed up over the next year or two. But no doubt other new issues will arise. You can be sure that as your Saltash Observer enters its 24th year of repute as your own community newspaper, all the issue of importance to the town will continue to be brought direct to your doorstep as another year progresses.

Phil Welcomes £250m Boost for Post Offices



A crucial lifeline has been thrown to post offices in South East Cornwall thanks to a major Government contract. The deal, unveiled by Liberal Democrat pensions minister Steve Webb, offers support to disabled people and the elderly while also helping to protect the future of the post office network.

The £250 million means that the Post Office Card Account system, which ensures people without a bank account can receive benefits and tax credits, is guaranteed until 2022.

Lib Dem candidate for South East Cornwall Phil Huty said "This is fantastic news for the post offices in South East Cornwall - we have lost too many post offices in our area, particularly in the round of closures in 2008. I know how vital local post offices are for elderly and vulnerable people who can't access their benefits, pension or tax credits any other way".

"I have always fought to keep local post offices open and I am delighted that this deal means their future is now more secure."

Liberal Democrat Pensions Minister Steve Webb said "I am very pleased we have secured this new contract, which provides good value to the taxpayer, ensures the continuation of a valuable

service for pensioners and benefit claimants, and helps safeguard the future of the Post Office network".

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Saltash Saw in the Christmas Spirit in Fitting Style

The snow gently fell, albeit from a snow machine, as the crowds came to get into the Saltash festive spirit. As the dark December afternoon turned to evening thousands of children and adults enjoyed the entertainment and patronised the seasonal produce of the stalls lining the street.

"The best Saltash Christmas show ever" and "even better than last year" were among the comments frequently overheard as the generations came together to welcome the festive season to Saltash.

All the old favourites came together, the street closed for pedestrians, but lined with stalls selling food, drink and gift ideas. Then, as darkness fell the traditional parade of Mayor and Councillors proceeded to the rostrum, half way up the street, where all joined together to carol in the 'Christmas spirit. And the crowds remained for what has become over the last few years another high spot of the day, the procession of children and adults bearing aloft hundreds of lanterns illuminated, in some cases in this year's Pantomime theme. Many shops had decorations on the pantomime theme



Town Crier Brian Whipp, enjoying the snow scene



Page2stage lead the Carol singing

to several businesses and organisations who stepped in to help when funding for the event had to be cut a few weeks before. One of last year's star attractions, the snow machine especially loved by the young and young at heart was to be cancelled, until 'Petit Pain' cafe came to the rescue, organising their own funding to endure that snow fun could continue this season. The grand finale of fireworks, a fitting 'wow' factor to conclude the day was saved by contributions from the Saltash Chamber Of Commerce, Nicholls and Sainsbury as well as other local businesses, the Frost committee would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who made the celebrations possible.



Rotarian Maxine Stoyel, sampling the goods!



Rotarians Michael Lavelle, David Wilcocks & Maxine & Brian Stoyel well Done Guys and Thank you!

The organising committee was short of a hot chestnut stall which is always a winner at Christmas festivals, luckily the Saltash community spirit rallied round and Saltash Rotarians offered hot chestnuts, for a donation, to the hungry throng throughout the festivities. Indeed they received so many favourable comments that they are hoping to provide several hot chestnut stalls along the street next season.

As the last of the fireworks faded into the December night and the street was lit once more with its special and newly extended seasonal lights, the town was once again well and truly in the Christmas spirit.

Concert to Sustain the Seasonal Spirit



To ensure the Christmas Spirit continued for those who had marvelled at the spectacular firework conclusion of the Saltash Christmas Festival, enjoyed by thousands, there was a very special seasonal concert by our own R Windband in the Wesley Church that evening.

Opening fittingly with 'Overture to a Winter Festival', the mixed brass and woodwind ensemble, which has grown in number and musical talent, played a wide variety of Winter music under the able baton on

Ruth Ballantyne.

Amid the orchestral numbers was a singular spoken musical narration of 'The Night Before Christmas' while fun numbers such as 'Secret Agent Santa' contrasted with the sublime 'Winterscape' and the challenging 'Minor Alterations', familiar tunes in unfamiliar keys.

The audience fully rose to the request to join with the orchestra in the singing of familiar and well-loved carols before the fitting conclusion of 'A Most Wonderful Christmas'.

Abbyfield Residents



Saltash Abbyfield Residents enjoyed their Christmas lunch at the Whitsand Bay Hotel, on Monday 8th December. They were taken in the Age Concern bus and were joined by the staff, volunteers and partners, making up a group of thirty-four people to enjoy the festivities.

Fly The Commonwealth Flag

Saltash is to fly the flag for Commonwealth Day next year, following the purchase of the special flag showing a golden globe on a blue background.

Following a request from Sheryll Murray MP Town Councillors agreed to purchase the flag for £70. It was suggested that it be flown from the mast by the foot of Fore Street on 9th March.

The cost of the flag includes the music for the Commonwealth Anthem. The purchase was proposed by Councillor John Brady, seconded by Councillor Adam Killea, and agreed unanimously. A suggestion that the two councillors should sing the anthem as a duet remained unresolved!

Conundrum Answers:

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Traffic at Congestion Capacity - Housing Plans Rejected

The public gallery was packed with around fifty members of a 150 strong residents group when Saltash Town Council considered an application to build 36 houses on a field south of Fairway generally known as Bearlocks' Field.

The residents had circulated copies of their own traffic Survey illustrated with photographs of congestion around Church Road and supporting their estimate of between 500 and 600 vehicle movements per hour at local pinch points during peak hours. The roads are filled to capacity, they argued, children walking where there are no pavements are endangered, and this extra housing could only worsen the situation.

Describing the plans as being 'cheaply built high density development' they also warned of increased pressure on local schools, lack of amenity space, concerns over water storage and run off, and claimed that properties would overlook and overshadow existing homes including senior citizens bungalows.

In response Ms. Warwick for the developers told the Council that neither the Highways Department nor South West Water had any problem with the

revised plans submitted which the tree officer was also willing to support. She claimed that their town traffic survey showed only 400 traffic movements per hour, while appreciating that residents had their own data.

Local Councillor Bob Austin, pointed out that the approved Broadmoor development fulfilled local housing requirements for the next twenty years, with no need for other buildings, agreed that the Bearlocks Field plans were excessive and overdevelopment was an issue. 'St. Stephens is a mature, well balanced and sought after area and this would affect residents quality of life', he concluded. He concurred with concerns over traffic on a narrow road which sees up to eight buses an hour and suggested that an exit from the site on to Fairway would be the obvious answer.

Councillors voted against recommending approval by ten votes to nil with one abstention.

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Cornwall's Lord-Lieutenant Selects Saltash Air Cadet

A Plymouth student with an ambition to become an RAF pilot has been appointed one of the Lord-Lieutenant of Cornwall's Cadets for the coming year. The role includes attendance at a number of official engagements, including any royal visits.



Cadet Warrant Officer William Watrin-Catrrall receives his certificate of appointment from the Lord-Lieutenant of Cornwall, Colonel Edward Bolitho OBE

William Watrin-Catrrall, aged 18, a Cadet Warrant Officer in 335 (Saltash) Squadron, Air Training Corps, was chosen for his achievements in the ATC and for his dedication and work within the local community – including helping with soup runs for the homeless and running a sports club.

He has completed a national gliding scholarship, flying solo for the first time two years ago, and is now studying for a public services degree at Plymouth University.

Also chosen as a Lord-Lieutenant's Cadet is 17-year-old Matthew Cunliffe, a Cadet Regimental Sergeant Major in Cornwall Army Cadet Force's Looe Platoon. He lives in Liskeard.

Victorian Church Organ Needs Restoring or Replacing

The much loved Victorian pipe organ which has played a part in worship at St., Nicholas and Faith Church since 1896 is deteriorating and in dire need of major refurbishment if it is to continue serving the church.

A quote for full restoration has been sought and the total costs amount to £53,000.

As a result the church committee has obtained a quotation for a new digital organ which could be placed under the old 'tracker' organ in case it could be restored some time in the future. A suitable replacement organ recommended by the manufacturer's consultant would cost £28,000. Funding for organ work currently stands at around £15,000.

Church organist Chris Cook is seeking the opinions of regular churchgoers as to the alternative of restoration or replacement. While purists may prefer the 'pipe' organ sound he queries whether many would notice the difference. A digital organ would be cheaper to maintain with no regular tuning needed, would be,

sympathetic to congregational and choir accompaniment, and would be an improved instrument in terms of range, voicing and performance. The full account of the pros and cons of the two alternatives have been set out by Mr. Cook in the team ministry newsletter for all to consider before a decision is made.

For Fifty Years Radio Club has Ruled the Airwaves



A society that has been making friendships locally and all over the world through advancing radio technology celebrated its fiftieth anniversary with a public exhibition.

When the Saltash and District Amateur Radio Club was founded in 1964, morse messages through the airwaves was among the few means of international communication available to most people. The club has kept pace with new advances and now computer aided data modes are utilised with signals bouncing off the ionosphere and occasionally making contact via the international space station. Yet through these changes the enthusiasm remains the same for the group of dedicated members who meet to make contact with fellow enthusiasts in Britain, Europe, America and when conditions are right, the far side of the world in Japan and Australasia.

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs Jean Dent, was one of many visitors who viewed recordings of club events over the decades including setting up stations at May Fair and the Brunel 200 celebrations, as well as mobile rallies using radio equipment in cars.

Four founder members were present, Colin Squires, Alan Clark, Trevor Pinch and John Tozer. John was 17 and visiting Saltash from Whitleigh when a notice in Saltash Radio shop caught his eye. He attended the first meeting and this led to a lifetime's interest and enthusiasm while making new friends all over the globe.

The club welcomes new members, 'from eight to eighty plus'. They meet on the first Thursday of each month at Burraton Community Centre from 7.30 to 9 p.m. when they enjoy technical talk by invited speakers as well as operating nights. Anyone interested is welcome to come as a visitor.

Police Have Power To Disperse Waterside Mobs

Anti-social behaviour by groups of young people who have taken to congregating on the Waterside can now be tackled by police ordering them to leave or face arrest.

A disposal order, valid for forty-eight hours at a time, means that the young people around the Livewire Club, most of whom have no association with the club, can be told to go home or go back to Plymouth, from whence many of them come. Police stressed that they have been working with Andy Rance of Livewire and the club members are not associated with the troublemakers who have been annoying Waterside residents. The dispersal orders will be issued twice a week until troubles die down but may be reinstated later in the year especially if troubles arise in a long hot summer.

Crime in Saltash rose, with 71 offences reported over the

month as against 53 the equivalent period last year. This is largely due to an increase in criminal damage by young people, with 19 offences reported, and the Police are working with local schools and the Anti-Social Behaviour Team from Cornwall Council to deal with this. The team is reported to deal 'robustly' with offenders when caught and issuing anti-social behaviour warnings to young adults and their parents.

There were also thirteen assaults reported over the month in the Saltash Police area, twelve thefts, and one each of fraud, harassment, possession of drugs and possession of drugs with intent to supply.

Saltash Youth Go for Gold (and Silver and Bronze)

With successful participants in all three categories, Bronze, Silver and Gold, this year Duke of Edinburgh presentations for the Saltash Open Award Centre was a happy and triumphant celebration of achievement.

This was, for leader Sarah Green who, with her husband Luke made the presentations, a proud event, the first occasion since her involvement with the Saltash group in which there had been achievers in all three categories.

The four bronze winners has been initiated in volunteering at local youth clubs, food banks and in supporting teachers, their physical activities ranged from swimming to martial arts and skills varied from life saving to chess. They had also enjoyed expeditions on the Devon and Cornwall coast.

Ten silver medal winners had endured 'horizontal rain in possibly the worst weather ever' on Bodmin Moor, as well as helping children and the elderly, experiencing a variety of sports, and enhancing skills from cooking and clarinet playing to clothing design and acting. They had, said Sarah said, greatly impressed the assessors as to

their readiness for gold.

The four gold medal winners were all girls, Chloe Allan, Charlotte Mansell, Sophie Hill and Francesca Hill, and it was hoped that several of the boys would be moving on to gold over the next year. They did not receive their awards, as these will be presented later at a star-studded gathering in St. James Palace. "Several are now keen to come back as leaders," said Sarah Green, "All have experienced how to help makes a difference to other peoples lives, have developed skill to last the rest of their lives and developed new experiences and new friendships."

"The door is always open to new or participants", added Sarah, Teenagers can start training for bronze from age 14 with the maximum age of 25. **Anyone interested in participating in 2015 should contact Saltashdofe@yahoo.co.uk**

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We have many other membership options for Adults, Concessions and Junior's to choose from so you can pick the best for your needs! Find out more information and sign up at the centre or online!



CONTACT US:

Tel: 01752 840940

saltash@tempusleisure.org.uk

www.tempusleisure.org.uk

Centre Opening Times:

Mon-Fri 6.30am-10pm Sat 6.30am-8pm

Sun 7.30am-7pm

www.tempusleisure.org.uk

Saltash Leisure Centre Callington Rd
Saltash PL12 6DJ



BENEFITS

- FREE Breeze membership card, induction, personal exercise programme and reviews.
- No joining fee
- No fixed membership contract.
- A wide variety of activities
- Online class bookings

Your BREEZE MEMBERSHIP is your ticket to a healthier lifestyle and is valid at 14 leisure facilities across Cornwall. With fantastic amenities, friendly and professional staff you will enjoy all the benefits of living the breeze lifestyle to keep you more active and healthy.

Membership terms and conditions apply.

