

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

January 2016 - Issue 282

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Landmark Saltash Building Saved for Community Use

The transfer of 18 Belle Vue Road from Cornwall Council to Saltash Gateway CIC (Community Enterprises PL12) is complete, securing the future of Citizen's Advice (CAB) in the town centre. The substantial three-story building has been gifted under the Council's 'localism and devolution' scheme, for the benefit of local residents. Under the two-year lease agreement it will become a centre for social organisations and supporting services.

The CAB has been based in the building for many years, and will soon be joined by Saltash Food Bank, which is bringing its entire operations together under one roof. By working alongside each other they will be able to provide a better and more complete service to clients. A small team of Social Workers will continue to be based at Belle Vue, alongside a new tenant, local charity Groundwork South.

Key to ensuring the future

financial success of the project was attracting commercial tenants; CFD Architects has taken prime office space and transferred its business from Trerulefoot. Existing Saltash business Hemsley Fraser is moving into the top floor office, which will enable it to expand within the town centre. Both tenants have committed to help support the community building's ethos by offering work experience, apprenticeships or charitable fundraising.

A month-long refurbishment has modernised the office space and brought a fresh new look to the building. Much of the work was 'payback' - community service - ordered by the courts as part of sentence following a criminal conviction. The Devon and Cornwall Probation Trust supervised offenders.

Self-financing

It has taken over a year to realise the vision of a self-financing space for social organisations in the town.

When Saltash Town Council heard that Cornwall Council was considering selling the Belle Vue Road site they were keen to secure it for the use of the local community, and keep it as the home of the Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB). They turned to Community Enterprises PL12 for help. Peter Thistlethwaite, chair of the volunteer group, led the negotiations.

Rent-free

"Having been persuaded by the Town Council not to sell the

centre home for the Foodbank, and have secured the continuation of Citizens Advice in the town," he added.

Council's Devolution programme

This asset transfer by Cornwall Council is one of several completed or planned for Saltash under Cornwall Council's Devolution programme; others include Mary Newman's Cottage and The Core (was K3).

Jeremy Rowe, Cornwall Council Cabinet Member for Localism said:

"The transfer of the lease for 18 Belle Vue to the Saltash Gateway Community Interest Company (CIC) is a great example of

devolution in action.

"Devolution at its most worthwhile is about finding the best long term local custodians of an asset, in this case a building that is valued and used by the local community. For me being able to provide the community, and in particular the new landlords and tenants of the building, with more certainty and control over the building is just as important as making financial savings.

"I take great pleasure in being able to help Saltash Gateway CIC, a well-established and respected organisation, realise their plans and vision for their local area. The initial lease will be for two years with a long term plan for the building to be offered to them to

buy at market value; this will allow the building to remain within the community and allow it to continue to meet local need.

"I applaud the CIC for taking up the challenge and also recognise the important role Saltash Town Council has played in encouraging them to reach this position of success."

Derek Holley, Cornwall Councillor for Saltash East said: "I am really pleased at the successful outcome of this devolution package. The revamped building will house in the centre of town a variety of local businesses and services and makes excellent use of the whole site. My thanks to the CIC and the Cornwall Council officers who supported it."

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Tuesday 9th February

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Sladesbridge & Wadebridge Shopping

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Monday 15th February

Lunch at the China Fleet Club

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Wednesday 17th February

Half Term Hopper to 'Jump' Indoor Play Centre,

Plymouth (Entrance fee)

11am - 3pm £4.50 adult, £2.50 child

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Tuesday 23rd February

Endsleigh Garden Centre (half day)

£4.50

Saturday 27th February

Exeter Chiefs vs Bath (Rugby, entrance fee)

Times to be decided £10

Thursday 10th March

'Fishy Lunch' at Start Bay Inn Torcross

& on to Dartmouth

11am - 4.30pm £9.50

Sunday 13th March

RHS Rosemoor, Spring Flower Show

(Entrance fee)

9.30am - 5pm £9.50

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The operating name for Saltash Gateway CIC

New Year - New Challenges

New friendships - New beginnings

Looking for a new challenge in 2016?

Spare time on your hands but nothing to do!

Why not add volunteering to your New Year's Resolutions and support your community

We are a small but active team of local volunteers who are responsible for several socially centred projects, all aimed at improving the quality of local life, we run:

SALTASHCARD - a loyalty discount card scheme to encourage local shopping

Saltash Hopper Bus - a community bus for hire and offering low-cost days out throughout the region. Disabled access

Community Market and Hub at 4 Fore Street - a low cost trading space for small businesses and a brilliant place to find community information. Get your SALTASHCARD and book Hopper trips here too

Volunteer Service PL12 - a matchmaking service for local volunteers and organisations, which need helpers (like us!)

Maurice Huggins Room in Victoria Gardens - a small but perfectly formed meeting room for hire in the park, with kitchen and outdoor space

18 Belle Vue Road - our newest venture (see feature article), securing low cost office space for Citizens' Advice and other social enterprises

We are a small team with big plans but we really need help to run all our activities and plan for more. Community Enterprises PL12 is a membership organisation, with several hundred members within the community of Saltash who support our aims.

Without our members we wouldn't have a voice when Saltash issues are discussed at town and county level;

Without our volunteer team we wouldn't be able to put future plans into action.

Find out more at:

www.communityenterprisesPL12.co.uk

4 Fore Street, Saltash

Tel: 01752 848348



The operating name for Saltash Gateway CIC

Essa Files

Happy New Year. I hope everyone had a pleasant and relaxing festive season and is feeling rather more revitalised than exhausted for January.

I spent Christmas week up north albeit on the other side of the Pennines from where I come, which was lucky for me since my hometown of Bury in Lancashire was one of the places heavily hit by flooding. Several of my old school friends had to evacuate their houses and for many it will take several weeks or months before things return 'to normal'. Equally, although we were not hit this time, parts of Saltash are also susceptible to flooding and there is always a risk, a likelihood even, that our community will be affected in the future.

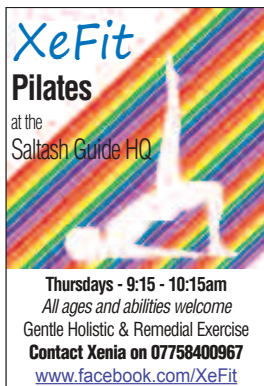
After events like this inevitably people want to know why more wasn't done to prevent flooding. Clearly it is not possible to eliminate all risk, and people are always going to notice floods that were not prevented more than floods that were, but it's still quite understandable.

What strikes me though is that people of all political persuasions seem very keen to demand why the money wasn't spent on flooding rather than something they disapprove of - most commonly refugees (the right) or bombing Syria (the

left). There is obviously some logic to this - spend £100 million less on one thing and you can spend it on something else, although my personal view would tend towards spending more on refugees, *and* flood defences *and* international security.

However that's not my point. My point is that if you do have strong views on where money should be spent it's rather more effective, and more constructive, to put those across whilst the decisions are being, rather than after it's too late. Saltash Town Council is currently in its budget setting process, where we decide not only whether to increase the town council part of the council tax but also where to spend it, and I would strongly encourage anyone with views about this to contact their councillors. We don't have hundreds of millions to spend - more like half a million - but in one town it can make a real difference what we spend and wear.

Please just bear in mind though that i. We can't spend money on one thing without either increasing our part of the council tax or cutting something else ii. Our ultimate aim is to provide decent services for everyone, balancing the needs of all groups within the community, which will inevitably mean spending some money on things that you agree with and use, and some money on things you don't. *By Adam Killeya*



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New Year - New Opportunity for Starter Businesses

The 'Pop-Up' shops proposed for pre-Christmas opening in Fore Street are now due to open early in the New Year.

Delays over completion of the leasing arrangements meant that it was too late for them to open in a former estate agency as planned in time to take advantage of the Christmas market. In addition some of those interested had dropped out or were not ready to open.

Now the go-ahead has been given by the town's Gateway Community Interest Company and the Town Council has made available £7,975.00 of 'Section 6' monies, paid by local developers towards regeneration of the town centre, towards set up costs.

There is room for five starter businesses to set up and they will be granted licences on a month to month basis with the Town Council leasing the premises on a similar basis. Should the property owners find a full time tenant for the premises it is hoped that the pop-up shops would be moved to another suitable site.

The objective is to offer prospective entrepreneurs the opportunity to 'test the waters' for their product in a relatively cheap environment with no long term commitment. If successful it is hoped that they will in turn move on to acquire more substantial premises on a long term basis.

Five Flats by North Road Get Go-Ahead

Despite a number of written objections being submitted by neighbours the Town Council, following discussion, recommended approval for the building of five apartments by the old Drill Hall in Elwell Road, just below North Road.

Objections included concerns over parking, access for emergency vehicles and the flats being out of keeping with the area.

In response the developer pointed out that nearby flats have been all sold before completion showing the local need. The county's highways officer had made no objection; the flats would be set back from the road giving good visibility and would have their own underground parking area. They would be ideal for young couples seeking to get onto the housing ladder or for older people looking to downsize.

While recommending approval the Town Council made conditions including the rear stair well exterior being of light coloured slate, not black as next door, and rooms being swapped around so the bedrooms were at the rear to minimise overlooking. They also asked that fencing at the rear be not of too substantial a height and that an 'affordable' home be included in the development.

Ex Students Help Sixth Form to Put Their Future First



Five ex-students from saltash.net community school have volunteered their time to share their careers experiences with current year 12s to help them with their own experiences.

Four of the ex-students returned to the school in person to speak to students recently. Three of them - Rev Counter who works at the Cabinet Office, Mike Badham of Cisco Systems, and Darren Chapple of the RAF and England Boxing - left the school in the 1980s and were able to share the valuable insights they have gleaned from their diverse and varied careers. In addition Mike's daughter Emily, who left in 2015 and currently works for Tempus Leisure before taking up a place at Bath Spa University in September 2016, shared her experiences of being a recent leaver, highlighting the value of work experience and research to current students only a little younger than her.

Ruth Nelson, who works in Paris for Louis Vuitton, will be Skyping students from France in a forthcoming assembly to share her own experiences of working abroad.

The event was organised in conjunction with the Future First programme, which works to send ex-students into schools to help guide and encourage the next generation into developing and achieving their own career aims.

Head of Sixth Form, Adam Killeya, who organised the talk said, "It was fantastic to have such a range of experiences for the students to learn from. All of our guests gave immensely helpful insights into what has

helped them succeed, emphasising the importance of both following your dreams and being prepared to grasp different and exciting opportunities as they come up."

Former students wishing to join saltash.net community school's alumni network should visit www.futurefirst.org.uk and click on the "Former students" link.

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Julie Joins the Council

Our newest Town Councillor is already well known for her work in support of the town's young people.

Julie Rance, who has been co-opted on to the Council following the sad loss of Councillor Martin Gee has been working for local youth service for twenty years in the town. Initially doing so through the Baptist Church she is now well known for helping running the renowned Livewire Youth Centre on Waterside with her husband Andy. 'Having worked in Saltash for twenty years I thought it would be good to serve the community beyond youth work', she told the Observer. 'I am looking forward to the challenge.'

Julie has three children, all now adult and all were educated in the town which, although she was born in Reading, she has lived in and worked here over two decades.

CORNWALL COUNCIL



and our PL12 community

For Observer readers

From Councillor Joe Ellison

CORNWALL - NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS ?

This is traditionally the time of the year when we all rashly promise to give something up that we enjoy, or that is bad for us. In my own case, last year, after a lifetime as a smoker, I finally gave up cigarettes altogether, but about six months ago rather than in January, for some unknown reason.

So, on the public sector front, what can Cornwall resolve to do better ?

The A38, sad to say, is not even on the distant horizon. As a trunk road, and the responsibility of Highways England, not Cornwall Council, it is a disgrace. The alternative A30 already has plans for improvement at the single lane sections at Temple and Carnon Cross, but nothing whatsoever is even planned for the A38 during the next five years except some small junction improvements at Menheniot and Lean Quarry. At a recent meeting with HE, we learned that nothing whatsoever is to be done to mitigate the numerous accident black spots between Saltash and Trerulefoot. The subject is not part of the next 5 year plan at all. It is well known that the A38 is the single largest factor holding back economic development in South East Cornwall, and we Councillors know from personal experience that companies intending to relocate will not consider beyond Saltash. So what can Cornwall do ?

For a start, when Phase 2 of the roadworks for Carkeel start in the New Year, Cornwall can learn from the numerous mistakes in traffic management during Phase 1, and indeed one of the first meetings for the four Cornwall councillors is scheduled to discuss this issue.

However in strategic terms, precious little at our pay grade I'm afraid, and the Transport Portfolio Holder, Bert Biscoe, appears equally powerless to influence major infrastructure priorities. We will have to rely on our Conservative MPs to seek a better deal for Cornwall in general, and SE Cornwall in particular. The same applies to the second issue on the corporate agenda :

The rail infrastructure between Cornwall and the rest of the country. After the disastrous experience of the seawall collapse at Dawlish in 2014, and flooding beyond Exeter, we all remember David Cameron's windswept TV interviews when he effectively promised "Whatever it cost.....". Yes, Network Rail heroically repaired the vulnerable stretch of line but isn't it strange how the feasibility studies into alternative routes have very much gone on to the back

burner ? My own enquiries into progress have met with silence. Cornwall Council sits on a Peninsular Rail Task Force in the person of executive Nigel Blackler, recently enobled in the New Year Honours List, but once again we must rely on our six MPs to fight our corner. **So, just what big issues can Cornwall resolve to do better?**

Our experience in Saltash suggests that in the case of devolution of local assets and services, Cornwall Council could do far better, and it's very much work in progress. Saltash started negotiating on a wide menu of possible options nearly a year ago, and have completed only transfer of Belle Vue to Community Enterprises (formerly Gateway CIC), the toilets opposite and some allotment land. During the forthcoming year, we are also likely to see some significant developments in management of the pontoon and waterfront management issues, and we are likely to negotiate on ownership of play areas. But the process remains painfully slow and under-resourced in terms of Cornwall staff.

In 2016, Cornwall will also launch the major Growth Programme, financed from the long delayed EU funding programme that is the successor to Convergence Funding. Professional evaluation of Convergence has suggested that the funding was not well managed, and job creation came at vast expense per job, with little benefit to SE Cornwall. May be now that the managing Local Enterprise Partnership is led by a SE Cornwall man, Mark Duddridge, MD of Ginsters, things will improve.

So it is important that our local businesses take advantage of what is now on offer. £30 million is available to support investment in research development and innovation and to develop new technology particularly in marine technology, agritech, space/aerospace, e-health & wellbeing and digital economy.

£21 million is to accelerate productivity and competitiveness in the form of business advice and support, particularly to encourage collaborative working. Another £9 million is going to extend coverage of superfast broadband, and £3 million will help subsidise the high growth creative industries. For further details, contact your local Cornwall Councillor.

Also from the Cornwall perspective, we must get the most out of the much-heralded Deal for Cornwall reached with the Government last year and make sure it's not mainly smoke and mirrors... So, an exciting year ahead for Cornwall Council !

No Need to Get Steamed Up This Winter!

Save Energy and Save Money by Replacing Just the Panes, Not Frames

Replacing damaged and Steamed Up Windows need no longer be an expensive process. Locally based family firm 'We Do Windows' can save homeowners hundreds, if not thousands, of pounds simply by applying the latest glazing techniques to replace just the glass and not the frames.

In the six years since Sebastian Treglown has been in business as 'We Do Windows', he has built up a solid base of satisfied local customers, delighted at the savings they have achieved. Replacing faulty, damaged or steamed up double-glazing with the new Energy Efficient sealed units, can reduce heat loss through windows by up to 40%. Energy costs are reduced and the home is generally quite a bit warmer.

'By replacing only the panes, and not the frames, customers find themselves paying only a fraction of the what they would have to pay if buying complete new windows,' says Sebastian. Research by the Energy Savings Trust confirms that 26% of all domestic heat loss escapes through the windows. 'Installing the latest Planitherm advanced performance Energy Efficient glass helps retain heat, maximises natural light transmission, reduces downdrafts and can help ensure serious savings in future energy costs.'

Energy Saving Glass

Another welcome benefit Energy Saving glass can offer is the reduction of condensation on the windows – often quite significantly. So if you have a condensation problem, Sebastian would be happy to discuss this with you.

In the vast majority of cases the existing frames themselves are sound and it is the sealed unit that, over the course of time, fails and becomes steamed up. Eventually water penetrates or mould and white streaks form between the panes resulting in the loss of insulation.

If you have problems similar to those mentioned above, or wish to upgrade to Energy Efficient glass, 'We Do Windows' will be pleased to make a site visit and offer a free quotation. If this is accepted Sebastian, and his experienced, friendly team, will carry out installation within a couple of weeks.

The company has acquired an excellent reputation for working tidily and efficiently within the home while completing the work. All the sealed



units are manufactured locally and come with guarantees of up to 10 years. The old units are removed and sent for recycling. Whatever the type or style of window, 'We Do Windows' will probably be able to provide a suitable replacement, be it for one unit or the whole home. Sebastian will be pleased to discuss with you the ideal product for the job and advise from the large range of different glass, including self-cleaning, insulating, textured and safety glass.

Double Glazing Repairs

'We Do Windows' also offer a wide range of double glazing repairs and maintenance services including locks, handles, hinges, seals, door panels and the fitting of cat flaps etc.

Before moving to Plymouth over 25 years ago, Sebastian and his family lived in Cornwall. After gaining his degree at Plymouth University Sebastian, together with his Dad,

established 'We Do Windows' in 2009.

Satisfied Customers

Since he set up the business it has continued to grow in strength, largely as a result of personal recommendation from his ever-growing number of satisfied customers. Sebastian is especially proud of being a Which? Trusted Trader and being registered with Plymouth's Trading Standards 'Buy with Confidence Scheme'.

'We Do Windows' provide a valuable and energy-saving service to a wide customer base in and around West Devon and East Cornwall. With energy and saving being increasingly the watchwords, and consumers keen to cut down on unnecessary energy expenses. Sebastian and his family look forward to bringing their unique brand of friendly service to a growing number of homeowners in the Saltash area and beyond.

Observer Boosted Interest in Town Forum

Since your 'Observer' reported on a proposed Town Forum to include in particular younger residents there has been considerable interest expressed in setting it up and joining it, reported Councillor John Brady to the Town Council.

He would propose having around eleven members including two Councillors and hopefully they would be from the younger element of the Town's citizens. Changes to Fore Street and the town centre generally are inevitable with changing shopping patterns, he believes and it is vital that young peoples' views are taken into account in shaping that future. The forum would also seek views on local sporting facilities. It would meet during the course of one year and then submit a report. 'Fore Street will not survive if we do not take action. We need new ideas', claimed Councillor Brady.

Councillors gave a guarded welcome to the proposed forum but suggested that Councillor Brady should firstly discuss with those concerned in the Neighbourhood Plan and Saltash Town Improvement Group (STIG) how the new forum could work alongside them and not overlap with their mandates.

Observer Telephone Numbers
07971484872 or
01579 345699
Email your copy to:
marye.crawford@virgin.net

From The Mayor's Parlour...

Well it's now 2016 and a new year brings new challenges the council will be expected to take in its stride as with devolution, which involves Cornwall Council allowing us to take over services they currently provide.

Very soon we will be taking responsibility for public toilets, large areas of open space in Pilmere and some play parks.

I think my message to the residents of Saltash this year is as a community we all need to be more involved in what's going on around us, be more aware of and report anti social behaviour, vandalism, fly tipping, litter and dog fouling. We all need the community to have zero tolerance for these issues.

With that in mind it just leaves me to say, I hope you all have a happy and Prosperous New Year

*Cllr Bill Phillips
Mayor of Saltash*

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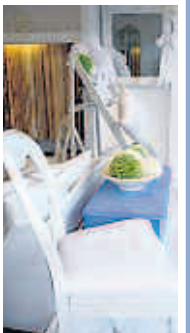
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March 2016

Friday 18th March the return of Motown Pirates

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Little Orphan Annie' started life as a strip cartoon designed to brighten the dark days of the depression in 1930's America. Now the musical 'Annie' proved equally effective in bringing pre-Christmas cheer to proud parents who joined family, friends and other audience in the auditorium of saltash.net for the school's big show.

A substantial cast of 43 roles plus 29 in the chorus (though some doubled up) offered the opportunity for students in each school year (plus one dog) to tread the boards. From the chorus of orphans stomping through their hard-knock life, to the elite staff of a billionaire all brought their own joyful blend of finely choreographed theatrical magic to the stage.

Played straight this show could be over saccharine but year 8's vivacious Molly Willis bought a fun and feisty sparkle to the title role whether she was sharing her tuneful notes of optimism with a dormitory of destitute orphans or, later, with FDR and his cabinet, while proving herself the true instigator of Roosevelt's New Deal.

The full supporting cast led by the familiar face of J J Harding as Daddy Warbucks also ensured a level of fun that avoided the audience being drowned in treacly sentiment. Molly Banks well rose to her villainous role as heartless Miss Hannigan and her song and dance 'Easy Street' with her self seeking brother and his moll, Rooster and Lily, played by Tommy Williams and Tiegion Aire was deservedly well applauded as a highlight of the evening. Bronwen Hall bought elegance and charm to the roll of Warbuck's secretary Grace while Brad Sweet deserves mention for his presentation of utterly unctious radio presenter Bert Healy. Plaudits too of course to director Emily Venner who worked this vast cast into such a sparkling show.

Of course in this trans Atlantic translation of Oliver Twist all ends well as Annie realises the American dream. The Grand Finale of 'We're getting a New Deal for Christmas' followed by the inevitable reprise of 'Tomorrow' was guaranteed to send its audience off into the December night believing that even if the sun did not come out tomorrow, tomorrow's generation of local youngsters have talent, discipline and charisma that promise well for the future.



'Annie': Always work with children and dogs!

Commenting on the production, Mrs Bryce, Headteacher, said, 'This was a perfect choice for a whole school production at this time of the year. Not only was the quality of the music, singing, acting and dancing superb, but the set design, lighting and costumes were all first class too. I would like to congratulate everyone involved and thank them for the huge amount of hard work which went into making it such a great success.'

Review by
Martin Lister



Lola Donates Her Hair



Lola Mills from Landulph School in Saltash, recently, had 17 inches of beautiful hair cut for charity. Mum (Karen Mills) said: "Lola has been asking for about a year to have her hair cut, and I have always put her off the idea, but when she said she wanted to donate it to charity to help boys and girls who have lost their own hair through illness's such as Cancer, I was very proud. "So, the day came! We were hoping to raise a little extra money for the charity at the same time, I know Christmas had been an expensive time, however she raised £140, and the proceeds will go towards children who have cancer."

Lola's her hair will be donated to make a wig, the charity Lola donated her hair to is called Little Princess's.

Bar Some Buses from Fore Street, Councillors Suggest

With twenty-eight buses per hour passing through Fore Street concerns are growing at congestion caused especially that they are blocking the street while two or three are seeking to utilise the same bus bays.

While Saltash bus passengers have never enjoyed such and excellent choice of service the Mayor raised concerns over the congestion this creates to the Town Council's Policy and Resources Committee.

It was agreed that the Mayor write to the relevant bus companies suggesting that some of those that serve destinations beyond Saltash might use the alternative route

of North Road. The number 72 bus from Plymouth to Looe and back already does so, stopping in North Road around the corner from Fore Street.

The alternative would appear to be a requirement for longer bus bays to take two or three buses at a time, with a resultant loss of short term street parking places, bad news for the motorist but beneficial to 'green' users of public transport.

Town Grants Funding for Youth Football

Saltash Youth Football Club and Saltash Rugby Football Club (Youth Section) have both had requests for funding from the Town Council's community chest approved.

The football club is to receive £800.00 for equipment enabling them to go into schools to coach enthusiastic students.

The rugby club has been granted £950.00 in order to upgrade and replace training kit and equipment for coaches and for the young players.

Dementia Voice PL12, a newly formed campaign aiming to make the Saltash area more dementia aware, was awarded £1,000.00 for resources to underpin the launch and help cover such expenses as printing, advertising and setting up of a website.

Another £1,000.00 was granted to the Saltash Speech and Drama Festival towards the costs of mounting this prestigious event this January, now in its 26th year.

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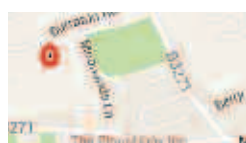
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Brave Teenager Rhiannon has lost her Battle



Seventeen-year-old Rhiannon Percy from Saltash, lost her battle against cancer on the 20th November 2015 due to complications following a stem cell transplant. Rhiannon was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma in March 2014 and subsequently endured three courses of chemotherapy and a course of radiotherapy without success.

In this time, Rhiannon still managed to pass her GCSE exams and raised over £1,000 for charity. She was nominated for Pride of Plymouth 2014 and when she found out that she might be nominated as Saltash Young citizen of the Year she was furious, as in her eyes, she didn't deserve it.

Her positive attitude was evident in the way she continued to live life to the full. Rhiannon was a great lover of photography and helped out with a local drama group Page2Stage. Family and friends were so important to her and a month before she died (while in hospital) organised a weekend away for her Mum Louise with her friends and even managed to do her Christmas shopping online. The biggest highlight for Rhiannon was when she met her favourite band The Wanted in March 2014 and she made such an impact on them that the family received lovely messages of condolence and flowers from Nathan Sykes and Tom Parker for her funeral.

The funeral was held on December 4th when over 350 people packed the church. There were Disney balloons floating as people of all ages including school friends, teachers, doctors and nurses from Derriford Hospital all wearing bright colours or Disney tops walked into Holy Redeemer Church where Father Tim Lewis conducted a

requiem mass. Many described the service as beautiful and moving. Martin her Dad, described Rhiannon in his eulogy as a loyal friend, a loving daughter and an inspiration to all who met her. Her sisters, Alisha (15) says "Rhiannon would light up a room just with her smile" and Grace (10) says, "She was the best big sister, ever!" My daughter was a very popular young lady who touched the hearts of so many" Louise says, "although we knew this, in the week since her death, we have been contacted by complete strangers telling us of how remarkable she was.

We knew that she was an avid internet user but little did we know that she was helping complete strangers, two young girls with severe depression and another who was self-harming who she befriended online. They both claim that Rhiannon was always there for them despite her own problems and in their words she saved their lives! Louise continues to say that she also received a beautiful letter from a doctor who met Rhiannon once, when he met her in the emergency Department in February 2014. He was so affected by her dignity and bravery that he never forgot her and when he heard she had passed away he felt compelled to write to the family.

In her short life Rhiannon managed to touch more people than many of us would do in a full lifetime, we should learn a little from this incredible young lady by living life to the full, being kind to each other and remaining dignified in face of adversity.

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The cost of hiring any of all of Saltash Guildhall will remain unchanged over the next financial year 2016/17, it has been agreed.

Current costs, which will remain in force, for the upstairs Guildhall vary from £15 to £27 per hour dependent on regular or casual hire and weekday or weekend use. The lower Council Chamber ranges from £12 to £15, with additional charges for piano and for catering. These will now remain fixed until at least April 2017.

Observer Telephone Numbers
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Conundrum Corner

For 2016 we are reverting to local place names but with only eight letters this time. The procedure is just the same simply take the initial letter to the one-word answer to the following eight questions and then rearrange them to make a local place name.

- 1 What name is given to the study of Molluscs and their Shells? (10)
 - 2 What line on a weather map joins places of equal atmospheric pressure? (6)
 - 3 In a modern Symphony Orchestra which specific group of instruments are on the immediate extreme left of the conductor? (7)
 - 4 In which Irish County are the Lakes of Killarney found? (5)
 - 5 At which port on the South coast did Henry V assemble his army before sailing to France for the Battle of Agincourt in 1415? (11)
 - 6 Which ingredient gives Mead its sweet taste? (5)
 - 7 The River Stour forms most of the border between Suffolk and which other County? (5)
 - 8 Who was the manservant of Goldfinger in Ian Fleming's novel? (6)
- Answers on page 8

SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...



I would like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Last year was a very busy year politically with the General Election and a number of important pieces of legislation and decisions going through parliament. I would like to firstly thank all those who gave me such an endorsement at the election and assure everyone that I and my office are here to help regardless of how you voted.

I was pleased to catch up and thank the postmen just before Christmas. They, and other delivery companies, work exceptionally hard at this time of year making sure that people's Christmas wishes and gifts get to people safely and in good time.

I would also like to spend a thought for all those who work over the Christmas period including our brave armed forces keeping our borders safe. At the beginning of December I thought long and hard before taking what is one of the most difficult decisions of my career. As a mother of a serving officer in the Royal Navy, I fully understand the implications and dangers that are associated with any deployment of our Armed Forces. The RAF were already deployed to the region and engaging ISIL targets in Iraq and nobody I hope, who saw the pictures which came from Paris, cannot be moved by this destruction. Daesh hate us. Hate us to the point that they will lay down their lives to kill as many of us as they can. But it is not just an offensive action, Britain is also already doing a massive amount to deliver humanitarian aid in the region.

I also would like to thank the emergency services we rely on closer to home. I would like to also thank all those that provide services over the Christmas period including all those who look after the vulnerable, to all

those who allow us to get about and to all those that open their businesses to allow us to enjoy ourselves including the many hotels, restaurants and pubs which provide excellent meals.

I am really lucky to be able to see so many friends and family over the festive period but I do spare a thought for all those who are on their own. If you have people who you are not able to see I do hope you were able to pick up the phone and give them a call.

I have called for a debate after the disappointing result of the European Union fish quota negotiations. I will keep pressing the Minister when Parliament returns as parts of the deal secured goes against the scientific advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea and could be a serious threat to the economic viability of some of my fishermen from Looe.

I notice that there was a protest against the disposal of dredged spoil from the River Tamar and Cattwater Harbour in Plymouth. I have for many years been concerned about the continued use of this dispersal site and am keen to ensure we secure a resolution to the situation which protects the environment but also allows the continuation of services which are vital to the economy of Plymouth and South East Cornwall. I was hoping to meet with the Chief Executive of the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) in the last week in Westminster before the Christmas recess but unfortunately he had to cancel this meeting at short notice. I will continue to press for a resolution and will be in discussion with the MMO as soon as I can.

If anyone would like to contact me please ring 01579 344428, email me at sheryll@sheryllmurray.com or pop into my Liskeard office in The Parade.

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GCSE Presentation Evening: A Proud Time for All!



Saltash.net's annual certificate presentation evening for the 2014-15 Year 11 cohort took place on Thursday 19th November in the main school hall which had been transformed into a glamorous awards venue especially for the celebratory occasion.

A very large number of family members and friends attended the event to applaud the Class of 2015 and congratulate them on their excellent achievements.

Guests of Honour, befitting a year group for its sporting prowess, were representatives from Plymouth Argyle Football Club, Director Peter Jones and

Striker, Reuben Reid. They presented the students with their GCSE and vocational certificates as well as many individual awards which not only recognised academic success, but other superb achievements, including an outstanding contribution to the school and local community with the presentation of the John Griffin Memorial shield to Bronwen Hall.

Mrs Bryce, Headteacher, Mrs Waghorn, Chair of Governors, and Mr Oakes, Head of Year, all added their words of praise for an exceptional year group who had made saltash.net proud.

Individual Award winners were:

John Griffin Memorial Shield: Bronwen Hall
Academic Achievement Award: Alexander Ferguson & Edward Gillford

Academic Achievement—Highly Commended: Bronwen Hall & Lily Spencer

Academic Achievement Commended

Bethan Barrett, Rose Bonner, India Colton, Hollie Diplock, Nathan Fowell, Bethany Gerrard, Michael Hambly, Lydia Herbert, Emily Hollister, Zac Hyams, William Illingworth, Katy James, Ellie Mansfield, Kieran Marley, Peter Martin, Abigail Medland, Rachel Price, Bethany Parsons, Kirsten Procter, Ben Reynolds, Lucy Sarel, Toby Shotton, Jenny Spencer, Michael Spencer, Walter Stroud, Emily Sweet, Rosie Thompson, Jack Willcocks, Elliot Wearne-Gould

Academic Endeavour Award

India Colton & Bethany Gerrard

Academic Endeavour—Highly Commended

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Police Concern at Anti-Social Youth Groups

Anti-social behaviour in particular areas of Saltash have been concerning local police and the Town Council has responded by emphasising to Sector Inspector Julian Morris the concerns of local residents.

Areas where there has been vandalism as well as noise and abuse of local residents include in particular Keast Mews and the adjacent Culver Road car park where Christmas decorations were torn down and fires, which could have been dangerous if not spotted quickly, have been lit. Other areas affected include Longstone Park and the Gordon Court area off Church Road. Forty-five incidents of anti-social behaviour were reported to local police during November.

The Town Council echoed concern to take all possible action to identify the perpetrators and take action against them as appropriate. They are also offering to arrange to clean off graffiti on private property subject to property owners signing a disclaimer.

Bus Shelter in Dangerous Place

The bus shelter situated in Liskeard Road outside the 'Ploughboy Inn' is dangerously positioned, the Town's service committee agreed.

It has been agreed that it should be moved to a position outside 84 Liskeard Road. Consultation letters were to be sent out within the area and CORMAC, who would be

responsible for the work, should look at the proposed site to ensure it is out of direct wind and that grass can be replaced with tarmac.

Barn Becomes Dwelling

The Town Council subject to conditions has recommended a barn conversion to a dwelling property at Manor Farm Trematon for approval.

These include ensuring that the public right of way which runs through the former farmyard be kept clear at all times. It is also a condition that all construction materials used in the conversion be of local stone.

Press Secretaries & Correspondents
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Tel: 01579 345699
Mob: 07971 484872

Pasties around the fire and Santa delivering presents to Cornish children on a surfboard, are just two of the creative inventions of the students from Saltash.net and Landulph Primary featured in their joint anthology called 'A Very Cornish Christmas'. Pupils from year 5,6,7,8 and 9 submitted their poems and artwork to the organiser of the project, Ms Childs who had a tough job of deciding on the best entries to publish. Mr Buckley, Deputy Head at Saltash.net said "The children from both schools have shown such amazing imagination and creativity and have loved reading each other's work. It has been a real pleasure to be involved with this project." The children and staff are keen to sell as many of the books as they can so that they can fund the project again next year.



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Euchre Players Aid Local Hospital

While enjoying the traditional local game of euchre in local hosterlies, players have also been busy raising funds to aid our local cottage hospital.

The Chair and Vice Chair of St. Barnabas Hospital League of Friends, Mrs Joyce Mepsted

and Mrs Pam Keverne, were delighted to attend at the 'Ploughboy Inn' just before Christmas to meet with members of Saltash and District Euchre League, here the Chairman Dan Ball together with Steve Smale, Phil Bennett and Colin Kirby, proudly presented a cheque for £250.00 to the Friends who do so much towards providing medical facilities and patient comforts to in and out patients of our popular little hospital. This money will be put towards the refurbishment of the hospital's physiotherapy department.



Conundrum Answers:

1 Conchology 2 Isobar 3
Violins 4 Kerry 5
Southern 6 Honey 7
Essex 8 Oddjob. Re-arranged
the letters spell the Village of
Shevlock.

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A Very Cornish Christmas

THE PLOUGHBOY

Liskeard Rd Saltash

Mike & Joan welcome you to join them, for great food and congenial company

Bookings now being taken for...

St Valentine's Day

Sunday 14th February

Book early for our very popular

Sunday Carvery £7.50

Children 12yrs & under **£5.25**

Enjoy a Sunday Lunch with family and friends

The Ploughboy is available as a Venue for Quiz Nights & Charity Events

(See Mike & Joan for further details)

Celebrate at The Ploughboy

Watch Out for Details of Our Big Charity Quiz Night

In Aid of Parkinson's Disease Research

Private function rooms available

Book now for your office & family Parties

Weddings, Christenings & Funerals

Groups & Organisations welcome for regular or One off events. Tel: 01752 842861 for more details

Look Out for details of our...

Entertainment at the Ploughboy

Sunday 24th January: Jazz Evening

Jazz Night last Sunday in every month

Comprehensive Menu with Specials Board

Choose from Our Varied Menu

Monday to Thursday

Enjoy 2 Home-made specials for £14.00

(Choosing from the home-made special Menu)

All day Tuesday 2 Rump Steaks £16.00

Food...

Lunch Menu available from: 12noon-2.30pm Mon-Fri

Evening Meals available from:

Mon-Thurs-5pm-8.30pm Fri-5pm-8.30pm

Saturdays from 12 noon-8.30pm Sundays from

12 noon-8.00pm

Clubs, Organisations & Coaches Welcome

We are open for Morning Coffee & Afternoon Tea.

Call 01752 842861 for bookings

and all enquires...book early to avoid disappointment!

-- Bookings advisable --

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