

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

January 2017 - Issue 298

Established 24 years

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Fire Fighters' Families Plead for War Memorial to Honour Their Sacrifice

Two heroic fire fighters who died in the Plymouth blitz should have their names engraved on the war memorial at St. Stephens alongside those of the four who died with them and whose names are already there. This was the recommendation of Saltash Town Council which reversed its decision of a year ago, when it voted 7 to 6 against adding the two names. The Council decided, ten votes to three, that the names should be added after hearing emotive speeches from relatives of some of the dead firemen.

As reported in last August's Observer the six Saltash volunteer firemen were killed while speeding into the heart of a blazing Plymouth. All six are commemorated on other memorials in Plymouth and Saltash but two, Bernard Jasper and Leslie Tibbs, were omitted from that at St Stephens for reasons that remain uncertain. Barry Brooking, himself the grandson of a firefighter who was already commemorated at St. Stephens brought this apparent anomaly to the attention of the Town Council and has been tireless in campaigning to have the two names added.

Since the decision was made in January 2016 not to add the names Peter Clements of Saltash Heritage has researched and discovered that up to fifty other person associated with Saltash who died in the two world wars are omitted from local memorials. Research on them and the reasons for their omission continues.

It has also been discovered more recently that whereas the memorial by St. Nicholas church was transferred by the church to the ownership of Saltash borough council in 1925, there is no record of that at St. Stephens

ever having been so transferred. It would therefore appear that the Town Council has no power to add any extra names, this power rests in the Diocese of Truro, through the parochial church council.

At the Town Council meeting this January the niece of Leslie Tibbs, Mrs Heather Roche, who had travelled from Teignmouth to be present, spoke passionately of the heroism and self sacrifice of the firemen who perished. She was endorsed by Neil Stanlake, nephew of John Stanlake whose brothers were drafted into the army but who

was made to stay and work the family farm, being in a 'reserved occupation'. Ironically and tragically the brothers survived while John perished with his fellow fire fighters - his name is on the memorial.

There was considerable debate among councillors as to whether they should seek to 'mess with history', as it was previously put, and alter the memorial. There was especial concern that if the two names were added now there could be a call for the adding of further names as more is discovered of the fifty or so other war dead whose existence has only recently been discovered.

The motion was eventually put to the council by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor John Brady, that Saltash Town Council agrees to apply to the Diocese to add the names of Bernard Jasper and Leslie Tibbs to the St. Stephens war memorial and in the event of the diocese agreeing the Town Council agrees to pay the reasonable costs of so doing. This was carried by ten votes, to three, councillors Austin, Dent and Holley dissenting.

It was then proposed that the Town Council when considering its financial precept debates paying for professional research into any other persons from Saltash who died in war with a view to budgeting for such expenditure, and moreover debates the expenditure necessary to honour those from Saltash who paid the ultimate sacrifice but whose names are not currently recorded on any war memorial, again with a view to budgeting for such expenditure. These two motions were agreed unanimously.

Following eighteen months of campaigning in which he recently found that he had the full support of the retained fire fighters union South West, Barry Brooking told the Observer, "Obviously I was so pleased for the families of the two fire fighters regarding recommendation that their names be added. Now we must await the church's decision based upon that. It has been a long, hard struggle over the eighteen months since I discovered the missing names and it has involved over ten thousand words of argument. I am pleased that the Town Council has shown such a sensitive and sympathetic consideration for our war dead in trying to ensure that all are properly remembered".

Hospital Injury Closure Causes Concern

The minor injuries unit at Saltash's St. Barnabas Hospital closed without warning before Christmas and there is uncertainty over its re-opening.

The reason for closure was a 'staffing issue', Phillip Confue, Chief Executive of the Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation told the Town Council. There is a shortage of nursing staff at the hospital and when a nurse has to come from the wards to attend as casualty this leaves the wards short staffed.

The unit was underused, added Mr. Confue, with only around three patients a week requiring treatment. It has no x-ray or other useful equipment so some who do visit have to be sent elsewhere. The health authority is currently considering whether it is worth investing to make what is currently little more than a first aid centre into a major minor injuries unit and whether Derriford would supply a radiographer to Saltash were x-ray equipment to be installed. The alternative would be to close it and send accident victims to Derriford, Devonport's Cumberland Centre or Liskeard.

The shortened hours and the recent closure and re-opening of the unit has discouraged potential usage of the facility several Town Councillors argued. It was only open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on weekdays with no evening or weekend coverage when many accidents occur. It was noted that it was far better used before a recent prolonged temporary closure and when the opening hours were longer.

Local residents without their own transport must now pay out for a Taxi to Derriford or take the bus which can, it was observed, take over two hours.

At a time when the NHS is urging patients to use mirror injury units in preference to busy A & E facilities such as at Derriford, Town Councillors were eager to see the facility at Saltash hospital re-opened. However no promise could be given as to when, or indeed if, this would occur.

Record Numbers Attend 'Billy Elliot' Performances



See article page 5 and review on page 8

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Saturday 18th February 2017
Mayor's Fundraising Evening
Buffet and dancing til midnight
Valentines Ball
From 6.30 at the China Fleet Country Club
Tickets £20 available from the Guildhall
We'd like to ask guests to wear something red that has been bought in a charity shop.
Prizes for the snappiest dresser!
All profits to Mayor's Charities (Storybook Dads and Girlguiding Saltash)

Hopper Bus Trips

January - February - March 2017

Tuesday 17th January
Afternoon Mystery Tour
2pm-5pm £5.00

Sunday 22nd January
Sunday Lunch at Portbyhan Hotel
11.15am £5.00

Saturday 28th January
Falmouth Maritime Museum
10.00am £12.50

Tuesday 31st January
Dartington & Totness
10.00am £6.00

Sunday 5th February
Sunday Lunch at Hunting Lodge & Endsleigh Garden Centre
11.30am £5.00

Friday 10th February
Trago Liskeard & Windy Ridge/Kernow Mill
10.00am £5.00

Sun 19th February
Sunday Lunch Who'd Have Thought It
11.30am £4.00

Tuesday 21st February
National Trust Cotehele
2pm-5pm £4.00

Tuesday 28th February
A woodland walk with the Gardeners
At Greenway to see all their Spring flowers
10.00am £8.00

Tuesday 14th March
Kingsbridge, then a "Fishy" lunch at Torcross & on to Dartmouth
10.00am £10.00

Sunday 19th March
Cotehele Daffodil Day
2pm-5pm £4.00

All prices are exclusive of food, drink and admission

Pick up and drop off around Saltash; times are at 4 Fore Street

All trips going West on A38 can stop at Tideford and Landrake

Book over the phone or at 4 Fore Street (Tues-Sat)
Tel: 01752 848348

New Service - Saltash to Derriford

The new direct Saltash to Derriford Hopper Bus service starts Monday 16th January, offering a quick and direct service between the town and hospital four times a day.

Buses will operate from:

Pilmere, Ploughboy, Fire Station, Church Rd, St Stephens Rd and Fore St

Initially It will leave Fore St at 06.45, 07.45, 15.45 & 16.45 with return runs leaving Derriford at 07.05, 08.15, 16.15 and 17.15.

It is for "Saltash Card" holders only

For more information, book seats and buy tickets
Contact: hopper@communityenterprisespl12.co.uk,

Tel 01752 848 348 or 07905 795256,

or call in to the Community Market at 4 Fore Street (Wed- Sat).



We all have our ideas about how Saltash should be in the future and if you are concerned about this then maybe you should consider doing something about it. I will try and explain one way, and at the bottom describe some rewards and downsides, including one rare downside example.

Next May there will be elections all across the UK to elect town (parish) and county councillors. Special packs of information explaining the process will soon be available from Cornwall Council. It is critically important to any community to have good councillors who are able to do the following things: represent individual people who need help; represent all your "ward" members (about four thousand); represent the whole town in council and other meetings; sit on and be an active member on sub-committees; help with the organisation of civic events, and take part in them; chase up services such as refuse collections, chase up road, traffic and planning issues ; and a variety of other things. If you become a Cornwall



CORNWALL
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For Observer readers
Derek Holley
Cornwall Councilor, Saltash East.
dholley@cornwall.gov.uk



Councillor as well, you can add to all that representing the whole county and joining a number of county committees to help run the whole shebang. It is a lot, lot more and will take up a fair chunk of your time, but has its own rewards and there is an allowance to partly compensate for this change of life. Which is more important to the town? Well, a county councillor has more basic power but when it comes down to it it is more important to have good town councillors, in my opinion.

"I couldn't do that ", you say, " all that " ! Two things to say there: firstly, of course, you have to have enough common sense and intelligence, but secondly, no one expects you to be able to do all the above straight away - it is a learning process - you

will learn from other experienced councillors, and from training organised for you (99% of the training I have done has been good fun and interesting). This is partly why I say to people that if you become a councillor you should really look to stand for at least two terms (of four years), simply so you have time to become better! My personal opinion is that nobody should stand for more than three terms because the whole process changes you as a person and after that time you should let others with fresh ideas and energy have a go...having said that there are some very good long-termers around!

Now for some nitty-gritty...two councillors no community wants - firstly those who just complain and criticise - you must be prepared to actively put things right yourself, alongside others, to step in and get your hands dirty; secondly, those who just represent one interest group or one small area - you have to be prepared to equally represent all, especially those you disagree with, and you need a bit of character to do that. Critically also you must be prepared to work with, get along with and help other councillors and other members of town

organisations. A council that works together achieves far, far more for the people.

Are the right sort of people out there? Yes, I have met literally hundreds if not thousands of those people in Saltash and that's an end to it.

What might you get out of it? My personal experience? First the good: I find it (and it still amazes me how much I still find it) incredibly rewarding to be able to help people in small (mostly) and some large, life-changing things. Mind you it is increasingly difficult to help with some issues because of the sweeping government austerity cuts, but that is a story both you and I am sick of hearing! If you stand and become a half-decent councillor you will find this simply the best thing you can achieve - to help people. Another upside - I find it great to know I have done or been part of doing something to improve the whole town. Lots of other good stuff and you get to meet some great people who others might call "ordinary", some "important" people and lots of influential people.

Downsides there are, one is criticism, some justified, some not. Let me give you an extreme example. Last year, over a planning issue I invited a constituent to come in and sit in my front room (my long-suffering wife also being at home). This person berated me, abused me verbally, accused me of corruptly getting planning permission for our extension (thirty years ago!) and on leaving (you'll like this!), wished me a s**t Christmas - I had to report this, of course, and I put it in the hands of the county legal people. That is the unpleasant extreme it could go to, but like winning the lottery it is thankfully very unlikely to happen. Usually criticism is fairer and is nearly always useful. Far more people thank you and huge numbers get to know

you and are pleasant to you. Loads of people every day just say "hello" or stop and talk in the street - my wife says there is no such thing as a quick trip downtown or a quick nip to Lidl, other stores available of course. Another downside - it is a bit of a culture shock to early on realise the truth in the old saying "politics is the art of the possible". Some things are impossible to achieve and sadly some people you just cannot help.

There are all sorts of councillors, some have an inclination to organisation, some are great committee people, some are terrific people-persons - a good example is the late Eric Lewis, one of the best councillors I have ever known who stood every Saturday morning (and I mean "every", rain or shine) in Fore Street, waiting, just waiting and giving ordinary people a chance to talk to him, ask him for help etc. If elected you will make your own mark. Being a councillor will change you and if you put yourself into it and don't expect to just get stuff out, almost certainly change you for the better. The balance of good or bad, though, is definitely well on the plus side! You are extraordinarily unlikely to experience the extreme downside above, but very, very likely to experience the plus sides - one of which is the realisation that Saltash is full of nice people, good people.

Right. Two things: firstly I've been putting off saying this, but bragging will out. My sprouts are fantastic: sweet, solid, round and numerous (I really wish the old Saltash Allotment Association was still around with their annual show...); secondly, and for all the grammar fiends out there, yes, my New Year's resolution is ...use fewer brackets. Sorry.

Chamber Chairman Peter Ryland Keeping us Updated

Are Cornwall Council trying to kill business in Fore Street? Just before Christmas, I was made aware that Cornwall Council were proposing to increase the one hour parking charge in the 4 car parks adjacent to the town centre by 40% to 70p.

On behalf of the chamber members I submitted a response asking Cornwall Council to reconsider a rise that is 20 times the present inflation rate.

Many factors are important to the viability of a town centre and the cost of parking is one of them. Saltash Fore Street, like all high streets will undergo problems this year due to the various elements of the national economy. Already we have the impact of higher wages for staff and the drop in the exchange rate, so that imports are more expensive, but we also have the likely rise in inflation, increase in fuel costs, a rise in business rates, the slowdown in the housing market and the lack of consumer confidence following the Brexit vote. Now is the time for the people of Saltash to shop local if the businesses of Saltash are to survive and the increase of parking charges does not encourage Saltash residents to the town centre. So come on Cornwall Council have a re-think on parking charges.

At the time of writing this article, Next have just published their Christmas results and these only show how fragile the retail economy is at the moment.

But the Chamber does not just represent town centre traders. Although the general macro-economic climate affects all businesses, some are affected more differently. Those businesses that export will be affected positively s the pound is cheaper abroad but those

that import will have the reverse effect. The housing market slow down should help the DIY and smaller builder trades as people will be improving not moving. Staycations will result in a boost for those in the holiday trade but the lack of consumer confidence will negatively affect the purchase of larger items and it is projected that, despite the boom in sales last year, car sales will be down and so will the sale of larger electrical items.

But it is in retail that the average consumer can have an influence on the future. Shop local and help the businesses to continue and don't forget that many retailers offer a discount with the Saltash Card. If you haven't got one then ask at the Community Market in No. 4 Fore Street. The initial cost will pay for itself in a year or less if you buy your petrol/diesel with a saving of 2p per litre.

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Euro Cash for Greener Saltash

Saltash is one of a number of Cornish towns targeted to receive a share of £3.5 million from Europe to help improve its green spaces.

The money, to be shared out between towns across the county, is intended to improve open spaces and roadside verges, making them more attractive to wild life as well as local residents. Towns are to be invited to put forward proposals as to which open spaces should benefit from the windfall funding.

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Mayoral Matters...

Perhaps, like me, you spent 1st January walking through your life, room by room, drawing up a list of work to be done, cracks to be patched. Make any resolutions? I toyed with a few (exercise more, eat healthier food etc.) but then I got to thinking that maybe this year, to balance the list, I should walk through the rooms of my life looking for potential rather than flaws. What opportunities are there in the year ahead?

For Saltash Town Council, there are plenty of opportunities because there are elections coming up on 4th May. So for Saltash the New Year will mean a new council, especially as quite a few of the current councillors will not be standing for re-election. Do you think you might want to grab this opportunity and deliver on your potential to give to the community?

Before taking the decision about whether to stand for election, you probably need to know a bit more about what it might entail. First off: there are 16 councillors, 4 in each of the wards of North, South, East and West. Here in Cornwall, where we have the Unitary Authority of Cornwall Council, it's true to say that on its own Saltash Town Council has limited powers to make decisions. But

as the Town Council is the local authority that is closest to the people, it is invariably the first place local people go to with concerns or ideas, and so it plays a vital role in the life of the town. It also has the ability to negotiate with, and the power to influence, the other organisations that make those final decisions, such as Cornwall Council, health authorities and the police. Being a statutory consultee on planning, the Town Council often gets involved with planning matters, but it also has powers covering areas such as crime prevention, and campaigns for and delivers better services and facilities such as allotments, toilets and bus shelters.

And before making any decision about whether to stand, you'll want to know about the commitment. Well, the amount of time you give depends on how committed you want to be, but the bare minimum would be attending the full council meetings, which take place in the evenings of the first Thursday and third Tuesday of every month. Meetings may last two or three hours, depending on the agenda. Bear in mind, though, that if you want to make informed decisions at these meetings there is plenty of

background reading and research to be done. And councillors are expected to sit on one of the council's committees; it helps make sure that councillors understand the background to issues debated at full council and helps the wheels of the council turn round. These committees meet roughly once every 6 weeks.

The deadline for submitting your nomination form is 4pm on 4th April, so you still have time to make up your mind. But why not talk to a current councillor to find out more? You could also come along to a town council meeting – they are all open to the public – or have a look at the town council's website: www.saltash.gov.uk. Or you could contact the Guildhall to find out about the special workshops that are being held for people interested in standing. Here, meanwhile, is some practical information for you: councillors in Saltash are entitled to an allowance of £200 each year to cover their expenses, but otherwise they volunteer their time; you don't have to be a member of a political party; and councillors are elected for a maximum of four years - anyone wanting to stay on the council for longer needs to stand for re-election.

I've had the honour of serving as a town councillor for the last 6 years, but I've taken the decision not to stand for re-election in May. I have certainly loved the chance to serve the community and to make a difference, but with many of the meetings held in the evening I'm finding I don't have as much time as I'd like to spend with my young daughters, who are growing away too fast. So, for me, there are plenty of opportunities in the year ahead as I redirect my energies.

In fact, as I recall the inspiring community work I've been fortunate enough to have witnessed in our town over the last years, I realise there are too many opportunities and it is hard to make any traditional New Year's resolutions at all! So here is what I've resolved instead:

1. Stop making lists
 2. Be more consistent
 3. Learn to count
- With every good wish for 2017. May it bring us all brighter tomorrows.

*Cllr Hilary Frank MCIL
(Japanese)
Town Mayor*

Direct Bus link to Derriford Begins

The new direct Saltash to Derriford Hopper Bus service started Monday 16th January, offering a quick and direct service between the town and hospital four times a day.

The bus will initially focus on getting NHS staff to work and back, but anyone can take advantage of the service so long as they hold a SALTASHCARD.

Buses will operate from Pilmere, then the Ploughboy, Fire Station, Church Rd, St Stephens Rd and on to Fore St outside the Community Market at 6.45am, 7.45am then 3.45pm and 4.45pm. Return runs available from Derriford at 7.05am and 08.15am then 4.15pm and 5.15pm. Seats should be booked in advance as space is limited.

The regular weekday service follows a two-week trial of taster runs, when passengers were encouraged to give feedback on the service. There are plans to extend the service to accommodate other work patterns and visiting hours as soon as possible.

CEPL12 Director Mike Finch manages the bus and has been the driving force behind the new service.

He said: "This launch follows months of planning, public consultation and direct feedback from passengers. The tester sessions have been very useful – my early morning chats to passengers provided brilliant insight into just what was wanted. As a result we have changed the initial availability to provide the best possible fit with Derriford Hospital shift patterns, then as we go on we will introduce more journeys extending into the day and evening.

"We aim for the service to be self-funding within six months."

See advert on front page of this paper for further details.

Saltash Citizen Award & Saltash Young Citizen Award 2017

Each year Saltash Town Council, in conjunction with the Rotary Club, select a Saltash resident to receive the Saltash Citizen Award. This is a prestigious award, which goes to a man, or woman who has served his or her community in some special way. It could be an outstanding one-off contribution to the well-being of the Town or consideration will be given also to a person who has given a period of service to the Town, not just in the prior year, however the person must still be active and cannot be an employee or member of Saltash Town Council.

There is also a similar award for the Young Citizen, who should be under the age of 21 and living in Saltash.

Nominations for the 2017 awards are now being requested.

A note specifying the reasons for the suggestion and contact details should accompany each recommendation.

Nominations should be sent to the Town Clerk, Mr. Ray Lane, The Guildhall, 12 Lower Fore Street, Saltash, PL12 6JX or by e-mail to reception@saltash.gov.uk by Friday 27th January, 2017.

Ray Lane, Clerk to the Town Council

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Now! Every Sunday Night Karaoke

January 2017

Sat 21st **Decibelle** (Bar)

Sat 28th **Stage Two Duo** (Bar)

Sun 29th **Karaoke** (Bar)

February 2017

Sat 4th **Skooldase** (Bar)

Sun 5th **Karaoke** (Bar)

Sat 11th **Paul Kay** (Bar)

Sun 12th **Karaoke** (Bar)

Sat 18th **Threes Company** (Bar)

Sun 19th **Karaoke** (Bar)

Sat 25th **Opium** (Bar)

Sun 26th **Karaoke** (Bar)

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Subject to change*

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Thoughts on the Sudden Death of Christopher Tandy, Aged 23

"Not a problem."

That's what Chris always said whenever we asked him to resolve a traffic-related issue at one of the town's festivals or events. A stalwart, long-standing member of the volunteer groups who organise the Christmas Festival, Regatta and May Fair, he was calm and wise beyond his years.

Utterly respectful at all times, he was also a dedicated member of the Saltash Air Cadet Squadron.

It was all these attributes, together with his deep-rooted love of Saltash, that led to Chris being chosen as the town's first Mayor's Cadet in 2010, a role in which he shone.

It is often said that life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass, but about learning to dance in the rain. Well, Chris was a man who danced in the

rain, often in his hi-viz jacket putting out traffic cones for a Saltash event.

A life too short, but lived brightly and lived to the full. We will struggle to get over his loss, but his memory will be treasured by many in this town, and in his memory we will evolve.

Hilary Frank (Mayor of Saltash) and organisers of the Regatta, Christmas Festival and May Fair

The Cardinals Hatt

Restaurant - Bar - Hotel – Functions

General Manager Martin & the Team
Welcome you to call in for...



With a fresh new evening menu for January and a daily specials board The Cardinals Hatt is the perfect location for a light bite, family meal or celebration event

Coffee Lounge

Coffee can be enjoyed inside or out serving a variety of coffees & a variety of teas with savoury & sweet snacks

Why not relax have a leisurely morning with friends on the sofas in our relaxing coffee bar or on the patio

Lunchtime:

Soup of the day
Traditional Sandwiches
Toasted Flaguettes
Salads
& The Old Faithfuls
Fish & Chips
Scampi Monkfish Tails
Home Cooked Ham with Eggs & Fries
Home-made Steak Burger

Afternoon Tea

Enjoy a break with our Afternoon Tea & Scones with Cornish Clotted Cream

Dinner at the Cardinals Hatt

Dinner is predominantly served in the restaurant; however there are suitable tables for dining in the bar if you prefer 'Pub' atmosphere.

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Celebrate St Valentines Day

Tuesday 14th February

Check our website for our Special Valentine Events

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Function Suite

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Opening Hours:
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Serving Lunches from Mon-Fri 12:00noon 3:00pm
Dinner: Mon-Fri 6pm-8:45pm
Saturday: 12:00noon 8:45pm
Sunday Lunch: 12:00noon – 3:00pm
Sunday Evening 6:00pm – 7:45pm

For further information & menus watch our website

What's On
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T'was the Season to be Jolly

While most of Saltash residents enjoying sharing seasonal fare and fun with family and friends there were some who might have been alone and isolated within the community. At the January Town Council meeting Mayor Councillor Hilary Frank paid tribute to the volunteers of Saltash Age Concern who organised two full pre-Christmas turkey dinners for the elderly of the town, together with lively entertainment. She also thanked Saltash Baptist Church and its team of volunteers for hosting a Christmas day lunch at the church for those living alone and organising transport for them



Snowy Saltash

All, especially the children, who were guaranteed a white Christmas street party by the snow machine in Fore Street, loved a winter wonderland in snowy Saltash. Hundreds packed the pedestrianised street and several shops reported record takings as festival goers viewed the festively decorated shop windows. The children of St. Stephens School who took their job of judging the best decorated shop window for the Saltash Chamber of Commerce Cup very seriously selected 'The Bookshelf'.

Once again the evening culminated in a fantastic lantern parade up the street with children and adults proudly bearing hand made illuminations of fantastic shapes and colour.



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Photo by Jamie Quinn

A wonderful backdrop to welcome the visitors to the Waterside in December; where Santa arrived with gifts for the children, and everyone joined in to sing the Christmas Carols, around the tree.

Memorable Party

Christmas time at Rowan House always includes a memorable party of food, fun and frolic. Christ and Mike of Rowan House are seen getting in party spirit to share the fun with residents, their families and staff. Pass the parcel proved an absorbing activity of endless unwrapping to one member of staff bringing great hilarity to those watching her progress as the parcel diminished.

Festive Lights Volunteers are Thanked

As Saltash enjoyed its feast of festive lights over the recent Christmas season few residents will have been aware that they would not exist had it not been for a few civic minded citizens who risked their own homes to fund their supports.

A presentation was made at the December Town Council meeting to David Wilde who was the major force in ensuring that the fine string of lights that straddle Fore Street could go up.

Around ten years previously, Mayor Councillor Hillary Frank told the council, local volunteers eager to see the town in full festive mood at Christmas, asked the owners of shops along

Fore Street for permission to attach strings of lights spanning the street to their premises. However the number of refusals, on the basis that the buildings might be damaged, made this impossible.

The volunteers then proceeded to mortgage their own homes in order to pay for new posts to be placed along the street from which the lights could be suspended.

Since then David Wilde has continued to check and maintain the lights, ensure that they are in full working order before the switch on, and to throw the switch as the citizen and junior citizen of the year carry out the official switch on. The Mayor presented him, during the council meeting, with a limited edition framed print of the town in recognition of his voluntary work to enhance the town's festive spirit.

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saltash.net Re-accredited as International School



Saltash.net was recently re-accredited as an International School, recognising the school's ability to bring an international dimension to teaching and learning.

To mark the award, former Headteacher Isobel Bryce, alongside Miss Tremellat and Mrs Carr from the Languages department at saltash.net attended a celebration at Plymouth Council House on Thursday 10 November.

Also in attendance representing the school were Year 13 students Dan Frankland and Zac Hyams, who confidently spoke of the opportunities they have received at saltash.net.

British Council Ambassador, Jill Bailey, said Dan and Zac "definitely stole the show and really impressed the audience."

After the event, Zac said, "It was great to see all the

International work going on in the area because it's so important that young people are involved in international enterprises and learn about the world we live in."

The award means the school is accredited until 2021, having first been awarded back in 2010.

Miss Tremellat added: "We are very proud to have received this award in the presence of the Mayors of Saltash and Plymouth, as well as our Head Teacher. Receiving this award recognises the great range of international opportunities which our students have here at saltash.net."

Saltash.net's performance of 'Billy Elliot' produced four fantastic evenings of entertainment, with tremendous performances from all cast members. Set against the backdrop of the 1984/85 Miners' Strike in North Eastern England, the play tells the story of young Billy, who pursues his dream of becoming a ballet dancer, despite the obstacles he faces.

Assuming the role of Billy was Year 7's Spencer Dunne, who performed with skill and talent beyond his years. Performing central roles were Bradley Sweet, who played Billy's best friend Michael, and Richard Tolman, playing Billy's Dad. Performing other key roles were Tommy Williams, as Billy's brother Tony, Emily Lambert as Billy's supportive dance teacher Mrs Wilkinson, Chloe Lynch as Grandma, and Sophie Watson as Debbie.

Also deserving of mention are the two understudies, who shadowed the parts of Billy and Michael – Jack Mills and George Edge, as well as Megan Kelly who performed as Mother and Drew Brett who took on the role of George.

The full cast together numbered 65 students, with 10 students helping to work behind the scenes to ensure the production was a success. One of the huge challenges facing the Performing Arts department was the iconic dream ballet scene, which required a huge degree of work and was performed fantastically.

Refreshments at the

Record Numbers Attend 'Billy Elliot' Performances



performances were provided in the canteen by the Friends of Saltash and World Challenge team.

With the performing rights for 'Billy Elliot' only released in January 2016, saltash.net's Performing Arts department lost little time securing a license, becoming one of the first schools to gain performing rights.

saltash.net's links with 'Billy Elliot' go back many years, as ex-student, Josh Fedrick, performed the lead role of Billy in the West End production during 2008-9.

Head of Performing Arts, Matt Oakes, expressed his

delight at the success of the performance.

He said: "It's been a long project but worth every minute. It's taken about 8 months to get the show ready due to the high level of technical demand in choreography and allowing our young talented actors to absorb themselves in the show.

The whole company have been fantastic to work with and we've had a lot of fun.

"We were overwhelmed with the number of people who came to watch the shows with record numbers each night, in fact, we had to have a standby queue each night to

try and fit them all in.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the production, including

members of our community, we honestly couldn't have done it without your support."

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Beavers were Eager Beavers at Home

Beavers Scouts from 2nd Saltash Riverbank and Maple Colonies recently visited the Elliott Store and Museum in Saltash which is part of the Tamar Protection Society. They were given a warm welcome by two of the stores volunteer stewards, 'Gerry Sweet and Mike Couch.'

The Beavers discovered a whole host of information about the Store and the Elliott family who owned it, and were intrigued to see behind the scenes. They asked many questions and were even entrusted to hold an old one pound note that dated back to long before decimalisation.

They were so enthralled at what they had learnt and seen that they wanted to raise some money to say thank you and to help keep the store open for others to see. The Beavers set about doing good deeds by doing chores and helping others at home.



For each one completed they collected coins from their family and friends, raising a whopping £94.35. 'Oak Beaver' their leader stated that she was incredibly proud of all the Beavers not just on how they conducted themselves during the visit by being extremely polite and courteous but also for their enthusiasm in completing as many deeds to collect money to support the store.

The feedback from many of the parents was also impressive as the Beavers had shown such determination at home to 'do their best,' which is a part of their Scout Promise.

The presentation took place at 11am on Saturday 3 Dec 16.

Conundrum Corner

Taking the initial letter to the one-word answers to the following eight questions can you re-arrange them to make a Cornish place name?

- 1 In C. S. Lewis's Chronicles of Narnia what sort of creature is Aslam? (4)
- 2 Of what material is the Statue of Eros in Piccadilly Circus made? (9)
- 3 How many Symphonies did Beethoven complete? (4)
- 4 The Warthog is native to which Continent? (6)
- 5 Henry VII and Mary I were both members of which Royal Household? (5)
- 6 What type of transport is a Funicular? (7)
- 7 Pecans and Pistachios are types of what? (4)
- 8 What, in Paris, is the Sorbonne? (10)

Answers on Page 8

SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...



I hope that all your readers have had a very merry Christmas and that Santa was good to everyone. I would like to add a special thanks to everyone who worked over Christmas and New Years to keep the rest of us safe be it in our military or in our emergency and other services. My thoughts at this time are with those who are alone who have perhaps lost a loved one. Also I want to send out a special get well soon to all those who are unwell and thank again all those who are caring for them.

It was very sad to hear of the death on Christmas day of George Michael who tragically did have his last Christmas. This year has been a sad one for deaths, especially those in the public eye such as singers David Bowie & Prince and actors such as Gene Wilder & Andrew Sachs and household names like Terry Wogan, Caroline Aherne, Victoria Wood, Ronnie Corbett, Mohammed Ali and Paul Daniels. There are too many to name in a short column but my thoughts are with their families.

It was also good to attend the annual Christmas Lights switch on in Saltash which took place on Saturday evening. I was delighted to see so many people in Fore Street for the Countdown and the stalls were fantastic. We even had our own man-made snow which added to atmosphere of the evening.

I also attended the licensing of The Revd. Catherine Sigris as Priest in Charge of the Saltash Team Ministry with St. Erney & Botus Fleming. I always enjoy visiting St Stephens Church where my daughter was bridesmaid to some very dear friends some

years ago. It was good to catch up with some of my constituents and other clergy who had attended the service.

Officially welcoming Catherine, I told her that I hoped that we could work together for the benefit of the people of Saltash. I have always intended that my main office in Liskeard should work with other organisations for people who are in need of help and together we can try to improve people's lives.

At the end of the year it is right to review some of the political events of the year. In May we saw the election of a new Police & Crime Commissioner in Alison Hernandez. In Alison I feel I have someone who I can pick up the phone to and someone who keeps me in touch with what is happening with our policing. I would like to thank her for the efforts she puts in.

Obviously the big political news in this country was the decision taken by this constituency, Cornwall and the country to leave the European Union administrative unit. It was clear when I was knocking on doors that people felt the organisation was undemocratic and that we needed to take back control. It is one that I agreed with. Parliament has accepted the will of the people and has voted clearly that we should sign Article 50 to facilitate this in the next 3 months, by the

end of March. I am looking forward to getting on with the proper negotiations with the rest of Europe and getting the best deal possible for the UK.

Lastly I would like to wish all your readers a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Saltash Music, Speech and Drama Festival

The 27th Anniversary of the Saltash Music, Speech and Drama Festival will take place at the Saltash Wesley Church from 23rd January to 4th February 2017.

As in previous years, the committee are looking forward to an exciting festival, with a wide range of classes involving all age groups and providing an opportunity for all performers to receive positive feedback from our Professional Adjudicators, Marilynne Davies (Vocal), Edwina Lloyd (Speech) and Elizabeth Childs (Instrumental).

Sessions will be held on most days during the two weeks of the Festival, details of classes, entrance fees and times can be found in the official programme, which is available from Saltash Wesley Church, Callington Road.

The event is open to everyone who is interested in the arts, it is always advantageous for entrants to perform to a larger audience. The Festival will end with a Gala Concert, showcasing the winners of many of the classes. Anyone wishing to support the Festival, by becoming a 'Friend' of the Festival, can contact Mrs. C Stratton on 01752 847427. A minimum donation offers free entry to all classes throughout the two week Festival and your name in the programme. (This does not include the Gala Concert).

The committee and those involved look forward to welcoming you to this year's Festival.

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Pictured above U14s and U16s girls teams who took part in a recent charity match in aid of Little Harbour Children's Hospice.

Charity Games Raise £400 for Little Harbour

Over Christmas and New Year Saltash Youth FC organised two matches one between the two adult teams linked to the club, St Stephens Borough and Saltash Old Boys, the other the u14s and u16s girls youth teams.

The two events raised just over £300 and with a further donation from the club Little Harbour will be receiving a cheque for £400.

Secretary Kevin Roberts would like to thank all those who took part in the events and hope to make this an annual event.

Euchre Players Presentation to Hospital



Local euchre players in the Saltash and District League chose their local community hospital as their charity of the season. Chairman of the League of Friends of St Barnabas Joyce Mepsted, together with Mary Shears, were delighted to accept a cheque for £150.00 from the league of Euchre players. Pictured left to right Tony Kidd Steve Smale Joyce Mepsted, Dan Ball, Abi Cross and Mary Shears

Essa Files

The new year has always been a time for thinking about new beginnings, and even more so for me this year. 2016 has been a rather 'interesting' year with several global events that I wasn't personally very keen on, as well as the deaths of a lot of people who made a significant impact on people's lives. On top of that though 2017 sees at least two major changes of significance in Saltash.

The first is the change of Headteacher at the school. At the end of last term we said farewell to Isobel, retiring after 14 years, with a series of emotional and moving tributes. I'm sure that everyone in Saltash – staff, students and parents past and present as well as the rest of the community of which the school is such a vital part – wishes her all the best for a long and happy retirement.

In January we in turn say 'welcome' to Kate, who has worked at the school for several years already but is now taking over as Head with a series of interesting and exciting challenges ahead – to build on the past, but also to tackle the future as education and society continue to change rapidly. Again I have no doubt that everyone in Saltash wishes her the very best of luck.

The second upcoming change arrives with the council elections in May. Both Cornwall Council & Saltash Town Council have all-out elections, and several councillors, me included, are standing down. It's vital that

the new council gets that critical mix of experience and appreciation of what has gone before with new ideas and perspectives to help move forwards. I'm particularly keen that elections for the Town Council should be contested – I personally felt much happier being elected after a vote in 2007 then being elected uncontested in 2013 because I felt I actually had a proper mandate. What's more if too few people stand for election then that can affect the Town Council's status as a 'quality council' which could in turn mean the loss of some of our powers.

With that in mind I'd be happy to chat about the work of the Town Council to anyone interested (contact details on the Town Council website). If you have previously thought about standing for either council, or indeed if you are critical of what they currently do and feel you could do better, now is the time to give some serious thought to putting your money where your mouth is.

Adam Killeya

Rise in Crime Concerns Council

The latest local crime figures put to the town council showed a marked increase over the month, councillors were concerned to note.

Anti-Social behaviour in particular has increased to thirty reported offences while violent and sexual offences were up to nineteen. There had been seven burglaries and five offences of criminal damage and arson as well as three of shoplifting, two of public order and one 'other crime'.

The public order offences could be largely attributable to gangs of young people, some coming from Plymouth and elsewhere outside the town, congregating in Fore Street. Local PC Kirsty Down had previously advised that they were gathering in particular around Barclays Bank, taking advantage of the wi-fi facility available there outside of banking hours. PC Down had previously advised as to direct action to be taken by police to

deal with the issue. The Town Council agreed to write to the police expressing concern at rising local crime figures.

On a more positive note councillors were advised that the person who had taken a British Legion Poppy appeal box from St. Barnabas Hospital had been identified. 'Much good may the £3 in it do them', added Deputy Mayor Councillor Mrs Jean Dent.

Councillor Resigns

Tribute was paid by Mayor Councillor Hilary Frank to the years of work for the town put in by Lee Russell who has resigned from the Town Council for personal reasons.

This would normally bring about a by-election were there to be a demand from ward residents. However as it is less than six months until the full council is up for election there is no requirement for this. The current council could co-opt a councillor for the remaining months but agreed instead to leave the position vacant.

Anyone considering standing for the new town council in May is reminded that workshops are being organised for potential candidates and information on them is available at the Guildhall.

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Billy Elliot Brings Musical Magic to Gritty Tale of Class Conflict



This gritty drama in which working class conflict is set against a boy’s dreams of being a dancer must be the greatest challenge saltash.net academy has set itself for its Christmas stage show. Yet it proved a triumph as the vivacious cast of hundreds (well seventy but it seemed for more) sang and danced their way through one of the first ever school productions of ‘Billy Elliot’. Saltash School was already associated with the show, one time student Josh Fedrick having been granted leave of absence to play the title role on the West End stage.

The auditions had been held at local feeder schools and Spencer Dunne, now 11, had been at Burraton when he was selected for the title role. The musical is almost entirely sung through and he was scarcely ever off the stage where his lively and professionally timed dancing and singing blended with boundless energy in contracts of musical modes. Fifteen year old Bradley Sweet well rose with evident enjoyment to the equally challenging role of Billy’s cross-dressing friend Michael and the song and dance routines in which they celebrated their ‘individual-it-ee’ was clearly an audience favourite. This was immediately contrasted with the pathos of Billy musically recalling his deceased mother, and then by shadow dancing against a background of police shields – it was that kind of action packed show.

It was also a highly politicised show, as evidenced by the exuberant full-cast opener to the second half ‘Merry Christmas Mrs. Thatcher’. Billy’s father and older brother, played by Richard Tolman and Tommy Williams well portrayed their loyalty clashes between supporting their striking miner colleagues and seeking to help Billy in his own form of escape from what was accepted as a dying community. Aiding Billy in the role that Julie Walters had made her own Emily Lambert, the dancing school teacher who brought her own tough pathos to helping Billy reach the world to which she could never aspire, she was well supported by Sophie Watson as her feisty daughter Debbie. The full cast excellently maintained their Geordie accents which we are told they found hard to drop after the rehearsals.

With its background of hardship and of class hatred of police and Tory Prime Minister this could make for an evening of grim realism.

But the exuberance of our saltash.net students ensured that their sheer joie de vivre together with their excellently choreographed routines, cheered and delighted the packed houses who thunderously applauded the final curtain call in which all, including police and miners were clad in tutus.

The full cast is to be congratulated on an uplifting performance into which so much hard work had evidently been put, not least by director Matt Oates, who once again produced some stupendous lighting effects,

by musical director Mark Bond and a full and busy backstage team.

Co-op Closing for Refurbishment

Saltash town centre’s main food outlet will be closed for two weeks from 2 p.m. on 19th January. It is intended to re-open on 3rd February.

This is to enable the store to refurbish its freezers and to remove asbestos from the premises, built in the 1930’s. Shoppers are promised an improved shopping experience on the re-opening.

Church Members Come Together to Welcome Cathy as Priest in Charge

Members of many local churches, clergy and laity packed St. Stephens Church Saltash to welcome the Rev’d Cathy Sigrist as new Priest in Charge. She was licensed and installed by the Rt. Rev’d Chris Goldsmith, Bishop of St. Germans, and now assumes charge of both St. Stephens and St. Nicholas, churches Saltash as well as Botus Fleming, Landrake and St, Erney.

A Londoner by birth our new priest had previously served for six and a half years as rector of Kingsdown in Kent where she had also been active on the local council. She comes to Saltash alone but has family in the New Forest area of Hampshire.

During her inauguration service she was formally welcomed and wished well by the Mayor of Saltash, Methodist and Baptist Ministers, and the headmistress of Bishop Cornish School with a pupil.

Following the service a scrumptious feast was served, prepared by members of the various parishes, giving Cathy Sigrist the opportunity to start meeting socially with her new parishioners as well as some well wishers from her former parish.

She confirmed to the Observer that she was delighted with the welcome she had received in Saltash, was pleased to be here and greatly looked forward to her ministry in the town and rural parishes around.

There had been an ‘interregnum’ in the parishes since the retirement of the Rev. Canon Alan Butler.

Mayoral Election System to Change

Following the problems created in 2016 at the election of the town’s Deputy Mayor, when the unsuccessful candidate proposed a vote of no confidence in the then current Mayor and made complaint against the Town Clerk, a task force chaired by the Mayor for 2016-17 has prepared a new policy for mayoral election. This policy was unanimously adopted by the Town Council.

In a year when there is no Town Council election the Mayor will seek written nominations for Mayor and Deputy Mayor at the March council meeting, with these written submissions, including proposers and seconders, to be submitted to the Town Clerk within seven days. There will then be a special council meeting called within twenty-eight days solely to elect the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Elections will then be carried out by recorded vote in accordance with standing orders, the Chair of the meeting to give a casting vote in the event of a tie. The candidate achieving a clear majority will be nominated as Mayor at the annual meeting of the Town Council in May.

In a year when the full Town Council is up for election, such as 2017, then as soon as possible after the elections and in any event within four days the Town Clerk will call for written nominations to be submitted to himself by the sixth day after the election. A special meeting will be held on the eight day after the election solely to elect a Mayor and Deputy Mayor. This will be the procedure to be adopted in May of this year.



Did you enjoy the Kalan Gwav Festival?

Want to be part of the team to deliver this year’s Festival? Then come along to Saltash United Football Club Thursday 9th February at 6pm

Tour of Britain May Pass Through Town

Saltash may see the world’s top cyclist’s speed around the town and over the Tamar Bridge. Saltash, and other towns in Cornwall, have been asked for views about Cornwall hosting a stage of the Tour of Britain, British cycling’s premier road cycling event. It attracts some of the world’s best teams and riders including, in 2016 Mark Cavendish and Sir Bradley Wiggins. Media interest is substantial with daily live television coverage. In 2015 coverage of the tour was broadcast in 129 countries.

The tour organisers have confirmed to Councillor Dave Potter of Helston that a bid from Cornwall to host a stage would be considered for either 2019 or 2020 with a finish in either Plymouth or Exeter, meaning it likely that competitors would pass over the Tamar Bridge.

This could attract a potential worldwide audience of over a hundred million, and 154,000 average live spectators per stage, 18% being visitors who stay overnight.

Saltash Town Council agreed by a vote of 9 to 1 to support in principal the Tour of Britain coming to Cornwall and through the town, the dissenting voice being that of Councillor Joe Ellison who expressed concern as to added traffic congestion. The event is held in September near the end of the main tourist season.

The Town Council also agreed to canvas the views of local retailers through the Chamber of Commerce.

Conundrum Answers:

Answers: 1 Lion 2 Aluminium 3 Nine 4 Africa 5 Tudor 6 Railway 7 Nuts 8 University Re-arranged the letters spell Altarianum

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THE PLOUGHBOY

Liskeard Rd Saltash

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

Book early to try our

New Sunday Carvery – choice of meats

With an imaginative array of seasonal fresh vegetables & Lesley’s special home made Yorkshire Puddings

Adults £7.95 & Children 12yrs & under £5.95

Enjoy a Sunday Lunch with family and friends

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(See Mike & Joan for further details)

Celebrate at ‘The Ploughboy’

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Tel: 01752 842861 for more details

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Comprehensive Menu with Specials Board

Ploughboy Favourites

Introducing

New Delicious and Innovative Cuisine for all the family

Choose from our New & Varied Menu:

From Starters to Mains to inc...

Steaks & Grills – Vegetarian Options

Children’s Tastes – Fish Dishes & Light Bites

To see more & to try the new menu...

Call in or telephone to make a booking.

Gluten Free & Vegetarian selection available

Children’s Menu with healthy alternatives

Most dishes can be made to suit Gluten Free dietary needs please ask when ordering

Food available...

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

Evening Meals available from...

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

Saturdays from 12noon-8.30pm

Sundays from 12noon-8-00pm

Clubs, Organisations & Coaches Welcome

Please book to avoid disappointment

We are open for Morning Coffee & Afternoon Tea

Experienced Bar Staff Required

Call 01752 842861 for bookings

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

Bookings advisable