

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

January 2018 - Issue 310

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Stark 'Sheds' and Car Congestion Cause Rejection of Carkeel Plans

A drive-through McDonald's restaurant sited near the entrance to the proposed new shopping development by Carkeel roundabout would cause traffic chaos, Saltash Town Councillors feared. An amended planning application for the Sandford Garage site had been submitted following Aldi pulling out of the original development proposal.

The new plans for a mixed-use scheme including three retail units and the McDonalds and a Costa Coffee shop.

However it was considered by Saltash Council that the siting of the McDonalds; with limited and, they believed, insufficient room for queuing could prevent other traffic from entering the site. More significantly it could lead to tailback along Gilston Road into Callington Road and even back to Carkeel roundabout. Local experience at McDonalds in Coypool, Marsh Mills at Costa at Marsh Mills and both McDonalds and Costa at Marsh Barton, Exeter, was quoted in support of this concern over congestion. The council recommended that the McDonalds restaurant should be re-located within the site, or the road layout re-designed to allow more queuing capacity on site.

The landscaping proposed for the overall development was also held to be totally inadequate and would not mitigate the stark appearance

of the large retail 'sheds' as seen from Carkeel roundabout, the gateway to Cornwall. Town Councillors held that the prominent new shops would be a distraction to drivers on the busy roundabout and they described also as 'stark' the 'tarmac desert' of the parking area which needs some internal planted areas.

The Saltash Neighbourhood Plan, currently nearing completion, include an attractive and well landscaped 'boulevard' along the prominent entrance to the town from Carkeel along Callington Road to the town centre. This is considered to be critical in maintaining the viability of the town centre and was called for by local residents in the public survey carried out in 2015.

The current architectural design of the frontage of the retail units and the external finishes chosen are considered by councillors to be poor and out of keeping with the proposed gateway to the town. Town Councillors recommended refusal of the current development plans.

A 'Roaring' Success for Landulph in the Jungle



The jungle came to life in Landulph Memorial Hall last week, when the children of Landulph School performed The Jungle Book, hailed unanimously as the school's best show in recent history! The whole school was involved, with as many children as possible on the stage throughout; children became trees, rocks and flowers as well as many jungle animals, creating a wonderful living backdrop behind the main action. The individual performances of particular characters astounded the audience with their maturity, stage presence and clarity. Singing all the well-known, popular songs with abundant enthusiasm, the children clearly enjoyed entertaining their

appreciative audience. Mrs Best, the headteacher, thanked the children and staff, particularly noting their exceptional team work and camaraderie, which led to the success of this year's show. Mr Buckley, CEO of SMART was in the audience for the evening performance and was taken aback by the children's talent, in particular how each child had the chance to be the star of the show. Throughout 2017, the children of Landulph School have had countless opportunities to expand their learning across an exciting varied curriculum, including sport, creative arts, outdoor learning, inter school activities and trips as far afield as London! The show was a fitting end to such a successful year!

Labour Stalwarts Start Local Party

Following the unexpected boost in the fortunes of the national Labour Party in last summer's snap general election a Saltash Labour Party has been reformed and held its first meeting in December.

There were presentations given by speakers who work with Citizens Advice Bureau and the local Foodbank, both organisations being dependant on charitable donations for their work. The CAB was reported as being under threat locally, with Cornwall Council proposing to half its support grant over the next year and eliminates the grant altogether the following year. A report from Becky Moore on the forthcoming reform of the benefits system and its affect on claimants in Saltash noted that Universal Credit will be introduced to the Saltash postcode area on 17th January 2018 with new claimants waiting six weeks for payment.

Two Saltash Foodbank volunteers praised the support of the community and local supermarkets but suggested that donors might consider offering a wider variety of household items. They added that the organisation is also in need of some financial support.

'The success of Gareth Derrick in pushing the Lib Dem Candidate into third place at the general election means that local Liberal Democrats can no longer say that a Labour vote is wasted,' a spokesperson for Saltash Labour proclaimed. 'Labour in South East Cornwall is growing rapidly and it is time for Saltash Labour Party members and supporters to step forward and make the case for Labour in Saltash.'

The next meeting will be at Burraton Methodist Church on 22nd January when Gareth Derrick, the 2017 parliamentary candidate will be guest speaker.

Police Pass the Message on 'Alert'

A two way community messaging system operated by Devon and Cornwall Police is inviting all to keep in contact via e-mail, text or telephone.

Devon and Cornwall Alert is a scheme designed to connect with communities, advising what is happening in the local area and enabling residents to respond directly with information to the police. Residents can choose to receive information on crime, anti-social behaviour, witness appeals, missing person appeals, community events and local good news. They can specify at what time of day messages should arrive and the method of messaging, e-mail, phone or text.

Registration can be online at alerts.dc.police.uk or by completion of a form available at Saltash Library or from the police.

Chicane Sought For Saltash Street

A hundred metre stretch of road near the town centre has around five junctions, a car park entrance, nine garages and drive entrances plus two blind corners all on an 'S' bend.

A resident whose home adjoins Culver Road told the town council that he constantly hears traffic accelerating around this bend, enjoyed especially by young racers, and that since double yellow lines have been painted on one side of the road, traffic has been even faster. Pedestrians who walk alongside Kingsleigh House, where there is no pavement, are especially endangered.

The answer is not speed humps which would add to the noise issues, the resident believed. Instead he suggested a chicane, narrowing the road opposite Kingsleigh House, would have the desired effect of slowing traffic.

Town Councillors advised

him to address his Cornwall Councillor, since Cornwall Highways have responsibility.

He was also referred to Speedwatch and the town's Road Safety Committee.

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January/February 2018

January 2018

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Sun 21st Jan 9am - 5pm (£15)

Clarks Village (Street) & Shoe Museum

Fri 26th Jan 10am - 3pm (£5.50)

Tavistock Market Day

Sun 28th Jan 11am - 4pm (£6)

Lunch @ Engine House Kit Hill

Wed 31st Jan 3.30pm - 10pm (£12)

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February 2018

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Sat 10th Feb 5.30pm - 10.30pm (£9)

Rolling Stones Story (Tickets £27.50)

Princess Theatre Torquay (7.30pm)

Sun 11th Feb 11pm - 4pm (£6)

Lunch at Dartmoor Lodge Ashburton

Wed 14th Feb 10am-4pm (£10)

Valentine's Day Mystery Trip

Singles only

Thurs 15th Feb 10am - 4pm (£10)

Craft for Crafters - West point Exeter

Fri 23rd Feb 10am - 4pm (£8)

Greenway House & Gardens

Snowdrop time

Sun 25th Feb 11am - 4pm (£12)

Lunch at the Earl of St Vincent

Wadebridge

Trelawney Garden centre

Mon 26th Feb 10am - 4pm (£6)

Trago & Newton Abbot

Town Messenger

Working for the People of Saltash

News from Saltash Town Council
Konsel an dre Essa



Town Messenger Brought to you by the Saltash Observer

As Mayor I am pleased to welcome the Town Messenger into the Saltash Observer, a community newspaper that has already been bringing news of the activities of the Mayor and local councillors to the people of Saltash for over twenty-five years. We look forward to a good and lasting relationship with the Observer.

As I write I with my fellow Councillors are working towards completing the 'precept', the vitally important local budget which will determine how the proportion of your hard earned money which goes towards council tax and is then allocated to the town council (a very small proportion) will be best spent. There will be information on the finalised precept in your February 'Town Messenger'.

The New Year brings with it a great deal to do, including many achievements which we hope to accomplish during 2018 and on which we will update you. We bring you news here on several local projects which are coming closer and moving towards fruition.

Trailer for Not Sale but Rent

Whether or not the various local organisations and volunteer groups who have used the town council owned trailer have been contacted regarding its future, was a question raised by a member of the public at the council's service committee.

The town regatta chairman, it was confirmed, would be keen to ensure that the trailer is retained. It is well used during the two days of regatta and there are possible future events proposed to be organised under the regatta banner at which it might be utilised.

Services committee chair John Brady was uncertain as to how much the trailer had been used over the previous year, but given the previous year's maintenance costs of £516 he doubted that it was economically viable.

It was noted that it had been used for consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan and could

be so used again.

After discussion it was agreed that the trailer be retained for 2018/19 and its viability then be reconsidered annually. A fee, would be introduced to cover maintenance costs.

Enquiries as to hiring of the trailer should be referred through the Guildhall.

Down on the Waterfront

Saltash Town Council has already taken over some of the sites and the responsibilities that were formerly those of Cornwall Council. This policy of devolution will continue through 2018, especially with regard to the Waterside and wider waterfront areas. The town council has already taken on much hereabouts and now employs town and waterfront wardens whose duties will include enhancement of this 'jewel in the crown' of Saltash for the benefit of townspeople and visitors.

During the coming year it is hoped that more of the infrastructure can be devolved to your local council. Areas under review include garages, parking bays and possibly slipways.

Leasing Our Loos!

In order to ensure that our remaining public conveniences are not only retained in use but are, where necessary, renovated and kept to a fit standard, Saltash town council has been negotiating their lease from Cornwall Council.

The leases have now at last been agreed and the town council will then be able to consider what work is required upon each of them.

One immediate visual enhancement planned is the decoration, of the exteriors with artwork carried out by local schoolchildren and currently in storage. Subject to Cornwall Council's agreement (as Lessors) this work will soon add a quirky attraction to these very necessary local conveniences.

Saltash town council has also been negotiating a new lease of the Museum and local history centre with Saltash Heritage and it is hoped that this will soon be concluded with an amicable arrangement acceptable to both parties.

Your Town Council

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T: 844846
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Councillors telephone numbers can be obtained at the guildhall.

Saltash Town Council, The Guildhall, 12 Lower Fore Street, Saltash PL12 6JX
Tel.: 01752 844846 Email: enquiries@saltash.gov.uk Website: www.saltash.gov.uk

Mayoral Matters

Christmas as every year, seems to come upon us fast and after a host of seasonal activities is equally quickly behind us. Here in Saltash we have built up a proud tradition of pre-Christmas celebrations in early December which this year was organised by the Saltash Chamber of Commerce and Industry. May I join with all the hundreds of happy Saltash folk who thronged the street that day in warmly thanking the Chamber and in particular Danielle Frith for the excellent organisation.

A highlight as always was the extra special Lantern parade in which our local children proudly participated. For this we have in particular to thank once again Hillary Frank with support from husband Sho.

Another Christmas highlight for Bill and myself was attending, and meeting the teams at the Christmas Eve Saltash Legends Charity Football match. The fun match was for a good cause, Kits 4 Causes, which

purchases sporting kit for young people in third world countries. Yet while as the game was enjoyed our minds were also focused sadly on a young person from not so far away. The match this year was in memory of young Alfie Hopes who was tragically killed with his mother Laura in a car crash in Landrake last year. Alfie was a keen player in Saltash United Juniors Under 6 team, which his father coached.

On a totally different topic, how many of you, I wonder, have noticed that the planters at the top of Fore Street are prolific with a variety of herbs, planted for the people of Saltash to help themselves and enhance their cooking. Please feel free to do so!

Finally, and above all, on behalf of Bill and myself I would take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a Happy and Prosperous 2018.

*Cllr Jean Dent
Town Mayor*

Station May House Historic Tapestry

The 'Saltash Chronicles', a 160 foot long embroidery portraying the history of the town from pre history to the 21st century may find a home in the station building, newly acquired for the town.

The embroidery, based on that of Bayeux, took a large team of embroiderers, artists, web designers and reprographic workers five years to complete. It has been on public display in the Baptist Church where it has attracted wide interest.

It needs a permanent home and the town council has been asked if the station building, which it is hoped will attract visitors as well as local residents, might be considered for this. 'It would be a great pity as well as a lost opportunity if this amazing work of art has to be dismantled and stored in a cupboard', councillors were told.

Councillor Richard Bickford, who has helped lead the project to acquire and restore the station building, confirmed that the request could certainly be considered. At present there is a range of options as to how the space could best be utilised, and these options include displaying the chronicles.

Letter to the Editor...

Dear Mary
A couple of observations from December issue of the Observer

Bridge Tolls

Interesting reading the front page article on Tamar Bridge Tolls. Most of the arguments put forward are to protect the "cash cow" that Cornwall and Plymouth are milking. Park and Ride would be a good choice, you could get to St. Budeaux easily where there are buses every 30 minutes to Derriford and most other parts of Plymouth. Doing away with the tolls is another non-starter for the same reasons above. When nationally almost all bridges are toll-free why is the Tamar Bridge not?

I've just stated the obvious without a survey so am I

entitled to the £20,000? In addition, if the idea is to reduce traffic on the bridge, why are they spending £3+ million pounds on new palatial offices?

Like Governments and Councils it's always easy to spend other peoples money!

Police

The 900 crimes in the year equates to about 75 a week. How often do you see a policeman or woman? Occasionally see the odd car waiting at Burraton traffic lights and sometimes police officers getting their lunch in Lidl or Waitrose. Can't remember the last time I saw a PCSO. Where are they?

*Bill Kennington
Saltash*

Embroidered Crest finds Home with Heritage

A beautifully hand stitched and framed embroidery showing the Saltash Town Coat of Arms has been donated for display in the town's museum in memory of Dr. Sally Gibb, one of the eager volunteers who helped create the Saltash Chronicles tapestry.

Dr. Gibb had passed a happy retirement in the town, eagerly involving herself in many local activities, including the Chronicles Tapestry, temporarily on display in the Baptist Church and now seeking a permanent home. The Chronicles, in the style of the renowned Bayeux Tapestry, artistically tells the story of Saltash from prehistory to the

erection of the Cornish Cross. Following the death of Dr. Gibb her granddaughter Rowan Jones decided to pass the embroidered Coat of Arms to the museum, and with Andrew Triton, who devised the Chronicles project she formally presented it to Saltash Heritage Chairman Bob Munro.

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Peter Ryland Chamber Chairman – Keeping us Updated...

The Chamber has often been accused of being town centre orientated and I can understand why with the majority of our active members being town centre based. However, we do have members on the industrial estates and through the efforts of our Membership Secretary, Dave Jones at PSP Insurance, we are looking to encourage a greater membership from other businesses on the outskirts of Saltash.

For many of these businesses the need for representation will be different to that of the businesses on Fore Street as the issues will be different. However, with our affiliation with the larger Chambers of Cornwall and Devon there is assistance that can be given, if necessary, but there is also the wider range of businesses of a similar nature where networking can be useful.

In the forthcoming months these businesses could be affected by rising oil prices (re. transportation costs) a potential uplift in interest rates and, the one that is talked about almost every day on the news, Brexit.

But there are other issues such as holdups at Carkeel roundabout, the cost of crossing the Tamar Bridge, the availability of land for expansion and the availability of personnel for any expansion in employment.

Although, as a Chamber, we do not employ staff we do have members who can help or have relevant channels to put members in touch with somebody who can help/advise. Turning to other matters, I am hopeful that Citizen's Advice Cornwall can find a way to keep its office in Saltash open. I am told that the

financial advice/direction it has given to several businesses and employees has been invaluable. To travel to other towns to be able to obtain such help is not possible to many people as they cannot spend the time away from the business or have enough time off.

Finally, it is a shame to see another shop closed (Driftwood in Keast Mews) but this only shows the precarious nature of retail and, at the time of writing, there are many national retailers who are also feeling the pinch, luckily, as far as I am aware, none of those in Saltash. But, as I have said before, if consumers can support the Fore Street then it will survive but inevitably it will change as the whole retail sector is changing with more people buying on-line. I, personally, did not buy a single thing on-line or mail order this Christmas I may have paid a bit more but did not have to deal with returning goods that were not as they appeared on screen or in the catalogue. Nor had to wait in for deliveries or had to go to a delivery depot to collect. I do believe in being able to see, touch, smell or hear an item before buying.

Happy New Year.

Letters Page...



Saltash Community Services Hopper Bus Outing New Year's Day

Tragedy was avoided today by the quick calm controlled action taken by Michael Finch the volunteer driver of the "Hopper" Saltash Community Bus, who was taking us to Sunday lunch at the Portbryhan Hotel in Looe. Coming down the St. Martins road hill just before the junction with the A387 Station road into Looe, he brought the "Hopper" bus to a halt as he caught a glimpse of a large leafy branch sliding down the high embankment onto the road 50 yards head of us. Fortunately his action saved us from being hit by a large, (possibly 3 foot diameter, 30 foot plus long), tree trunk which followed! I was one of 15 Senior Citizens on the outing, who, but for his alert awareness of the situation, would have been seriously injured at the very least, along with my fellow passengers, had the tree fallen on top of the bus or hit us a sideways glance, which would have overturned the vehicle onto the oncoming traffic on the A387! Two cars had only just gone through the junction as the first branch hit the road, they were probably unaware of their good fortune and we were only too aware of just

how lucky we were! On behalf of my fellow passengers who praised Michael for his prompt action, I would like to thank him sincerely in saving us from harm... Respect Michael, thank you.

Tony Savage
Saltash

Dive in to Japanese Culture at Saltash Library!

Saturday 17th February
10:30 to 12:30

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Hopper Passengers Praise Driver in Near Disaster

Passengers en route to a seasonal lunch at a hotel in Looe praised the quick thinking of Saltash Hopper bus driver Mike Finch when a tree fell directly in front of them and a potentially serious or fatal accident was narrowly averted.

Mike was driving the second of two Hopper buses down the winding and tree lined hill into the Looe valley as he and the passengers noticed a leafy tree branch coming down from the hill above just ten metres or so ahead. As the bus paused they saw a tree trunk slide, as though in slow motion and fall at 45% across the road ahead. Had the bus proceeded it could have cut the vehicle in half.

'Mike was brilliant, with no panicking he turned the bus in the narrow road and drove back up the hill, warning other drivers that the road was impassable', said one of the passengers, Miss Ursula Davey. An alternative route was followed and all were able to join with the other busload to share a convivial lunch. All were united in praising the steady nerves of their driver.



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Pick Up a Painted Pebble

A fun and friendly art project described as promoting our wonderful town has been spreading smiles around Saltash.

Taking inspiration from Plymouth Pebble Art, now "Saltash Rocks" promote amateur artists who are able and willing to paint, nail varnish, or otherwise decorate a pebble or small rock is then left somewhere on a street, park or elsewhere for a passer by to pick it up. The picker up can photograph it, take it home or leave it for someone else to enjoy. You don't have to be a Van Gogh says the Saltash Rocks facebook page.

One found outside the Ashtorre Rock proved especially appropriate to a recent divorcee. He enjoyed the picture of a fish with its legend "swim in your own direction" and brought together a group of coffee drinkers to share and smile over it.

Healthy & Safe

Helping to ensure that Cornwall's children are healthy and safe is a key priority for Cornwall Council. With two young children myself, it's been an area of particular interest to me, and I've been a member of the committee that looks at children's services since first getting elected to Cornwall Council 5 years ago. Over that time, I've been dazzled by the range of services that Cornwall Council provides for children: from social care to school nursing and services to meet the needs of children with disabilities. Indeed, £26 of every £100 Cornwall Council spends goes on helping children and young people get the best start in life they can.

I've also been mighty impressed with the commitment and vision of officers and staff. Pulling together, they have helped lift Cornwall Council's Children & Family Services (CFS) out of an OFSTED rating of 'Inadequate' to 'Good'. This puts Cornwall's CFS in the top 25% of children's services in the country that have been



CORNWALL COUNCIL

and our PL12 community

For Observer readers

From Councillor Hilary Frank
Saltash South



inspected under the new, rigorous OFSTED inspection framework.

Not content with 'Good', the ambition is to get to 'Outstanding'. Doing more of the same won't be enough, though, especially when other community health services are commissioned by partners such as NHS Kernow. As a result, the pathways for families to access advice and support remain fragmented. A consistent message in feedback is that people want to tell their story once, get the help they need when they need it, and have one trusted professional as a single point of contact for their multi-disciplinary support plan.

Vulnerable Families

It'll be especially hard to get to Outstanding, too, when the gap between resource and demand is growing at such an alarming rate. Despite being the second most deprived region in Northern Europe, children's services in Cornwall has one of the lowest pro-rata funded operational service budgets in the UK. Since 2010, reductions in Cornwall Council's children's services budgets have been in excess of 30%, with budget cuts of £3.4m in 2016/17 alone. And this all comes at a time when the numbers of children and

young people living in Cornwall are increasing. The 0-25 age group is set to grow by 14% by 2030 - which means an additional 21,000 children, young people and young adults. At the same time, there are around 20,000 children in Cornwall already living in poverty, and this is set to increase as the welfare reforms impact upon the most vulnerable families, particularly in relation to housing benefits where Cornwall Council is already seeing an increase in requests for help. As well as directly impacting on vulnerable families, this growing gap presents a strategic and critical risk to Cornwall Council, and officers at our December meeting of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee painted a gloomy picture of the stark reality that confronts us.

Cornwall is certainly not alone in its predicament - local governments across the country are facing similar financial stress. Within this context, the Local Government Finance Settlement announced by the Government last December was disappointing and frustrating. Cornwall Council has been lobbying the Government for fairer funding, but instead of providing funding from central taxation, which would have meant that people with greater financial incomes would have contributed proportionately more, the Government chose to allow local authorities the option of increasing council tax by an extra 1%. In

Cornwall's case, an extra 1% will generate just £2.7 million - less than half the amount of cuts CFS was required to make in 2016/17. Not only is a 1% council tax rise insufficient to meet needs, a blanket rise of 1% for everyone means lower income groups will be disproportionately affected. And, of course, local authorities will bear the brunt of residents' displeasure, because the perception will be that it is local authorities who are demanding more money from residents.

The budget pressures faced by CFS are amplified by the level of deficit in local health agency budgets. Partner agencies are struggling to operate within available resources without cutting vital services, and this is likely to result in false economies to the total bottom line of health and social care budgets.

Proactive

Instead of simply wringing their hands, though, officers at Cornwall Council have been proactive in seeking out solutions. They want to be innovative, they want to be in a position where they are able to deliver great services that will lead to positive outcomes. They see integration of CFS services with children's health services as the optimum way forward, and have managed to secure a grant of £1.9m from the Department for Education's Social Care Innovation Programme to explore a business case for setting up a company that would deliver integrated services through multi-disciplinary teams, under single-management decision making, processes and accountability. The vision is that this would be a not-for-profit, Teckal company that is wholly owned by Cornwall Council and accountable to

the people of Cornwall.

Called an 'Alternative Delivery Model' (ADM), it would be a major shift in the way children's services are delivered. Such a revolutionary change requires a great deal of careful thought and analysis, and a great deal of discussion with key partners. Over the summer, a core team of officers worked through the issues involved. In September and October, our committee interviewed people from other local authorities, and held discussions with a range of partner organisations. Our recommendations and the issues we identified were debated at the November Cabinet meeting of Cornwall Council, where it was agreed that work should go ahead in developing a Business Case for an Alternative Delivery Model.

The Business Case will of course be subject to scrutiny and consultation before any final decision is taken on whether to move to an ADM, but given the performance of Cornwall Council's CFS in the top quartile nationally, and given the growing reputation of Cornwall Council nationally as a reliable partner in turning around failing children's services, the Council currently holds a unique position to take a leadership role in the commissioning and scaling-up of fully integrated children's community services for Cornwall, the region and nationally. Our brave new world requires brave New Solutions as well as New Year Resolutions.

Foreshore Footpath by Coombe Creek Refused

After a wait of sixteen years a request for a footpath around the foreshore from the former 'Waterside Inn' to the head of Coombe Creek has been partially allowed by Cornwall Council. However local footpath users consider this useless as the Cornwall Council (Addition of Footpaths at Babis Lane and Town Quay) Modification Order includes two sections, but omits the central link along the tideline. The modification as granted runs behind the sailing club to the end house 'The Jetty' and from Coombe Road down to the high tide mark on the creek. Cornwall Council found evidence that public footpaths existed here and the Rights of Way map should be amended to show them.

However they also considered that there is no evidence to justify including the link along the shoreline, which is not clearly defined; partly at least as it is under water at high tide and could only be used when tidal conditions permit.

Town Councillors expressed concerns at the sixteen year delay in considering the application. They decided to formally object to the decision regarding the path along the tideline, while making clear that they supported the decision regarding the two ends of the route. Hopes were expressed that their objection would be considered more speedily than the original application and that they would not be kept waiting until 2033 for a decision.

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Young Achievers Gain Awards

This is your chance to show how wonderful young people are! The proud teenage recipients of the Duke of Edinburgh bronze and silver awards who gathered in the Guildhall to be given their certificates had often heard this from leader Sarah Green as they struggled through their expeditions and their qualifications in volunteering, physical activities and skills. Now they had each been awarded their certificates by Deputy Chair of Cornwall Council Mrs Hilary Frank, introduced to them as being herself a champion of youth groups and who reminded the young achievers, 'You are our future!'

Over the past year the two

silver and two bronze groups had given over 320 hours of help to the local community. They had walked 1300 kilometres in all weathers during nine days of summer. In doing so they had created their own group meals from apparently random ingredients given to them, 'some more tasty than others'.

Skills practiced ranged from cooking, painting and sewing, through playing an instrument to sailing. They had improved physical fitness through dancing and gym to football, rugby and skiing. Within their community they had volunteered in charity shops, school support, teaching music and rugby, and scouts and guide groups.

The bronze award



certificates were given to Faith Cann, Heather Hart, Finn Hilsdon, Alex Maciver-Redwood, Cameron McFarlane, Eva Pascoe and Max Robins.

Silver award achievers were Lucy Allan, Alice Barrow, Amelia Horne, Rebecca Horne, Ellen Proctor, Edward Rule and Tommy

Williams.

The Saltash Open Award Centre has the highest number of Duke of Edinburgh award participants and achievers, of any in Cornwall, Sarah Green was proud to announce as she thanked all fellow leaders, including husband Luke, for their many volunteer hours of support. She also thanked the

parents for their help especially with transport.

The open award centre is now proudly taking up two gold groups and will be starting a new bronze award group in September. Anyone interested, aged 14 to 25, can check out Saltash open award centre or go straight to Saltashdofe.wordpress.com

Fears for River Tombstoners

Young people who are jumping into the Tamar from high spots under the Tamar Bridges are causing concern to local residents and Councillors.

The tide runs especially fast in the passage under the bridge and there is danger from underwater rocks and other hazards.

The Council's Services Committee had agreed to place warning notices between Waterside and Brunel Green, seeking to discourage the practice. The wording and siting of the notices is to be decided by the newly appointed waterside warden.

Fears for Forder Flooding

Concerns that further development proposed for Forder might so affect the water table as to cause flooding to existing properties led to a recommendation for refusal by Saltash town council.

Two new three bedroom properties had been proposed for the grounds of the house in Barkers Hill.

As well as raising fear that the properties themselves might flood, town councillors expressed concern as to the effect on the Forder community as a whole.

Seasonal Spirit was much in Evidence



The seasonal spirit was much in evidence as residents, their families and friends came together with staff and management for the Rowan House Christmas party.

Live music was provided as usual and soon one and all were joining in Christmas favourites. There was a host

of prizes to be won in the grand draw.

As always a fabulous spread of food, was accompanied by a range of festive drinks.

Chris, Mike and Anna along with the management team and staff wished one and all a Merry Christmas.



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Victorian Villains Steal Burraton Players' Show

The game's afoot and a mystery unfolds as mists of a London Particular fog drift about the Victorian world of detective Charlotte Holmes' Butcher Street. A travelling troupe of Essanians, in London to seek fame and fortune has mysteriously disappeared. Hence 'The Case of the Purloined Panto', a highly original seasonal entertainment from the Burraton Players. The background gave the cast full opportunity to blend rousing chorus numbers with old music hall favourites, the latter care of well known local 'busker' Roger Smith.

It was clearly a case for Holmes, played by Burraton stalwart Leigh Hughes who also wrote the script. But a panto with no dame? Oh yes there is, since Sherlock has substituted deerstalker for dress. He was well supported by Sue Court as sidekick Watson, against the villainy of the

hissable 'Artie' Morrow (Moriarty - geddit?) and his sidekicks played by Mike Temple, Jackie Maitland and Diane Swallow.

It was good to see many familiar faces of Burraton players, and good also to see a number of new faces. The Essanian Players principal pair were played with full dramatic intensity by Helen Roper as Alfie, whose education was 'elementary my dear Watson' and Amy Gunther who fully threw herself into melodramatic mode. Other players familiar and fresh, including Mo Kent, Christina Woolcock, Pat Maddaford, Angela Dechicha Emily Lane and Jill Price, together with 'Evenin' all' Constable Paul Gillard. And clearly an audience's favourite was the youngest newcomer, seven year old Rafi Hadj Lazib who fully entered into the pants spirit.

As well as bringing a

seasonal spirit of fun to the town the Burraton Players contribute generously to local good causes and on the opening night cheques were presented to Plymouth Mind, PL12 Community Enterprise and Childrens' Hospice South West.

Conundrum Corner

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

- 1 From which fragrant flowering plant do we obtain Vanilla? (6)
- 2 What was the American equivalent of British Music Hall called? (10)
- 3 Which English city has two Cathedrals connected by Hope Street? (9)
- 4 In which Country was Adolf Hitler's deputy Rudolf Hess born? (5)
- 5 In the Harry Potter stories what type of creature is Hedwig? (3)
- 6 From which County did the Singing Postman come? (7)
- 7 What is normally carried in a Hod? (6)
- 8 What name is given to a person whose hobby is Birdwatching? (8)
- 9 Which major European river rises in the Swiss Alps, flows through Lake Geneva and through France into the Gulf of Lyon? (5)

Answers on Page 7

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SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...



I would like to wish all my constituents a very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

In the run up to Christmas, we had the Committee stages of both the EU Referendum Bill and also the Finance Bill.

These Bills will now move to the Report stage and the Third Reading before progressing to the House of Lords.

Before Parliament rose for the Christmas recess I was pleased to be able to question the Chancellor of the Exchequer recently about funding for the A38 following the tragic accidents we have seen recently. Philip Hammond confirmed that we have committed to investing over £2 billion in the strategic road network in the south-west, including the first steps towards transforming the A303-A358 route and upgrading sections of the A30. Safety is one of the Government's top priorities, and improvements to strategic roads with safety concerns, such as the A38, will be considered for inclusion within the portfolio of schemes in the second road investment strategy. I will continue to work jointly with other organisations and local Councillors to secure the much needed improvements to this main artery into Cornwall.

I was pleased to lead the Annual Fisheries debate in Parliament ahead of the meeting of fisheries ministers from across the EU in Brussels where catch limits are agreed.

I was also able to thank the rescue services including the lifeboat personnel, the coastguards and the National

Coastwatch volunteers for their selfless service to sea rescues in the Chamberalong with the Fishermen's Mission and the Apostleship of the Sea for the work they carry out supporting fishermen and their families in their time of need.

I raised a number of concerns with the Fisheries Minister, George Eustice MP, ahead of this year's negotiations and welcomed that it would appear that there are a number of species where uplift in Total Allowable Catch is proposed and as a consequence available quota for the UK fleet will increase. I also mentioned that it was also heartening to learn that there has been a serious uplift of opportunities resulting in better quotas from the EU/Norway talks. I also raised concerns about the amount of Dover Sole, Bass and Sprat that can be caught.

I was also keen to look to the future. I was keen to put on record my hopes for the Fishing industry as we Brexit. In particular I was keen that we do not sacrifice access to fishing opportunities for access to markets. I also talked about the future of our control over our territorial waters or the median to 200 mile limit and mentioned the array of vessels we have around the UK to enforce this. I also asked how fisheries are going to be managed on a UK level looking at different ways governments do this around the world.

Finally, I was pleased that the Prime Minister was successful in stage one of the EU negotiations and reaffirmed that we will be leaving the European Union next year. Whilst stage two of the negotiations will see some difficult times, I know that the Prime Minister is determined to respect the decision of the EU Referendum and ensure that the UK will again become a Sovereign Nation.

I have no doubt that 2018 will present challenges but I believe we can face the year ahead with optimism.

Essa Files ...

Happy new year! The changing of the calendar inevitably provokes discussions of both whether the last twelve months have been a 'good year' - personally, nationally or globally - and speculation as to what the next twelve will bring.

Various of my friends have already posted on Facebook their own predictions about 2018, particularly about the political prospects as to who will be Prime Minister, or even President of the USA, come 31st December, and of course where we will be up to with Brexit. I won't bore you with my own crystal ball gazing, but instead want to talk about two significant anniversaries and one significant milestone which 2018 brings.

Anniversary number one is the centenary of the end of the First World War. Whilst hardly anyone remains who directly remembers the conflict, it's impact on our world and the legacy of the sacrifice of millions of lives continues; and it's more important than ever that we remember the costs that conflict can bring. The second is the centenary of a very significant expansion of the electoral franchise - some label this as '100 years since women got the vote' but that's

actually rather misleading. Some women had the vote in local elections before 1918, and it wasn't until 1928 that women got the vote on the same terms as men. Equally prior to 1918 a lot of men did not meet the residency and property rules, so that year was their first opportunity to vote too. For that reason 1918 was a massive leap towards 'proper' democracy, and something worth remembering and honouring.

The milestone ties into both of these anniversaries. On 1st January 2018 we gained our first batch of voting adults who were not born when the millennium countdown clock hit zero just over 18 years ago. Their world is incredibly different not just from 1918 when many of them would be in the trenches or the factories, but even from the world of 25 years ago. This generation has literally never known life without the internet, 24 hours news, or peace in Northern Ireland, to name but three things that were significant developments during my teenage years in the 1990s. Some people like to compare this new group of adults unfavourably to past generations, such as those who fought in the World Wars or to their own post-War

True Meaning of Christmas



generations, but in my experience they tend to be an open-minded, liberal and forward-looking bunch. This is rather fortunate since they are the future of our town, our country and our world, and it's they who will bear the brunt of tackling such challenges as global warming, poverty and extremism.

All of which makes 2018 an important year for looking both backwards and forwards - remembering the struggles of those who got us here, but also having confidence in those who will take us forward.
Adam Killeya

Saltash.net staff and students bring the true meaning of Christmas to the Community

It has become something of a tradition at saltash.net community school for staff to donate to their local foodbank at Christmas time. This is now the 4th year in a row staff have shown their generosity towards those in need. For the first time this year, students have also been invited to donate, with a focus on putting other's needs before your own.

Year 7 students Amy Snook and Leon Kirby helped to deliver the donations to Saltash foodbank where they were gratefully received by Rika Chanter.

Teacher Jennie Benzie said, "Every year I am overwhelmed by the generosity of our staff and students here at saltash.net. We know it makes such a difference to those families in need at Christmas time, and this is what makes us a true community school."

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Saltash Music, Speech & Drama Festival

The 29th Anniversary of the Saltash Music, Speech and Drama Festival will take place at the Saltash Wesley Church from 22nd January to 3rd February 2018.

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, Jeffrey Wynn (Speech) and Christina Thomson (Instrumental).

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

Registry Use Reduced by Limited Hours

Saltash Registry Office, which relocated from spacious premises adjacent to the Callington Road surgery to the first floor of the library building, is little used due in part at least to access problems and limited opening hours.

There is no lift in the building and there is no disabled access to the office, though registrars will see visitors on the ground floor when necessary.

However it is only open now one day each week. This, together with the fact that most local residents give birth in Derriford hospital, and many residents' deaths take place there, mean that there is an increasing propensity for Saltash people to use the fully staffed Plymouth registry office, leaving the future of Saltash's registry in doubt.

The former registry office was also used for marriages but again the nearest registry with this facility is now Plymouth.

Town Mayor Councillor Mrs Jean Dent advised councillors of a vicious circle; the reduced opening hours lead to reduced use, discouraging the registry offices' team leader from extending the hours again. Councillor Dent is hoping to arrange for the registration service to send a representative to Saltash to investigate possible alternative sites for a registry office.

Town Wins from Raised Recycling Rate

Monies saved by Cornwall Council as a result of the reduction of kerbside waste collected is being distributed among towns participating in a Waste Incentive Neighbourhood Scheme (WINS) Saltash has been proposed to be awarded £500 for participating in the WINS scheme.

Between the years 2014/2015 and 2016/2017 the amount of dwellings increased slightly from 7179 to 7206. Meanwhile the total waste per household decreased including a decrease in residual waste. The tonnage of recycled waste also decreased but the recycling rate increased slightly from 22.36% to 23.03%. The number of subscribers to the garden waste scheme increased from 382 to 549. Sadly the number of local fly tipping incidents noted also increased from 118 to 140.

Be a Trusted Boater!

Local boat owners are being given the opportunity to use the newly restored pontoon on Brunel Green at any time of day or night on a casual basis.

The 'trusted boater' scheme being introduced by the town council, that has recently taken responsibility of the pontoon from Cornwall Council, will also allow up to two overnight stays.

The scheme, supervised by the town council's newly appointed Waterfront Wardens, is set up to run for a trial period and will be reconsidered for a long term basis. Further information is available from the wardens based at the new Waterfront Office by Brunel Green.

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Liverpool 4 Egypt 5 Owl 6
Orchid 2 Vanderville 3



'I dreamed that as I wandered by the way Bare Winter suddenly was changed to Spring'. P.B. Shelley 1792 – 1822

January is upon us once again named for the two faced god Janus who could simultaneously look into the past year and the future. A good time, perhaps, to look back once more at some of the varied events and issues upon which we reported in 2017, many of which are likely to be ongoing issues in the year ahead.

The year 2017 began with your Observer reporting upon a number of controversial issues. We announced a new electoral system for the choosing of the town Mayor, following major issues and official complaints over the previous Mayor choosing – the new system was initiated in May.

Our front page January headline concerned an ongoing controversy over the adding to the war memorial at St. Stephens of the name of four Saltash firemen killed in the Plymouth blitz. After much argument it was agreed the names be added, though this is yet to be done.

January also saw as report on the concern over

'temporary' closure of the minor injuries unit at St. Barnabas Hospital. Sadly this was followed, in March, by the closure of the inpatient wards and we observed the grief of the dedicated staff on the closure.

Another closure, fortunately temporary, was at our Co-op Fore Street store for refurbishment. We were pleased to report upon the charity cheques presented upon its re-opening as our key town centre 'anchor' store.

And charity benefited also, we were pleased to report, from the Mayor's Valentine Ball at which the Great and Good came together while ladies (and men) in red dined and danced the night away.

Review of Year



'And frosts are slain and flowers begotten And in green underwood and cover Blossom by blossom the Spring Begins' A.G. Swinburne (1837 – 1909)

The long running station building saga reached a successful stage in Spring 2017 as the Town Council at last concluded negotiations to purchase the building for the benefit of the town. We have been reporting on progress since then and as you may read elsewhere in this 'Observer' we anticipate even more noticeable progress as 2018 unwinds.

More cause to celebrate, the sun shone upon the crowds enjoying a highly successful May Fair that stretched up Fore Street to cover Longstone Park with fun and entertainment for all. We were especially pleased to see our own two nominees, Mia and Jack Rhodes selected as Young Citizens of the Year, commending the work the 8 and 6 year old had done in support of our pet charity, the Chestnut appeal.

May also saw changes in the Town Council as following elections many new faces appeared around the council chamber. Many longstanding council stalwarts stood down, most notably perhaps Sue Hooper MBE, the longest continual service town council member. We were delighted to report upon the 'surprise party' in the Guildhall at which she was deservedly made a Freeman of the Town.

Civic honour also went to Councillor Jean Dent, made Mayor for the second time, with David Yates as Deputy, following the newly

introduced Mayor choosing system.

Honours too went to our long standing Town Crier Brian Whipp and the Tree Warden Flok de J Rijke-Winter, both recognised for their work for the town following standing down from their roles – neither is as yet replaced.

A long postponed tribute was paid also at St. Stephens Church following a short service, George Stone RN, who died during World War II had a memorial stone dedicated to him in the presence of members of this family. Sought out by Saltash Heritage.

Triumph came close for Ashes rugby players and we reported on their home win leaving them one step from Twickenham – what local sporting triumphs will we witness in 2018?



'All the live murmurs of a summer's day' Matthew Arnold (1822 – 1888)

Although those lazy, hazy days of summer seemed few and far between many seasonal activities were shared with your Observer team during the summer months.

The sun shone on our regatta and most notably on the amazing and colourful paint party and the mass swim to England and back. Did Observer reporter Martin Lister really rashly promise to swim it in 2018? The regatta was enjoyed by one and all, not least our twin – townsfolk from Plougastel

Other summer delights included the tradition Forder fête as well as some special 'one offs'. There was the tuneful Ukulele concert at Burraton Church, the exotic Hawaiian evening at St. Nicholas and the patriotic 'Prom' performance in the Social Club.

More controversy raged over the civic regalia issue and the wearing of the Mayoress' chain by a male consort. This eventually concluded in a working party and a decision that the chain would not be worn by anybody but would be put on display somewhere yet to be decided.

Tragedy struck with a fatal accident at Landrake and renewed calls for a by-pass for that village and for air polluted

Tideford. May we hear more of this in 2018?

Future transport changes were also presaged by the first crossing of Brunel's historic Royal Albert Bridge by the futuristic 'Bullet Train' intended to be the future of the Cornwall – Paddington service.

Another more controversial plan for the future came with proposals to reduce the overall number of Cornwall Councillors. Again we will hear more of this and the possibility of Saltash having representation reduced from four to three or sharing councillors with the rural hinterland.

We will also most definitely hear more concerning plans put forward in the summer for two major stores and two restaurants at the garage site by Carkeel

Brunel is Back

The life-size statue of Isambard Kingdom Brunel, alongside which visitors and residents enjoy standing for a photograph is back in position on the Waterside.

The statue was originally placed in the Huntley Gardens 'pocket park' immediately under Brunel railway bridge as part of the Brunel anniversary celebrations. It was moved to the Waterside following vandalism. Sadly it was again vandalised this September, and had to be removed for restoration. His feet were broken and an outside repair job for the fibreglass statue was quoted at around £700.

Instead one of Saltash's newly appointed Waterfront Wardens, Jason Ward, was able to fix up 'Issy', as the statue is popularly named, at a cost of under £200 and hopefully the stronger reinforced steel bars now installed will keep Issy safe for many future visitors to admire.

roundabout. These plans have since been substantially varied, what more changes may we see before building commences?

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9.30am – 12.30pm

Come along bring your friends
Enjoy a Coffee, Cake & Biscuits
Raffle - Great Prizes
Everyone Welcome
Please drop in & support this event
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We look forward to seeing you!

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