



SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

July 2012 - Issue 240

Incessant trumpet of trade; armoury of fearless truth without fear or favour ...

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RAIL STOPPING SERVICES MUST BE MAINTAINED, MINISTER WAS URGED

Passenger train services stopping at Saltash must at least equal the present number following the award of a new rail franchise. This was emphasised to Minister of State for Transport, Theresa Villiers, who is also Minister for Rail, by Town Councillor and Chairman of Saltash Rail Users Group Richard Bickford. The Minister, with local MP Sheryll Murray, David Crowe, Great Western General Manager, The Mayor of Saltash, and other Town and County Councillors and Railway representatives visited Saltash station before repairing to the Guildhall for the Minister to be briefed on local Rail issues.

Passenger numbers using Saltash Station had doubled during the First Great Western Franchise, Mr Bickford told her, with passenger numbers continuing to rise. The local Rail Users Group had enjoyed a good relationship with First Great Western who had acceded to their requests to add a number of stopping services to include Saltash. In each case passenger numbers showed these to be a commercial success as well as benefit to the Town.

While he emphasised the requirement for the status quo to at least be maintained, if not further improved upon under the new Franchise, Mr Bickford also asked that the provider of Cross Country Services from Cornwall to the Midlands, North of England and Scotland could also be called upon to stop some

trains in Saltash. With all trains having to slow to 15mph for crossing the Bridge, and many stopped by signals due to the single track Bridge, the additional delay caused by an official stop in Saltash would be minimal.

The current sad state of the former station building, sold off by British Rail and now in private hands, was pointed out to Ms Villiers. She was asked to use any influence she could in order to ensure a more fitting gateway to Cornwall was visible to rail passengers.

"It is useful for me to be in Cornwall at a time when franchises are up for renewal and over the next few months there will be consideration of the rail infrastructure improvements over 2014/19 and what is affordable," Ms Villiers told her Saltash

Guildhall audience. "We are committed to reform to delivery of more and better passenger services without increasing costs. We will look at how to enable the next franchisees to get the most out of the line and we aim to give them more flexibility."

Told of overcrowded trains and lack of stock, she mentioned that electrification plans elsewhere should free up diesel stock for areas such as Devon and Cornwall. She asked how Cornwall might feel at being given a greater say in its own services and was told by Sheryll Murray MP that this would be welcomed as long as the say was not too "Trurocentric."

"I will take away from this visit the importance that local residents place in maintaining their rail services," Ms Villiers reassured her



audience before moving on to the Looe Branch. She also took away from the visit an original I.K. Brunel rivet from 1859, presented by Mr Bickford which she appreciated as a unique gift to place upon her desk.

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Saturday Free Parking Scheme Starting Soon!

Saltash' Free Saturday Parking Scheme, which it had been feared would not be able to go ahead, has now been confirmed, and will start from the first Saturday in July. Saltash Town-centre Improvement Group (STIG) and Saltash Town Council ran a free parking scheme at Christmas, for which they paid Cornwall to make the car parks free. As a result two-thirds of town centre business saw a substantial positive impact on trade, and some said that trade had increased by up to 100%.

Several local media outlets including in particular your "Observer" covered the fact that Cornwall Council, after some delays, were insisting on a hugely increased cost for the follow-up scheme, to make parking free on Saturdays over the summer and autumn.

Following this pressure Cornwall Council came back with a reduced price, and a guarantee that the Town Council could retain any excess payments to set against the cost. Saltash Town Council voted, and Cornwall Council since confirmed that the scheme could go ahead. "The Observer's coverage of this issue was excellent. So many people saw it: not only residents and traders, who then expressed their support, but also Cornwall Council. When they saw how much backing it had in the community they had to give in, and the Observer's help is really appreciated - its great to have such a supportive community-minded newspaper"

STIG Chairman Cllr Adam Killeya said "although it is frustrating that it took this long, which has delayed the scheme by three months, we are pleased that it has now been agreed. We are confident that it will be an excellent boost for the town centre and are grateful for the support we received from the media, the public, and some Cornwall Councillors and officers"

Chairman of Saltash Gateway CIC Liam Bradley added "This scheme will be an excellent help to the traders and the public in the town, and will benefit Cornwall Council too - the Christmas scheme helped to significantly increase their revenues"

Chairman of the Saltash and District Chamber of Commerce Bill Cotton said "my members will be very pleased that the scheme has now been agreed: the Chamber is very supportive of schemes that will boost trade"

Saltash Town Mayor Cllr Martin Gee stated "The Town

Council has been working very hard with all of its partners, via the STIG, to help the centre. As a result the street is looking very good and we have had a number of excellent new shops open in the last few weeks"

Town Centre Trader Jill Male, owner of the bookshelf said "The Christmas scheme certainly helped my business, and those of other traders: I look forward to this scheme doing the same" The scheme will commence on Saturday 7th July and will mean that parking in Saltash' four town centre car parks will be free all weekend every weekend until the end of November. STIG then hopes to run a repeat of last year's 'Free Christmas Parking' scheme through December up to Christmas. For more information see <http://www.saltashtowncentre.co.uk/>

Contact Adam Killeya
01752 848691,
adam_killeya@yahoo.co.uk

Brass Band Concert - Picnic in the Park

Saturday 8th September 2012

Time: 1.00pm - 2.00pm
Saltash Junior Town Band will be performing two concerts in Victoria Gardens, Saltash. Members of the public are invited to bring a picnic to the park and enjoy the performances.

These events are supported by Saltash Town Council

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Kimberley Day Centre – Benefit Saltash Citizens

Each Monday and Friday mornings certain Saltash citizens, senior in years but keen to enjoy themselves eagerly await Charlie arriving outside their door.

“Charlie” is the bus which bears them away to a day of good food, good companionship and a variety of activities including days out in town and country.

In the twelve years since long established residential home Rowan House extended its outreach to the elderly by establishing the Kimberley Day Centre, the club has achieved a deserved reputation for putting its members first. It is greatly enjoyed both by those who spend most of their time at home alone and appreciate human contact and outside activities, as well as those who live with carers and find that a day or two out a week gives themselves and their carers a good break.

“Charlie”, driven by assistant manager Elaine who has worked with Rowan House for almost twenty years, collects club members from all around Saltash, utilising its chair lift for the less mobile, to bring them to the SHADO centre by around 9am. The day begins with socialising with friends old and new, scanning the daily papers, and friendly chat over hot drinks and biscuits. Luncheon is always a home cooked two course meal brought piping hot from the



chef at the Rowan House kitchens.

The afternoon activities will include a ride out if the weather is suitable, to a local attraction, garden centre, shopping if required, or when the days are long and fine a ride out in the country or perhaps to a beach. All day trips with picnic provided are enjoyed during Summer, with Looe, Newquay and Dartmoor, as well as Plymouth Hoe and Barbican, being among past venues. A hair dressing service can be arranged if required.

Activities enjoyed at the SHADO centre, designed to stimulate mentally, physically or both, include various board and card games including bingo, quizzes and music, including exercise to music, as well as hoopla and skittles.

After a final hot drink “Charlie” carries home happy and relaxed club members at 3pm.

All are welcome from ages fifty plus, and the highly

experienced and trained staff can help with any degree of disability. The quality service not only encourages and supports those who may be experiencing difficulty in their daily lives but promotes social inclusion and empowerment while providing an atmosphere which creates an opportunity for promoting independence.

Those who might benefit from such an enjoyable and fulfilling day once or twice a week, or their carers, can make contact through their named social worker if they have one, or else via Liskeard Adult Social Services Department on 01579 341484. Funding is provided through Social Services for those eligible. For private membership, Day Care Centre Manager, Mandy Henn will be pleased to provide all details. She can be contacted via 01752 843843, leaving name and number for a return call to cover all queries.

Build Carkeel Footbridge Before Fatality Occurs, Town Tells Minister

The increasingly urgent need for a safe crossing for pedestrians and cyclists at Carkeel was emphasised to the Minister of State for Transport, Theresa Villiers, when she carried out a site visit to Carkeel Roundabout. She was visiting various transport hot-spots in Cornwall and was accompanied to Carkeel by Sheryll Murray MP when they met the Mayor and other Saltash Town and County Councillors.

The campaign for a footbridge at Carkeel Roundabout had been continuing for around twenty years, Councillor Peter Clements, a member of the Ramblers Association told the parliamentary visitors. Now a number of employees in the supermarket and industrial sites north of the roundabout risk their lives twice daily getting to and from work. Some young people even telephone their parents from the roundabout asking them to come and give them a ride across. With plans proceeding for a hotel cum conference centre at Carkeel, new industrial units offering hundreds of new jobs and a thousand new homes largely focused in the area the need will only increase over the years.

In 2009 plans were prepared for two alternative footbridges and there was consultation over the preferred version, only for residents to be told there

was no money available for either.

“It is good to hear directly from you on the importance of the project,” replied Ms Villiers who watched the continual stream of traffic for herself. She promised to take up the matter with Mike Penning the Minister responsible for Roads, and urged the Town Council to contact him directly. She repeated however, that it is still an issue of how the limited funding available for road improvements could be shared out. She did agree that it might be possible for the Government to contribute towards sharing costs with Cornwall Council Convergence Funds.

It took the tragic death of a Landrake “Lollipop” lady for a footbridge to be built by that village, she was told. It was hoped that a similar fatality would not be needed to enforce a safe crossing at Carkeel.

Community Groups Benefit from Ex-Mayor’s Charity

The main objective, of the retiring Mayor during his year of office had been to bring together the Town’s young and those not so young. This was reflected in the Mayor’s Charity Presentation Evening, in which ex Mayor and Mayoress Colin and Marilyn Oakes, in the presence of current Mayor and Mayoress Martin and Maggie Gee, donated cheques from funds raised during their term of office.

saltash.net.school had been a tremendous support to them during their year, Cllr Oakes pronounced, and had contributed greatly to the Live at Home Scheme for the Elderly. Indeed school students were currently helping prepare for the scheme’s tenth birthday. School students had also donated much of their own time to helping set up an ‘Internet Cafe’ at Janeva Court and assisting senior citizens in becoming computer friendly. He was therefore, delighted to give a cheque of £2,000 to school principal Mrs Isabel Bryce and head of finance Ken Martin to accept on behalf of the school fund. In reply Mrs Bryce thanked the ex-Mayor for the amazing support given over the last year and added that she herself would have had no idea as to how much could be achieved in that time. Students from various year groups had given their time to the Janeva Court IT project and she believed that they had benefited as much as the elderly.

The League of Friends of St Barnabas Hospital also received a cheque for £2,000 accepted by Dr Colin Randall and Mrs Joyce Mepstead of the Friends’ Committee. The Hospital offers a fantastic service to the Saltash Community, Cllr Oakes had said, and is a credit to all those who work there. Mrs Mepstead thanked him for his unfailing support and generosity and advised that the funding would be put towards major purchases replacing beds on the wards with new adjustable high/low bed units.

Other cheques for £160 each were presented to Bill Dent who accepted on behalf of the Royal British Legion, to Scout Isaac for the 2nd Saltash Scouts, to Margaret Hopper for the Saltash Live at Home Scheme and to Iain and Jane Dalrymple for the Saltash Wesley Organ Fund.



CORNWALL COUNCIL



and our PL12 community

For Observer readers

From Councillor Bryan Preston

Burraton Ward Saltash

Electoral register

Its that time of year again when Cornwall Council is calling on local people to register now to make sure that they can have their say and vote. Electoral registration forms have been posted out to all properties in Saltash for the new Electoral register that will be published on 16th October, only people who are on the register will be available to vote so it is vital that people complete the form and return it as soon as possible.

This information is not usually collected until the autumn but is being brought forward this year because on November 15th you will have the opportunity for the first time to vote for a new Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall. So put that date in your diary.

If none of the details on the form have changed the householder can sign the form and return it in the prepaid envelope or register electronically by phone, online via the website or sending a text message. If details have changed there are clear instructions on the form.

So if you haven’t already returned it, don’t delay or you may lose your right to vote and have your voice heard.

Waste collection

Although things have quietened down I am still getting complaints about waste and especially recycling not being picked up by the new company Cory, also reports of dog bins not being emptied. If this is happening to you please get in touch with your local Cornwall Councillor. We do really need

to get this sorted and hold the company to account. I think it has been evident that private companies do not always necessarily do a better job, as one of the Cornwall Council workers now working for Cory said to me, If it ain’t bust Mr Preston, why fix it.

I hope that the Council has learnt some lessons from this pretty disastrous shambles over the last 3 months and will be more careful when letting contracts in the future. Unfortunately we are getting unconfirmed reports that recycling rates are dropping. If they are it’s a pretty damning condemnation of the ‘privatisation’ of services.

What is also worrying is that we have been getting report of bins not being emptied and lack of street sweeping in Fore Street, with one resident saying it looks like the third world. With so many organisations and businesses helping to revitalise our town centre it is essential that Cornwall Council plays its part in keeping Saltash neat and tidy. An air of complacency seems to have crept in.

Summer weather

As I write this, wet June has turned into wet cold and misty July. Let’s hope that by the time you read this the weather will have change for the better. I attended the Regatta on the Saturday, helping to man the Devon and Cornwall Police Authority stand. Fortunately the rain held off for most of the day and only started in the late afternoon. This was the first time that the Police Authority had had a stand at the regatta and the staff, who travel all over Devon and Cornwall were impressed by the friendliness of the town and its people and the positive response from the public throughout the day. It again made me realise how lucky we are to live in a town with so much going on and thanks to the Regatta Committee for another great weekend

Lots more in the near future as I write, St Barnabas Hospital Summer Fete, Forde Fete, Inca Castle open and lots and lots of other summer events across our town Lets hope the weather improves and rewards all the hard work that goes in to organising these events so we can all enjoy ourselves and celebrate friendly Saltash.

Don’t forget that you can always contact one of your Cornwall Councillors in the One Stop Shop in the Library on Saturdays between 10 and 12. Alternatively our contact details are on the Cornwall Council website and the Town Council website or available from the Library or the Guildhall.

Kimberly Day Centre Plougastel Drive Saltash Cornwall

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From The Mayor's Parlour...

TOWN CELEBRATES Saltash was crowded to say a proud farewell to the Olympic Torch after a wonderful day. Over fifteen sporting 'taster' activities were put on by the many clubs of the town from archery to rowing/sailing and team games, a biathlon event, even mini games for under 5s and a choral event. In keeping with the 2012 Olympic ethos there was music in Longstone Park performed by groups of all genres. This was followed, two weeks later, by the Queens Jubilee celebrations with fifteen street parties (some overcoming torrential rain), Beating the Bounds, a picnic in the park and two tree planting ceremonies.

The annual Mayfair moved to a new location in Warfelton field and was hailed as a complete success with the usual Race and fun Run organized by the Tamar Trotters on the Sunday. The Regatta too was a resounding success, despite the weather on the Saturday. Sadly the state of the river stopped the annual Five Towns challenge. A new theatrical and music group Page2Stage started in late June, this promises various events during the year. Chris, Andy, Paul and Niall from the Cecil Arms who while breaking a Guinness record for playing darts for over forty one hours raised a staggering £3000 for Parkinson's Disease UK.

Two new shops opened. Our shopping centre is now thriving and has only four empty shops which is a very different case to many other towns in Cornwall.



There is even better news with FREE PARKING all day on Saturdays and Sundays from 7th July until late November when the Christmas regime will operate. This has cost £395 per Saturday paid to Cornwall Council using money from the supermarket developments.

Saltash Town Council has regained its Quality Status. The Council has adopted the General Power of Competence (as set out in the Localism Act 2012), which means we can do anything an individual can do unless specifically prohibited by law. It will enable us to be more proactive for example to give grants for education.

The Government has given our Town the opportunity to have some say over planning. This means creating plans for all and parts of the town. This will need lots of work from everyone, because the Government wants (actually demands) that the plans are created by the people of the area. If we have no plans then developers will have a free hand.

The mayor is preparing

training sessions with Cornwall officers and will announce a launch event for our plan soon. More details later using all media (again a Government edict)

A footbridge over the A38 at Carkeel becomes more of a possibility after a recent visit by the Minister of State for Transport. Our MP will see the Minister and we await the outcome.

Sadly the Maurice Higgins committee ends on 31st July leaving the building in Victoria Gardens empty. Are there any groups interested in using this building? Please let the Town Council know.

We live in an area with an extremely low crime rate, so it is sad to note that in June we have some less sociable members of our town who feel emptying and stealing grit bins is enjoyable. What it means for us is we have to pay more taxes to put things back to ensure we are ready for winter.

Martin Gee
Cllr. & Town Mayor

Sheryll Murray Visits Year 7



Year 7 students at saltash.net community school were given the opportunity to meet with their local MP, Sheryll Murray, on the afternoon of Friday 15th June. Over the last few weeks, as part of their Integrated Learning Curriculum, the students had been working on a campaign to raise awareness of the number of children across the world who still do not have access to a basic education.

Conscious of the pledge made by leaders of the G8 countries as part of their Millennium Development Goals that Universal Primary Education would be achieved by the year 2015, the students embarked upon a campaign called 'Send my Friend to School'. Their hope is that by bringing this Millennium Goal back into the spotlight it will help many children their age across the world have a better future.

The Year 7 classes all gave a two minute presentation to Sheryll Murray highlighting the issues surrounding the 'Send my Friend to School' campaign. They then presented Sheryll Murray with a series of medals they had made to give to Prime Minister David Cameron, summarising their views and their request that the Primary Education for all by 2015 is kept high on the political agenda.

After receiving the medals,

Sheryll Murray spoke with the students about what her job involves and the importance of the campaign. The students were also given the opportunity to question their MP about education matters in this country and worldwide.

Organiser and Teacher of Integrated Learning, Vicky Higgs, said, "Many of the students have been really touched by the stories of children elsewhere in the world who do not have access to education and can really see the value in their own education after learning about the lives of others less fortunate. Having Sheryll into school helped them to understand more about the role of an MP but also allowed them to see their messages being passed on and hopefully making a difference."

Essa Files

You will hopefully read elsewhere in the Observer that after several months of banging my head against a brick Corn-wall the Saturday free parking scheme will be going ahead is going ahead.

It has actually been lovely recently to get so much good feedback about how Fore St is looking at the moment - The Saltash Town-centre Improvement Group (The STIG) has been putting in a lot of work to projects like hanging baskets, professional street clean and new signage, as well as the parking. We also have more in the pipeline: more new signage, a 'talking bench' and a town 'app' for Smart-phones (those of you with smart phones should be able to access Truro's 'app' - this is the sort of thing we are working on).

Looking into the future we are investigating partial street coverings, markets and more - I will report back on these if and when they look like going ahead.

We are also looking into bringing together different organisations in Saltash to devise a plan and 'brand' for marketing Saltash to the outside world: we are the best postcode to live in the UK (officially) and we have so much to attract visitors - particularly in the areas of heritage and independent traders, and with the Elwell Cross and hopefully Waterside Ferry Memorial to come soon. What we need to do now is make sure we get the message out even louder and wider!

by Adam Killeya

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Saltash Bounds were beaten by Footpath and Boat

The bounds of Saltash were fully "beaten," by lane, footpath and boat, as part of the Town's Royal Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

Saltash is almost entirely surrounded by water as the Walk Leader, Observer Writer, Martin Lister pointed out to sixty-two eager Bound Beaters of all ages, plus five dogs. The Town is bounded by the Rivers Tamar and Lynher on three sides while to the North two streams, Clark's Lake and cock's Lake, mark the boundaries with only a quarter mile or so of 'land' border, around the "Holland Inn," between them.

The intrepid walkers, including Mayor and Mayoress Martin and Maggie Gee and Deputy Mayor David Yates set off on the one sunny day of the holiday weekend to walk some of the finest lanes and footpaths of rural Saltash. At each of the six boundary markers on the route the civic dignitaries, the children in the party, and other "volunteers" were formally "bumped" against the stones as part of a timeless tradition supposed to enforce the parish boundaries on parishioners memories for all of their lives.

At Hatt the party was joined by Mr Herbert Davy, now in his eighties, who still has vivid memories of beating the newly enlarged bounds of Saltash in 1934 when, aged nine, he accompanied his father, the Mayor, also Herbert Davy. The young Herbert Davy was immortalised in a photograph being "bumped" at the new boundary stone at Hatt aged


nine and he repeated the experience 78 years later, being bumped by our current Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

At the "Notter Bridge Inn" there was a pause for refreshment and to share the jubilee party organised there, with barbecue and family fun. Bound beaters were then ferried by bus to St Germans where one of the highest tides of the year afforded a rare opportunity to follow Saltash's Southern boundary down the St Germans river by boat passing beautiful wooded river banks in the early evening sun before landing safely at Saltash.

Conundrum Corner

Taking the initial letter to the one word answer to the following nine questions can you re-arrange them to make a nine-letter word?

- 1 Which of Disney's seven dwarfs wore glasses? (3)
 - 2 What is the chief ingredient of Sauce Lyonnaise (5)
 - 3 As in the Welsh place name Pontypool what does the prefix Pont indicate? (6)
 - 4 Within which Country are the Zagros Mountains? (4)
 - 5 At which Battle was Lord Nelson killed? (9)
 - 6 To which bird did Keats write a poem? (11)
 - 7 How many symphonies did Beethoven complete? (4)
 - 8 What type of creature is an Impala? (8)
 - 9 In which Welsh town, the birthplace of Henry V, is there a square named Agincourt? (8)
- Answers on page 7

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A Day to Remember as Saltash Captures Olympic Spirit

A day that Saltash will never forget, that our children should remember all their lives and when the eyes of the world were focused on Cornwall, lived up to every expectation. This is clearly agreed by the ten thousand or more who came together in our town to share the Olympic spirit of community and good sportsmanship. The excitement was shared by the children, teenagers and adults who sped between the various venues offering the opportunity to try new sporting experiences. It was shared by those enjoying a packed programme of entertainment in the park and especially the thousand and more who joined in seeking to achieve Saltash's own record-breaking endeavour. The excitement was certainly shared by the thousands who packed the pavements that evening to cheer the Olympic flame as it neared completion of its first day's journey, born high from Lands End across Cornwall to cross the Tamar Bridge.

The day began early for myself as I attended a final press briefing in the Guildhall, busy with the Cadets who once again would that day give cause for Saltash to be proud of its young people as they stewarded the events. As the briefing concluded Mayor Martin Gee entered with two birthday cakes. One was for well known journalist and Freeman of the Town, Audrey Miller. The other was for local runner Andrew Ball who was to celebrate his twentieth birthday by carrying aloft the Olympic Flame between jubilant crowds down Fore Street and across the Tamar bridge that evening.

The Mayor had another award to present, a bouquet for Councillor Hilary Frank who had done so much to organise the day's events in Saltash and ensure that it was an occasion to live on its golden memory with the proud recall of "I was there."

Then we walked out into the May sunshine and the fun began.

A Sporting Chance for All

Only a chosen few could carry the Olympic torch through their Town, but anyone of any age could proudly run a circuit of Salt Mill bearing aloft the Salt Torch. Designed by thirteen year old Paris Netheron of saltash.net school and made by Chris Wells the torch was a worthy winner of a competition in which an amazing variety of excellent designs were produced and were displayed in St Nicholas Church that day.

The Salt Torch was carried a total of 105 miles by 139 runners who included Deputy Mayor David Yates.

This event was just one of twelve sporting activities laid on by local clubs, business and community groups aimed, in the Olympic spirit, at encouraging the young and some not so young to sample new sporting experience. As an added incentive the first fifty to obtain stamps for six different experiences in the "Saltash Passport to Sport" could claim a limited edition Olympic medallion commissioned by the Royal Mint.

Children were eagerly comparing notes with friends on the new experiences they had enjoyed, from climbing to kickboxercise, and badminton to bowls and treadmill to tag rugby. And by midday, we heard, twenty medallions had already been claimed. There was also a special passport for the youngest participants at the "toddler games" on Waterside, while nearby on Brunel Green the rowing and sailing clubs had their own activities on offer for passport holders.

I sampled some myself, discovering that I was still as rubbish at archery as I was at age fifteen, though also discovering that Councillor Merryn Killeya's skills with the bow had not deserted her since she played Maid Marian at primary school.

With an 'alternative games' for those with limited mobility in the Wesley Church there was every opportunity for one and all to celebrate the Olympic year by engaging in a new sporting activity. From the enthusiastic discussions among those waiting to participate it seems that many will be eager to try again.

Erin First to Receive her Medallion

Saturday 19th May the Olympic torch came to Saltash. The Saltash Committee organised a brilliant day full of entertainment and 'Sporty activities'. To be inspired and get active, various venues throughout the town were offering free taster sessions in a sport. Free passports were available at all the venues. For each session you completed, you received a stamp on your passport. The first fifty people to complete their passport with six stamps received an Olympic complete medallion commissioned by the Royal Mint. Our seven year old daughter, Erin, who lives in Saltash, was the first person to complete the passport.



Erin proudly received her medallion.



Leaping away to start the day



Paris designed Salt-Torch



Rugby boys sail away - Joe and Will of Saltash Rugby under 9s sample a sport with a difference



Visitors from Plymouth Callum and Jake crossed the Tamar to share the sporting fun including rowing on waterside.



Paddling their own canoe Hannah and Pascal enjoy activities with the Tamar Canoe Association.

A Thousand Participants in Tai Chi Record Breaking



For those seeking a break from the events around the Town, or those who just preferred to share the community spirit while relaxing in the hazy sunshine, there was a packed programme of entertainment all day long on the stage in Longstone Park.

Starting with fun and fitness for the under evelens' with Amanda's Pop Kids, the entertainment included Cornish Bluegrass from Flats and Sharps, and swinging gypsy jazz from Hamer and Isaacs.

The international Olympic element was added by the rich South American sounds of a Tango Sonora band with dancers and a thrilling concluding Japanese Drum Performance from

Kagemusha Taiko group. Local talent too was shared in a 'Showcase' featuring young performers, Flo Bonner, Tom Freeman and Jack Highley, as well as a team from the Livewire Youth Project. The climax however, had to be the 'Hundred Voices Celebrate' when the Saltash Girls' Choir came together with local schoolchildren to create a truly magnificent sound.

Before the crowds enjoying this could melt away they were urged into participating in setting Saltash's very own world record.

The world's largest Tai Chi lesson was offered to those who were counted through the barrier, a thousand being

the target number. We were halfway there as I passed through with a long line behind and soon we were told the target was approaching.

Army and Air Force Cadets helped steward the event, though rumours that they were armed to shoot deserters, as these would have invalidated the record breaking, were denied. As the half hour lesson commenced 1060 adults and children were breathing slowly and slowly moving their limbs to the orders of the instructor. And as the crowd applauded itself we were told that the organisers would seek to register Saltash's very own Olympic year record-breaker in the Guinness Book of Records.



Matthew takes the SaltTorch around Salt mill - 1 of 139 runners covering 105 miles



Sisters Sophie and Charlotte filled their passport to sport and received their medals to prove it

Torch Taken Through Town Alight With Excitement

As the late Spring evening stretched to end a day to live long in Saltash memories, crowds from throughout the Town, and many from far beyond, came to line Callington Road and Fore Street.

Rumour had spread that enthusiastic crowds further into Cornwall had considerably delayed the Olympic torch's progress but in fact it proved only thirty minutes or so behind schedule.

Meanwhile, the excited crowds on the bunting lined route were entertained by Saltash Town Band, the RWind Band and the Rubber Band at points along the way. In Fore Street the Giant Tavy, bearing its own Olympic torch, staggered above the largest crowds lining the entrance to the Tamar Bridge.

Police helicopters hovering overhead indicated the torch was near. As excitement

mounted there was a fresh burst of applause and flag waving for each police van, motor cycle and bomb disposal van as it passed. Then at last, to jubilant cheers from throughout the Town, came the support vehicles, buses and trucks from the various sponsors.

And finally the big moment came as five runners each carried a torch the short distance before the torch was lowered to "kiss" its successor and pass on the flame that would take the journey from Lands End via Saltash to the Olympic stadium in London.

At the foot of Fore Street it was Saltash runner Andrew Ball, down from Barts where he is studying medicine, who celebrated his twentieth birthday with the honour of carrying the torch on a route lined by colourful flags made by the people of Saltash over the previous weeks and



proudly held high by local scouts. Passing the Giant Tavy and the stadium of the Mayor and other VIP's he turned onto the Tamar Bridge to take the torch to Devon and to conclude the first stage of its epic journey.

Drama Movies and Music to End Olympic Day



As the torch shone its way into Devon Saltash's evening celebrations began. Those not fully wearied with a packed day of fun and activity were invited to follow the Giant Tavy and the Rubber Band down to Waterside for the evening entertainments.

On the Waterside Green the warm May evening was ideal for an open air extravaganza by Cornish theatrical troupe Kernocopia. Swashbuckling fun with a boat as the stage celebrated some of Cornwall's past sporting legends. Ann Glanville lived again beside the waters where she gained her rowing skills, before the Kernocopia ship sailed off to fresh Olympic glory.

There was then the opportunity to enjoy some fascinating archive film of Cornwall put on by awen.org.uk in the Ashtorre Centre. This included a 1904 Great Western Railway film of Cornish resorts and featuring the Royal Albert Bridge, a 1930's trip up the Tamar, and other archive scenes as well as fascinating memories from the older generation.

Those who thought such a day should be concluded with a celebratory drink or more converged upon the "Union Inn" where landlord Brian had supplemented his Saturday night entertainment with a special evening including his 'open mic' competition winners and concluding with top regional band 'Land of the Giants' to finish the day in fine style.

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Family Fun at Jubilee Party in the Park

Fun for all the family to share in the true community spirit of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee was enjoyed at Longstone Park on the Monday Bank Holiday. Though the recent change for the worse in the weather did not encourage sitting out for the afternoon some stalwarts did enjoy sharing a 'Picnic in the Park' while many more enjoyed the programme of non-stop entertainment.



Town Crier, Brian Whipp read the 'Proclamation' by Queen Elizabeth 1st urging her successor and her subjects to celebrate, Mayor and Mayoress Martin and Maggie Gee welcomed all, and R Windband burst into a cavalcade of patriotic music with full audience participation as appropriate. The fantasia on British sea



songs, with the traditional race between clapping audience and band in the 'Hornpipe' and rousing 'Rule Britannia' were clearly enjoyed by all ages.

Meanwhile, there was plenty to entertain everyone. Magician Duncan Norris of the Magic Square (he failed the magic circle due to their trick questions!) brought fun and magic to all he encountered. Butterfingers the female clown helped children with balloon sculpture and to make mini Jubilee flags to line the tent. There was a special Royal Quiz for all to enter, and all were able to admire the colourful flags created by the community for the Olympic Torch run, which now lined Longstone Park.

Following RWindband the park party goes enthused over the perfect harmony of Java 5 (plus one!) The musical entertainment climaxed with the fine guitar work of local musician Ian Lightley, backed on bass by his father Terry.

Among those with whom we talked was Gerald Pollard, who enjoyed the Coronation celebrations in Saltash when the 'Coronation Inn', replaced by the 'Rodney' was newly opened. Gerald was aged around 12 at the Coronation and still proudly retains the Coronation spoon he won for running the races. He and his wife Margaret were accompanied at the jubilee celebrations by their grandson Lucas, himself now 12, Margaret having vivid memories of that Coronation day spent among thousands of other excited campers in Hyde Park eager to catch a glimpse of their beautiful young monarch through that day's heavy rain which did nothing to discourage the excited audience.

The rain on the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations was lighter and similarly could not diminish the joy and excitement of a weekend when so many Saltash homes and roads were bedecked with bunting and Union flags, and that beautiful young Queen who brought hope and joy in that auspicious Coronation year still retains the radiance and the sense of duty that ensure Saltash, with the rest of the Kingdom, can be guaranteed to turn out on a royal occasion and truly wish Queen Elizabeth 2nd long to reign over us.

At least twelve street parties were held throughout the Town in the wet, in the dry, or a combination of both and were reportedly totally enjoyed whatever the weather.

The evening concluded with a beacon lit by Saltash Scouts on St Stephens church tower.

The rain had by then abated and those on the tower could glimpse three or four other such beacons of the many lit throughout the country to mark the end of that auspicious day.



True Brit- Picnic in the Park in the Rain



Gerald & Margaret Pollard with grandson Lucas



Local musicians Ian his Father Terry Lightley



Hilary & family clock up another successful day

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WOW!!!!!!!!!! Saltash was Amazing.

- * The Salt Torch in Saltmill travelled 105 miles over 12 hours with 139 runners taking part.
- * 50 footballers played in the football tournament
- * People filled Longstone Park for the Flame
- * May Fair Princesses presenting medals in the Toddler Games
- * About 2,500 people taking part in an activity in the Passport to Sport
- * Over 1,000 people at the World Record attempt
- * Over 10,000 people lining the streets
- * Our handmade batik flags making an arch for the Olympic Torch



I always feel proud of Cornwall. And my pride in the people of Saltash shone as brightly as the Olympic Flame.

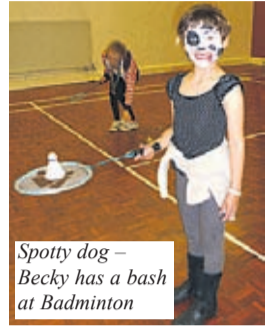
Many thanks! to all of you, for your efforts to create a great day. Memories to last a lifetime! Hilary



All at sea and loving it - aboard Caradon Gig Clubs 'Anne Glanville' en route to passport to sport



Sheer concentration!



Spotty dog - Becky has a bash at Badminton

Leoapards spotted at Saltash Rugby club - the leopard Girls' Rugby Team.



A little Tuition to start with...



Kick Boxercise, Mathew Quick shows sisters Molly and Lucy the basics of the martial art.

And Special Bouquets to...

Organising sport music and fun for all from tots through teenagers to seniors on the Historic day that the Olympic Torch passed through our Town was surely sufficient for Councillor Hilary Frank to settle back after the success of the day and enjoy a well deserved rest. Instead she continued on immediately after to ensure that Saltash played its part in the Nationwide Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. The picnic in the park, with full entertainment, enjoyed in true British spirit despite the wind and rain, again owned itself largely to Hilary's painstaking organisation.

On behalf of the Town the 'Observer' would like to say a big 'Thank you' to Hilary and husband for their efforts to give Saltash two days to remember. She was well deserving of the bouquet awarded to her by Mayor



Athletes' Aquathlon- now in it's 11th year organised by Saltash's Tamar Trotters eighty plus runners mostly aged under 16 from all over Devon and Cornwall come together to perform a 500 metre swim followed by a 5 k run.

Martin Gee at the beginning of Saltash' Olympic Torch day.

Conundrum Answers

Nine-letter word: Badminton
 8 Antelope 9 Monmouth
 6 Nighthale 7 Nine
 3 Bridge 4 Iran 5 Trafalgar
 Answers: 1 Doc 2 Onions
 Answers Conundrum Corner



Bold over! Young and not so young enjoy sharing the rub of the green



Sport for the non Sporty, The less abled could still compete for bronze to gold and a steady stream of over 50 winners agreed it was a truly worth while experience Kim Taylor from Wesley church "was volunteered to volunteer".




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
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My week began with an Urgent Question being tabled by my colleague Amber Rudd, MP for Hastings and Rye. The Fisheries Minister was asked to report back about the progress on the Reform of the Common Fisheries Policy at the Council of Fisheries Ministers on 13 June.

He reported on the significant progress that the UK Government has made towards fixing the broken Common Fisheries Policy, particularly with regard to the issue of "discards", "decentralisation" and "overfishing".

Following lengthy negotiations and with considerable pressure from the UK Government, it has now been agreed by the EU Council that there should be a ban on discards and there will now be further discussions to confirm the precise deadlines by which the ban must come into force.

Provisional dates published by the Council would see a ban

on discards in the 'Pelagic' fisheries (such as Mackerel and Herring) by 1st January 2014 and a ban on discards in 'Whitefish' fisheries (Cod, Haddock, Plaice, Sole) on a phased basis starting on 1 January 2015 and fully in place by 1 January 2018.

This is a significant step forward following years in which this important issue went unaddressed. Not all Member States share our ambition for urgent action, but the Minister has assured us he will be fighting for absolute deadlines to be agreed and imposed as soon as possible.

I know from the vast amount of correspondence I have received calling for an end to the discarding of fish, how important this will be for my constituents. However, I have impressed on the Minister the importance of ensuring any ban does not impact on the economic viability of many commercial fishermen who operate from ports in South East Cornwall.

SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...



For example, during the Autumn months, south west fishermen can find their nets full of tiny red gurnards which have no value and are not deemed by scientists to be under threat. The proposed regulation restricts the discarding of fish to marketable species and I will be working hard to ensure that the regulation does not threaten the fish stocks or South East Cornwall fishermen.

The UK was also successful in getting the Council to agree to change the decision-making process so that Member States can work together regionally to develop their own management plans, and implement measures

which are appropriate to their own fisheries. This 'regionalisation' was one of the key negotiating priorities for the Government who have campaigned against this over-centralised system and led work with other Member States to find solutions.

One of this Government's main objectives is to achieve fundamental reform of the Common Fisheries Policy, to achieve healthy fish stocks, a prosperous fishing industry and a healthy marine environment. There is still a lot more work that needs to be done but I believe the agreement we have reached this week is an important step on the way to achieving that.

New Councillor Sworn In

A new Town Councillor has been co-opted onto Saltash Council following an interview of a short list of two. This resulted from the resignation of Councillor Peter Stephens who has moved from the area after many years of service to the Town.

Co-option was preferred to the expense of a by-election since the entire Council will in any event be standing down in less than a year's time for new elections in May 2013.

The newly co-opted councillor for St Stephens Ward, John Pickering, was intending to put himself forward for election next year, he told the Observer. Since he heard the place was available he decided to put himself forward in the hope of gaining council experience before the 2013 elections. Mr Pickering is a freelance Health and Safety Advisor and married, and has lived in Saltash since October 2010. "As a Latchbrook resident I hope to make a difference to Latchbrook and to help resolve any issues and problems local residents may have," he told the Observer.

Hats and Flowers in Church Celebrations

Spectacular floral arrangements bedecked the ancient walls and pillars of St Stephens Church as crowds came to enjoy the 'Hats on to Celebrate' flower festival.

As the Church's celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee local Flower Clubs had been invited to join with talented individuals in preparing displays many with a royal jubilee or celebratory theme.

The West End of the Church attracted especial interest with its exhibition of hats ranging from an early Victorian veil through to twentieth century Ascot and wedding wear. Mens' trilbys and top hats ranged alongside ladies fashions of far gone eras, police helmets, school caps and boaters and many more.

The Church's Jubilee Celebrations also included a live concert featuring 'Yorkie' the family band, with a wide ranging repertoire covering all from blues to folk and rock to contemporary.

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Tuesday 31st July	Snorkelling (8+) 1pm-3pm	Maximum 10 places	Cost £10.00	
Wednesday 1st August	Art Attack (4-7) 1pm-4pm	Maximum 20 places	Cost £5.00	
Thursday 2nd August	Introduction to Paddle Board (8+) 12pm-2pm	Maximum 15 places	Cost £7.50	
Friday 3rd August	Pool Party 10am-12pm	Maximum 100 places	Cost £3.50	Food £1.50
Monday 6th August	Street and Zumba Workshop (6-12) 1.30pm-3.30pm	Maximum 15 places	Cost £5.00	
Tuesday 7th August	Activity Day (4-7) 1pm-3pm	Maximum 20 places	Cost £3.50	
Wednesday 8th August	Activity Day (8+) 10am-4pm	Maximum 24 places	Cost £10.00	Food £3.00
Thursday 9th August	Inflatable (8-15) 11am-12pm	Maximum 40 places	Cost £3.90	Food £1.50
Mon 13th - Fri 17th Aug	Rookie Crash Course 10am-3pm	Maximum 15 places	Cost £50.00	Food £3.00
Monday 13th August	Street Dance Workshop (4-5) 1.30pm-2.30pm	Maximum 15 places	Cost £3.00	
Monday 13th August	Zumba Workshop (4-5) 2.30pm-3.30pm	Maximum 15 places	Cost £3.00	
Tuesday 14th August	Snorkelling (8+) 1pm-3pm	Maximum 10 places	Cost £10.00	
Wednesday 15th August	Art Attack (4-7)	Maximum 20 places	Cost £5.00	
Friday 17th August	Pool Party 10am-12pm	Maximum 100 places	Cost £3.50	Food £1.50
Monday 20th August	Street and Zumba Workshop (6-12) 1.30pm-3.30pm	Maximum 15 places	Cost £5.00	
Tuesday 21st August	Activity Day (4-7) 1pm-3pm	Maximum 20 places	Cost £3.50	
Wednesday 22nd August	Activity Day (8+) 10am-4pm	Maximum 24 places	Cost £10.00	Food £3.00
Thursday 23rd August	Inflatable (8-15) 11am-12pm	Maximum 40 places	Cost £3.90	Food £1.50
Friday 24th August	Introduction to Paddle Board (8+) 1pm-3pm	Maximum 15 places	Cost £7.50	
Tuesday 28th August	Snorkelling (8+) 1pm-3pm	Maximum 10 places	Cost £10.00	
Wednesday 29th August	Art Attack (4-7) 1pm-4pm	Maximum 20 places	Cost £5.00	
Friday 31st August	Pool Party 10am-12pm	Maximum 100 places	Cost £3.50	Food £1.50



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