



# SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

*Your only truly "local" newspaper ...*

July 2013 - Issue 252

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## New Mayor Seeks to Harness All Local Resources for the Community

**‘W**e as a community need to harness the goodwill and capabilities of local volunteers to look after ourselves and in particular the most vulnerable within our community’, believes our newly elected Mayor Cllr David Yates. During his term of office he intends seeking to ensure that all available resources, public and private, are utilised to look after those most in need including the many hidden from view, who are existing near the breadline, with families dependent upon such support as the food banks in order to eat properly.

A man of Kent, born in Bromley, David Yates graduated at Sheffield University before beginning a

career in electronic engineering. He served thirty years in the Royal Navy, largely as a submarine engineering officer. Subsequently he has worked in Devonport dockyard for DML then Babcock Marine, as a submarine skills Manager and has recently gone part time to allow himself more hours to devote to mayoral duties.

Thirty years ago, while driving around the Cornish countryside looking for a home, David and his wife Stephanie chanced to pull off outside a cottage at Forder, just outside Saltash, looked at it and fell in love with it. They found it to be on the market within their price

range and have lived there happily ever since. It was there that they raised three children all of whom attended local schools.

David has been keenly involved in local affairs, in particular being an active thespian with the Burraton Players and active with the Plougastel twinnings, familiar with the civic leaders of our Breton twin town. He also enjoys model railways and retains a devotion to the Canaries, Norwich City Football Club. Our Mayoress, Stephanie who serves as a registrar in Plymouth is an equally keen twinner, fluent in French as well as Spanish which she has taught.

In 2007, keen to put back something into the community which he had come to appreciate, David put himself forward as a town councillor. Since then he has chaired the town's industry commerce transport and tourism committee and served last year as Deputy Mayor. We described him last year as 'a man of grit', he having taken responsibility for the town's grit bins and ice defences since when he appears to have ensured that it has never again snowed or been icy in Saltash.

His primary duty as town councillor and Mayor, David believes is to ascertain what people in the town want and give them the chance to have their say. He does not want any Saltash citizen to be able to say the town council 'doesn't listen to us.'

'We are fortunate to have had such a fine community handled to us by our predecessors,' David believes 'We must ensure that we hand it on to our successors as an equally good or better thriving community.'



### 'A LEVEL ARTISTS' WORK ON DISPLAY IN IMPRESSIVE EXHIBITION'

**M**any visitors attended saltash.net community school's A Level Art Exhibition held on Friday 14th June. Work produced by Year 12 and Year 13 students for the final examination pieces, as well as for coursework, was on display and the range of talents showcased was vast. During the school day on 14th June, students from across Years 7-10 were able to visit the exhibition. Some of the Year 10 Drama groups used the work as a stimulus for their own improvisations, whilst other students were able to draw inspiration from the Advanced Level work to aid the development of their Key Stage 3 and GCSE Art projects.

During the evening of the 14th June, friends and family joined Head of Art, Bob Charlton, and the Art department team as well as other staff in a celebration of all that the A Level students had achieved.

Headteacher, Isobel Bryce, commenting after the Exhibition, said, 'We never cease to be impressed by the talents of our young people. We are all very proud of the high standard of work produced and wish the cohort all the best as they progress in their careers.'

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CAN YOU HELP?

After almost two decades of dedicated service to the Burraton Community Association caretaker Arthur Allen has decided that on reaching his 80th birthday

It is time to take a well-earned rest and he will give notice to that effect at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Wednesday, July 31st at 7-30 p.m.

There is a saying that nobody is irreplaceable and the Committee is hoping that this will be the case in their search for someone to fill Arthur’s shoes.

The position, which carries a small remuneration, would suit an active retired person living within easy distance of the Centre in Grenfell Avenue.

For more information regarding the post please contact John White on 843969.

Pop Up Ping Pong

Fancy a quick volley of table tennis while in down town Saltash? Negotiations are under way to place a ping pong table in the side road next to ‘The Bookshelf’ off Fore Street on Tuesday 30th July.

This is all a part of Cornwall Council’s ‘get fit’ strategy. Cllr Adam Killeya, himself a keen table tennis player who organises play for the students at saltash.net academy, where he teaches is in negotiations to have the table placed there for the day. Those of any age, experienced or otherwise, will be welcome to stop off and play for as long as they wish.

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Town Band Made Music for Mona and John at St. Stephens

The strident notes of Saltash Town Band sounded across packed pews in St. Stephens church at a concert commemorating two of the church’s best known and well loved past members. Mona Tomaszewska-Honywill had been baptised at St. Stephens was formally chosen as Mayor of Saltash in the church and while Mayor married there her second husband John Honywill. John also became involved, in the church, as assistant organist and through his love of music joined Mona in supporting the town band.

The band which has grown in size and repertoire, gave a varied concert ranging from songs from ‘Oliver’ and various Lloyd Webber shows to Strauss marches and a moving arrangement of the Welsh song ‘Watching the Wheat’.

The future of the brass band music in Saltash seems assured since there is a fine up and coming youth band drawn from local schools which also entertained with a variety of music, drawing widespread praise from all. They rose well to the subtle harmonies of Dvorak’s ‘From the New World’ (better known as the Hovis ad) then let rip with the movie themes from ‘Rocky’ and ‘The Great Escape’, and the medieval walls echoed to Queen’s ‘We will rock you’.

‘When I came to this parish sixteen years ago, I visited Mona and was first called ‘me ansum’, I told my wife that we had truly arrived in Cornwall; the Rev. Canon Alan Butler recollected. In thanking the band Mrs Marilyn Oakes of St. Barnabas Hospital League of Friends acknowledged the love Mona had for the hospital where she served many years as night nurse and in aid of which the concert’s profits were to go. Her love for all things Cornish was recalled as the band concluded with The Floral Dance and a rousing version of ‘Trelawney’ Mona’s favourite tune.

Not the Great Train Robbery

The theft of a passenger coach was reported to local police, from a train stationed at Saltash Waterside. The coach forms part of the popular play train, much used by children, outside the Ashtorre centre by Saltash pier.

However Cllr Joe Ellison subsequently asked local Police to delete this from their crime records. The coach had been removed for renovation by Cornwall Council staff who had not told the residents’ organisation responsible for placing the train there, of their intention.



CORNWALL COUNCIL



and our PL12 community  
For Observer readers  
From Councillor Joe Ellison

I’m writing as one of the two new Cornwall Councillors for Saltash. The new Council, like Saltash, is made up of a new intake and previously experienced councillors in about 50:50 proportion, and Hilary Frank and I are grateful for the experience and contacts of Bob Austin and Derek Holley.

All the Cabinet positions and all the many committee chairs and vice-chairs are now appointed, and all positions are strictly democratic and usually politically weighted in proportion to the make up of the Council as a whole. As a newcomer, I find this to be unexpectedly stimulating, as you have to learn to work with people who were your political opponents a few short months ago, many of whom will become friends. The Council has begun with the intention of utilising the talents from a wide spectrum of members, being inclusive, and far more responsive to the people of Cornwall. The Conservatives however opted for taking a position of official Opposition.

In the previous Council, one major criticism was that the Cabinet of ten decision-makers operated at a distinct distance from the remaining 113 councillors, who were relatively powerless. Now each Cabinet member is responsible for a Portfolio (such as Finance or Adult Social Care), but each has a cross party advisory committee of ten ordinary members reporting to them.

Bob Austin is on the Devolution and Localism

Conundrum Corner

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

- 1. What is the stage version of the Monty Python Show called? (8)
- 2. What Acid is formed by Milk souring? (6)
- 3. Which fictional creature is featured on the corner of a U.K. passport? (7)
- 4. In which Country is Mount Everest to be found? (5)
- 5. Which is the chief river of central England that rises in Staffordshire and flows 170 miles to unite with the Ouse at Hull? (5)
- 6. At which Battle of 1314 did Robert the Bruce defeat the English under Edward 11 (11)
- 7. What was the Christian name of the infamous Mr. Hyde (6)
- 8. According to the song Oh My Darling, Clementine what was Clementine’s shoe size? (4)
- 9. What name is given to an animal that feeds on decaying organic matter? (9)

Answers on page 7

advisory committee, and I am on the Partnerships committee. This oversees all the companies in which Cornwall has a financial stake, including Newquay Airport, Cormac, Cornwall Housing and the new BT/Cornwall joint company that will now be responsible for back office services such as IT, personnel, and Face to Face services.

Derek Holley is Chair of the Pensions Committee and Hilary Frank is on the Children & Young People and Economy & Culture advisory committees.

Additionally, three of us are members of Planning East (which extends as far as Bude and Bodmin), and three of us are members of the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Committee. This committee comprises five Plymouth and five Cornwall councillors – previously, these were two each from Saltash and Torpoint and one from Rame, so there was an inbuilt reluctance to consider any form of differential pricing for Bridge and Ferry tolls.

It is a matter of fact that Bridge tolls account for 83% of the joint income of the enterprise, and that the expensive Torpoint Ferry operation is massively subsidised by Bridge users. Now that three Saltash councillors are on the committee, models of possible differing fare structures are under consideration.

The burning Cornwall issue for Saltash at the moment is public toilets (or “public inconveniences”, which is a more accurate description). Throughout Cornwall, officers are determined to transfer responsibility for toilets to local parish and town councils, and are using a combination of “sweeteners” and low-level blackmail to achieve this end.

In the case of Saltash, the Town Council agreed to take on the Waterside toilets on the promise of extensive renovation and a drains survey. The Cornwall renovation is of a very poor standard, with domestic level fittings and lighting and poor internal decoration, all extremely vulnerable to vandalism. This work is unacceptable.

Meanwhile, Belle Vue toilets have been closed for weeks, and the Longstone Park toilets are in urgent need of repairs. Renovation schemes at both locations have been proposed by Cornwall Council, but without being honest enough to say outright that the upgrades are dependent upon the Town Council taking on these toilets too.

The four Saltash Councillors are calling for an urgent high-level meeting to resolve these issues.

Cornwall Councillor Joe Ellison

The Essa Files

This month I have been sadly unable to enjoy much of the nice weather as I have been trapped inside by a mixture of council meetings and the joys of A Level exam marking (which I volunteered for, but partly on the reasonable assumption that I’d probably be trapped indoors anyway by the rain!). Therefore when I have managed to make it outside I have tried to make the most of it and this week I have been very lucky: watching a great Sports Day at saltash.net, going crabbing in Looe with my 4 year old nephew and beating my brother in a game of football - something that does not get any less satisfying when you reach your 30s, in fact rather the opposite.

Making the most of the limited time we have brings me neatly onto the town council’s priorities process – we now have a list of 120 different things that we could do from planting a community orchard to paying Cornwal Council to do more toilet cleaning to trying to improve the sporting facilities in Saltash. All of these are very important to somebody – the problem is that we don’t have the time or the money to actually do all of them, or even most of them. Therefore we want your views on which of these ideas we should prioritise.

You should either already have, or shortly receive, a special edition of the Town Messenger with a full list of the options and a form for giving your views. This can also be found on the Town Council’s website, if for example several people in your house want to put in different views.

Obviously whatever we come up with in the end as our ‘high priorities’ are not going to please everybody – in fact the nature of the process is such that the best we can hope for is probably to leave everyone equally unhappy. However one thing I would say is that if you want the right to complain about the result then please make sure that your own views have gone in.

By Adam Killeya

TOWN COUNCIL PRIORITIES – HAVE YOUR SAY!

Last month the town council asked for your ideas for everything we could do in the next four years: we have now turned these into a list of 120 options – everything that was suggested and was legal and possible!

We now want your views as to which is the most important, and which you don’t want us to do. A consultation form will be going out in a special edition of the messenger but in case you miss it, or in case more than one person in your household wants to put in a separate reply, the form will also be available on our website for you to print off and return to the boxes in the Guildhall or ‘For Saltash’ (4, Fore Street) by Saturday 31st August.

Once we have your views we will produce a provisional list of priorities. We will then hold a meeting to discuss any changes to this list. We will publish the final list on our website, and will use it to set our action plan and budget. We will review the list each year to make sure that it is up to date.

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## From The Mayor's Parlour...

It was only when I was gently reminded that this article was due that I realised that a month has passed since I became Mayor of Saltash

At the mayor choosing I said that the keys to a successful year would be communication, co-operation and community. I would like to do everything I can to achieve this. To start the communication process off may I invite you all (but not at the same time!) to come to Town Council meetings to see what goes on. Town Council and Committee meetings are open to all and have time set aside for questions from the public.

Forthcoming council meetings and agendas are posted on town council noticeboards and on our website.

The full programme of meetings is available from the Guildhall but, as an example, Full Council meetings take place in the Guildhall at 7pm on the first Thursday of each month with a planning meeting being held on the

3rd Tuesday of the month as required.

On the Saturday after the Full Council meeting there is a "meet your councillor" event between 10am and midday (usually outside the Saltash Audiology Centre in Fore Street). This is to allow members of the public to share with us their concerns, ideas and suggestions for making Saltash an even better place to live.

For people who are unable to get to either council meetings or the "meet your councillor" events information is posted on the Town Council website and notice boards

We have difficult choices to make as we attempt to get the best value for public money over the next few years. The Town Council has started a consultation process to find out what the town considers our priorities should be. Details are included in the latest edition of The Messenger, which is also available on the Town Council Website.

As well as information on the Neighbourhood Plan process (which I will be talking about more later in the year) the Town Council website now has information on planning applications that are about to go before the Town Council including links to the Cornwall On Line Planning website. Paper copies of all applications are available at the Guildhall during the week and at the Library on Saturdays.

Through these methods of communication, and others we will develop in the future, we hope to ensure that the citizens of Saltash are informed and able to contribute effectively to the council's decision making.

*CLlr & Town Mayor David Yates*

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## Memorial Marks a Living Link with Millennium of Town's History

Nine Hundred or more years of Saltash history is now commemorated by a memorial to the ferry which was the initial reason for the establishment of Saltash as a settlement. The last ferry ran in October 1961, the day before the opening of the Tamar Bridge. When the town came together to celebrate fifty years since the last ferry ran it was agreed that there should be a permanent memorial to it and this has now been officially opened.

A large gathering on the Waterside heard the clamour of the actual ferry bell which



opened the ceremony on a sunny May afternoon. A number of local thespians had meanwhile been reading actual memories of the ferry, just some of those that had been collected as part of a Saltash Ferry Memory Bank by Stephanie Norgaard. These are all to be stored as sound archives on the website as well as in Saltash Heritage Museum.

Host Barry Brooking welcomed all, including some special guests whose family members had worked on the ferry, and spoke of the memorial now there for all to see. It had been decided to commemorate not just the steam driven chain ferry that older residents will remember, but the boats that had been plying the crossing since at least Norman and possibly Roman times. Accordingly the sculpture, designed by local artist John Forster, represents the

ribs of a boat surmounted by a ferryman who could be from any century. Such men had crossed the Tamar in boats pulled, rowed, sailed or steamed for centuries when, as it was said, 'Saltash was the ferry and the ferry was Saltash.' Etched brass panels by Saltash artists capture incidents and craft from the ferry's history, and the memorial also incorporates the last piece of ferry chain salvaged from the river as well as a stone from the former "Passage House Inn", part of which remains as "The Boatman".



Mayor David Yates, in his first civic event since his installation, commented as a former Royal Navy man himself, 'The ferry made Saltash what it is now. This will ensure that in a hundred years time future generations will remember us as well as those ferryman'.

Ex-Mayor Martin Gee added, 'The only way to keep the ferry alive is to keep it alive

in peoples' minds and to tell people where Saltash began and grew from'. He then went on to launch the memorial by pouring over it a pint of specially acquired 'Ferryman Ale'.

A memorial seat alongside forms a part of a sculpture and overlooks the former slipway. 'When the last ferry ran the pulse of Waterside suddenly stopped. Those associated with Ashtorre who have promoted this are hoping that now it still exists', concluded Mr. Brooking.

Artist John Forster, looking on his work, told the 'Observer' 'I am pleased with the way that people have responded to it. Some enjoy the industrial feel of the big structure, others the detail of the brasses.' The metal of which it is made is designed to look rusty but will not rust and hopefully should commemorate the ferry for many future generations to come.

Artist John Forster



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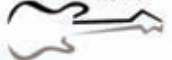
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## Ex Mayor Martin Accepts Heritage Chair

Having recently relinquished the mayoral chain Cllr. Martin Gee has been unanimously elected to chair Saltash Heritage, the extremely active organisation that administers the town's museum and local history centre.

Retiring chairman Dr. John Parsons who, with his wife Pam, is moving to York to be closer to his family would be 'a hard act to follow', Martin Gee acknowledged

'Thank you for electing me and I hope that I live up to expectations', he added. Secretary Liz Sharpe-Asprey, Treasurer Richard Lawson and the full committee were unanimously re-elected.

Dr. Parsons thanked all of those who had supported Heritage and himself during his term of office. 'This has been the hardest working, as well as the friendliest and most congenial committee that I have ever worked with', he concluded. 'I will miss you all and hope to return some day to see you in an even bigger and better museum'.

The new exhibition on the theme of 'Water, water everywhere' was going well, Secretary Mrs Asprey said, and attracting many favourable comments, it will run for the rest of the summer.

On a watery theme, the annual general meeting of Heritage was followed by a talk entitled 'Round the Bend'. Mr Bruce Crowhurst spoke on the surprisingly fascinating topic of sewerage disposal from 4000 years ago, in Crete, to the present day. Whereas in Rome in 300 AD there were 144 public conveniences (more than today) two millennia later in Saltash sanitation consisted in emptying a chamber pot from the window or into the open channel that flowed down the middle of Lower Fore Street until it was covered in 1857. Sewerage disposal in the town was properly initiated in 1852, the town's first flushing lavatory was installed in 1888 and by 1893 a water supply

from a mine adit in South Hill started to replace the need for wells which, when cess pits were placed too close to them, could result in typhoid epidemics.

Mr. Crowhurst followed his history by giving a professional account of modern sanitary disposal methods which, as newly elected Chairman Martin Gee concluded, made one glad that we live in the present age when the town's effluent no longer, as it did until recent times, empties directly into the rivers around us.

## Voice of Youth is Heard in Council Chamber

Three young people, all in their early twenties put themselves forward to be co-opted for a vacant seat on Saltash Town Council. The vacancy is as a result of only three candidates standing for the four seats in Saltash South in the recent election.

The successful co-opted candidate was Gina Donovan, aged 22, who is a Saltash native having been educated at St. Stephens and saltash.net Schools. She went on to obtain a degree in politics at Plymouth University and has been working with the NSPCC. 'I thought there was a need for a young person to bring a fresh perspective to the Town Council', she told the Observer.

Having previously been a member of K3 she is now the town council's K3 representative and looks forward to becoming involved in youth issues.

## A Feast of Flora for Churchtown Walkers

For those who could not tell their crested dog's tail from a bird's foot trefoil or a catsear from a hawksbeard, a wild flower walk through Churchtown Farm, organised by the Friends of Churchtown Farm, proved a fascinating insight into the variety of Summer Flora. Since Cornwall Wildlife Trust assumed care of the farm, explained walk leader and botanist Ian Bennallick, the policy of adding no nutrients has resulted in an ancient seedbank producing a wide variety of wild meadow flowers.

## Writing Fiction is 'A Mental Holiday' for Dancing Ex Cabinet Minister



"After twenty-three years at Westminster doing serious things why do you now do celebrity trash?"

To this frequently asked question the Rt. Honourable Ann Widdecombe, former Conservative Home Secretary replies 'I no longer owe a duty of dignity', and, 'If I do lose my gravitas what do I want it for'.

Her varied career through politics to pantomime villain via her renowned 'Strictly' dancing performance and, most recently an opera roll at Covent Garden is fully described in her autobiography 'Strictly Ann' which she was promoting to her Saltash audience.

Her Saltash based family background is fully covered, in an early chapter she confirmed to Observer reporter Martin Lister in an exclusive interview.

Writing fiction she found to be an ideal hobby, for a busy politician, a 'mental holiday' and chance to drift

into a different world at odd times. But whereas her fiction was always 'character led', and often concluded unexpectedly to her as well as to her readers, an autobiography she has discovered to be a different discipline in which facts have to be confirmed. In her case too, she explained, she seeks to satisfy a wide intended readership including those into politics to whom Anton du Beke may be an European Community Commissioner, and those into show business with little interest in the minutiae of the Disability Act. How far she has succeeded, particularly in her aim to make Westminster accessible, readers of her first foray into non-fiction can discover. And while she has no further show-biz ambitions she is now attempting a new form of fiction – a detective story.

Those spotted in the fields included hedge woundwort, field pennycress, long stalked cranesbill and rough chervil.

The wide variety of habitats in the reserve adds to the number of flower species. In marshy areas water figwort and brooklime were among the specimens seen, in the woods stinking iris flourished alongside pennywort growing from the trees, while on the foreshore sea beet vied with hemlock and spear leaved orache. Even on the railway parapet five varieties of fern were growing from the stonework.

A dozen would-be botanists delighted in discovering flora with such names as rough chervil, lesser stitchwort, hedge bedstraw, wild madder and jack by the hedge.

## Parkesway Properties Considered as Over Development

Following an appeal in which leave was granted for two properties on a site in Parkesway the developers are now seeking to have four there, the Town Council was told.

Concern has been expressed by a neighbouring resident as to parking on the site and as to drainage of surface water on the slope.

'This would be over development of the site, with insufficient amenity space, it would be overbearing and overlooking neighbours,' considered Cllr. Adam Killea. 'The access is onto a road busy with school run and commuters.'

Councillors agreed and recommended refusal with none in favour.

Observer Telephone Numbers  
07971484872 or  
01579 345699

## Go Canoeing Day – with the Tamar Canoe Association



Sheryll joins Special Olympian Steve Dodd on training equipment before heading out onto the water.

The Tamar Canoe Association (TCA) held their Go Canoeing Day on the 2nd June, at Jubilee Green Saltash. Go Canoeing Days are organised in conjunction with Canoe England and offer free fun taster session designed to let those new to canoeing or kayaking try out different boats in a safe and managed environment.

Participants are supervised at all times by TCA Volunteers, many of whom are British Canoe Union qualified coaches. Andy Davey from Canoe England was there throughout the day to provide support to ensure the day ran as smoothly as possible. The event was attended by a total of 34 people interested in trying out the sport of paddling, including local MP Sheryll Murray. Sheryll said "This is a fantastic event which clearly demonstrates the benefits of canoeing. Many people don't realise that this is a sport where people of all age groups can paddle together. A fantastic family sport. Well done to the Tamar Canoe Association for sharing their sport with new people of all ages and abilities". Special guest of honour was Steven Dodd who proudly displayed the Gold medals he won in the

Special Olympics held in Nottingham at the National Water Sports Centre. In winning his medals, Steven has qualified to compete in Los Angeles, California. Steven was happy to demonstrate his winning paddling technique in a Sea Kayak during the event. Members of the public who signed up for Go Canoeing Day had 2 fun packed sessions in which to try out a variety of kayaks and canoes, all provided free by the Tamar Canoe Association. Activities in the June sunshine included introductions to the basic paddling techniques; kayak races, and a variety of tasks designed to get people standing up in their floating boats – a sure recipe for getting wet.

Feedback taken at the end of each of the two sessions held that day confirmed that a great time had been had by all.

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## 'Futuristic' Flats Turned Down by Town

A significant massive futuristic building squeezed between a green space and a traditional Victorian home was how one North Road resident described a proposed block of six flats adjacent to her home.

Saltash Town Council had received 32 letters of objection on the basis that at three stories high and of contemporary design, it was out of keeping with the older residences. They also expressed concern over loss of privacy, overlooking, and traffic issues.

'I am concerned that this is an alien design and overdevelopment of a small plot', agreed Cllr. Derek Holley. 'This is a massive development on a narrow strip of the land not in keeping with the Edwardian and Victorian street scene', agreed Cllr. Martin Gee.

The Town Council recommended refusal, with none in favour on grounds including over-development of site, out of keeping with the street scene, overlooking and traffic presenting an unacceptable highway risk. Residents gave councillors a round of applause.

## St. Barnabas Day Service for Local Hospital

A service of celebration for 125 years of St. Barnabas' Hospital's service to Saltash was held on St. Barnabas day at the town's St. Nicholas and Faith Church.

The service also celebrated fifty years' of the League of Friends, many members of which were present for the service. The League's chairman Mrs Joyce Mepsted gave the bible reading on the Good Samaritan before the Rev'd Sacha Pearce, of Derriford Hospital chaplaincy team, preached the sermon, as well as describing some of the duties of a hospital chaplain.

The Rev'd Cannon Alan Butler and the Rev'd Josephine Lobb of Saltash team ministry also participated before the congregation adjourned to the church rooms for refreshment. The next celebration of the hospital's anniversary will be a barn dance on Saturday 12th

October from 7 p.m. at Burraton Community Centre.

### Lost Props to Cop Shop

What do we do with any found lost property now that the police station is no longer open to the public? This question was raised during the police report to the Town Council meeting in July.

It can be pushed through the letter box at the Callington Road Police Station, was the reply from PCSO Tom Cornwell. It is impractical the blue telephone next to the police station door can be utilised and someone will open the door and collect any items.

## Local Artist at Ashtorre



The Tamar estuary and the Saltash townscape and surrounding

countryside were the inspiration for a display of watercolours displayed by Simon Young in the Ashtorre centre.

A Devonian who served thirty eight years with the Devon and Dorset Regiment, Simon's chosen medium of watercolour resulted from this being best suited to his constant movements. He has portrayed trouble spots including the former Yugoslavia and exhibited in support of children who have suffered in the conflicts.

Back in Saltash, where his studio overlooks the Tamar, he enjoyed participating in the Open Studios Cornwall event, painting in situ and talking to visitors about his rather more peaceful subject matter.

## Ploughboy Packed for Charity Quiz



Looking pretty in pink were many of the participants in a lively evening at the 'Ploughboy' whose fun loving and charitably minded patrons packed the pub to support the Big Pink Quiz. Landlords Mike and Joan Carroll organised the event to support

Joan's daughter Shirley, herself a sufferer from breast cancer and who has determinedly fund raised for research into the disease since her own diagnosis.

Having a fun event to support sufferers from breast cancer brought out the best in the locals, all of whom confirmed a fantastic atmosphere as they grappled with mind-bending questions, shared in fun and laughter, and enjoyed a monster raffle with superb prizes Mike laid on a chips and sausage supper for quiz participants with all of the money paid going to the charity.

Charity fun quiz nights are fast becoming a speciality of the Ploughboy with many

local residents joining the resident locals to share the fun and excitement. Mike is

more than willing to host a quiz event for any worthy local or national cause and will be happy to discuss organising this.

In doing so Mike and Joan are hoping to realise their

ambition of seeing the 'Ploughboy' as a real community pub helping at the heart of its local community.

Mike has also been pleased to supply the strip for St. Stephens Cricket Team, whom he is proud to support and ensure that they are especially smartly turned out this season.

The Ploughboy euchre team has also been enjoying mixing fun with fund raising. Their euchre days out are now becoming a highly

popular regular event during which they tour the towns and Country pubs from lunchtime to evening playing euchre in each.

On these days out fun events and forfeits result in money being made for their preferred charity, helping support leukaemia sufferers in Derriford hospital's Birch Ward. Raising money for worthy causes and having fun along the way is a 'win-win' pleasure for the competitive minded Ploughboy regulars and visitors.

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St Stephens cricket team sporting their new shirts



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## Book Lover's Treat at Trematon Hall

Book lovers filled the regency style Trematon Hall to hear talks from renowned authors, question them and talk to them informally over a delicious buffet lunch or in the beautifully set gardens,

Jill Male of 'Saltash Bookshelf' had once again offered readers the opportunity to enjoy another locally set book festival and it had soon proved a sell-out,

Books from A – Z with a Million Friends Between

Her childhood in a 'forces family' with frequent moves and only books proving a constant provided a perfect background for a writer, believed Veronica Henry. "To be a writer you need to be a reader- as wide a range as possible is your grounding," Following a university degree in latin, an excellent basis for a wordsmith, she worked on the production of such soaps as 'The Archers' 'Crossroads' and 'Heartbeat'. 'I learned about creating a fictional work as an escape and everybody needs another world to escape to,' she

decided, and determined to create her own fictional world, based around a Cotswolds brewery, 'It doesn't have to be a major drama', she considered and her formula for entertaining her readers has evidently worked with eleven novels now to her credit.

Her most recent, and most exotic setting was the renowned 'Orient Express' The experience of that fabled journey, from entering the Pullman lounge at Victoria to transferring to the Cipriani Hotel in Venice was outlined to her audience. Her observations of her fellow passengers resulted in what seems set to be a best seller 'night on the Orient Express' describing how a good spread of passengers have their lives changed for ever on that magical journey.

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I recently put my name forward in the ballot for Private Members Bills. I was fortunate to have already been successful in introducing Bill in the past session which received Royal Assent the day before the last Parliament prorogued. It is unusual for a back bench MP to introduce a Bill and it become law and I will always be pleased my Bill has now become the Marine Navigation Act.

It was therefore a real surprise when I was drawn again as number 4 on the list of the 20 MPs whose names were drawn. My new Bill is the Deep Sea Mining Bill and I hope it will help to make sure that present legislation, which dates back to 1981, is amended to accommodate the modern technology which is of economic importance to the UK.

My friend and colleague James Wharton MP was drawn as number one in the ballot and has introduced the EU Referendum Bill. If successful this Bill will create the Act of Parliament which will give the British People an "in or out" referendum of Britain's membership of the European Union.

I have to be honest, if I had to vote today in such a referendum, with so much uncertainty within the European Union, I would probably vote to withdraw.

I can fully understand why people need to see a guarantee that they are going to have their democratic say.

Mr Clegg promised a referendum in literature that was delivered to many homes throughout the country and certainly far and wide in South East Cornwall. One such leaflet stated "The Liberal Democrats want a real referendum on Europe.

## Observer Telephone numbers

**07971484872 or**

**01579 345699**

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## SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...



Only a real referendum on Britain's membership of the EU will let the people decide our country's future".

The United Kingdom Independence Party has, for decades, argued for the UK to leave the EU. This was the whole purpose of the formation of UKIP. Sadly, what UKIP fail to tell us is that they would have to pass the Act of Parliament which would allow a Referendum to have Legislative credibility. Something we are trying to do.

I am saddened that during the local election campaign, we saw so many promises from UKIP about policy that whilst popular, were inexplicit on how they could be implemented or how much they would cost the taxpayer.

It is very disappointing that these Political parties are not fully behind the Campaign to back this bill. Readers can co-sponsor the bill at:

[www.letbritaindecide.com](http://www.letbritaindecide.com)

## Hawke's Tor

E.V. Thompson

### The Book

The brutal murder of a promiscuous young wife and the disappearance of her baby son bring Superintendent Amos Hawke and Sergeant Tom Churchyard to a tiny moorland village in nineteenth-century Cornwall, where the residents harbour dark secrets.

The two policemen believe the murderer will be found within the isolated and insular community, but unravelling the tangled web of lies and deceit proves frustrating. Is the answer to the mystery held by the young gypsy girl whose appearance on the scene has disturbing ramifications for Tom Churchyard?

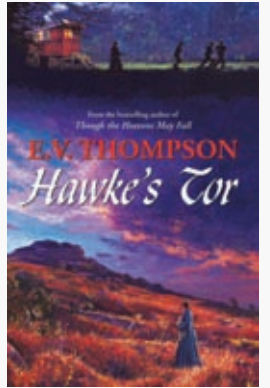
### The Author

*E.V. Thompson was born in London, After spending nine years in the Royal Navy, he served as a Vice Squad policeman in Bristol, became an investigator for British Overseas Airways (during which time he was seconded to the Hong Kong Police Narcotics Bureau), then headed Rhodesia's Department of Civil Aviation Security Section. While in Rhodesia, he published over two hundred short stories before moving back to England to become a full-time, award-winning writer.*

*His first novel, Chase the Wind, the opening book in the Retallick saga, won the Best Historical Novel Award, and since then more than thirty novels have won him thousands of admirers around the world.*

### Praise for the Author

'Thompson is a marvellous scene-setter and creator of atmosphere...here he retains the pace and care of the best of his writing with a crafted style' - *The Cornishman*  
'A vigorous and fascinating piece of storytelling from the pen of a world-class professional' - *The Sunday Times*  
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## Letter to the Editor...

Dear Editor,

Following Baz Gregory's letter to the Saltash Observer last month – I have been asked by some past members of the original Saltash Cornwall Festival 1998/99/2000 committee and indeed members of the public to clarify various long standing issues relating to the Cross and other associated matters – which I am happy to do.

The idea of the Celtic Cross for Saltash was put forward by Saltash Churches Together and launched over 14 years ago by Saltash Festival 1998/99/2000 committee as part of the trilogy of cultural celebrations inaugurated by myself who was Mayor at that time as part of my pledge and vision to regenerate Saltash and to boost to the local economy to the tune of £100,000.

The Festival Committee was made up of over 25 voluntary organisations in the town, together funding partners, sponsors and with town Councillors, a senior Caradon District Council officer, a Naval Officer from HMS Raleigh, local businesses, the press (Cornish Times and Saltash Observer) and so on.

1998 was to celebrate the Tall Ships Race held in Falmouth and we worked closely with Cornwall Enterprise to promote the race and we held major events in Saltash to encourage many visitors to the race to stop off at Saltash first.

1999 was to celebrate the Eclipse where again we organised more major events and festivities.

2000 was to celebrate the Millennium with further major events and to erect a Celtic Cross in association with Saltash Churches together, where the Church members were very much part of the Festival team and worked unstintingly for the project and Festival.

It is amazing after all these years to see our Festival's original design of the "Gateway to Cornwall" Celtic Cross come to fruition.

This is the same cross which was successful in 1999 when the five designs from four artists selected from over eighty originally put forward were publicly displayed and ultimately chosen – led by two wonderful stalwarts of the Festival Celtic Cross committee the late Councillor Pip Miller and the late Stephanie Rees (Phipps).

Planning problems early 2000 seemed to be overcome; however, planning issues which included site problems due to the forthcoming proposed safe crossing

pledged at Carkeel (our chosen site) by the Highways Agency caused many problems both financially and practically – therefore the whole Celtic Cross project had to be shelved sadly and all the un-used money was returned to the various funding partners – but much of the funding was only pledged and not ever given to the committee.

Furthermore, when the Saltash Festival 1998/99/2000 had completed their trilogy of events and the committee eventually dissolved in 2001 the little money that was left was donated to like-minded charitable organisations like Ashtorre Rock extension fund and Saltash Regatta in accordance with our auditors and constitution.

Some past members including myself and families of the original committee were delighted to attend the opening at the invitation of the SWRA committee (including Brian Bliss, Gordon Banks and Ken Martin) and were very touched to hear project leader Joe Ellison of SWRA's Ellwell Woods and the re-visited Cornish Cross project; together with the original Celtic Cross designer Simon Thomas pay tribute to Pip and Stephanie and the former Festival Committee publicly.

I feel quite sure that all the past committee members representing virtually every voluntary organisations in the town who had worked tirelessly over those three years – with vivid memories of the marvellous events – (including; many air displays (including Utterly Buttery wing walks, Air Sea And Rescue Helicopters, Aerobatic air displays), circuses (non-animals), community

concerts, Black Prince Pageant, Cornish cookery workshops, amazing fireworks displays on barges on the River Tamar, also Brunel Green and at the Saltash Football Stadium, National Water-ski Championships on the River Tamar, Bumper regattas, HM Royal Air Force Band and HM Cold Stream Guards Band concerts, Dove of Peace Parade, to name but a few – all bringing in tens of thousands of visitors and locals alike to enjoy wondrous events – and underpinned of-course by the Celtic Cross project will be delighted that after 13 years, part of their vision with Saltash Churches together has been well and truly realised and they will I'm sure celebrate and wish Joe and all his team and associates all the very best and congratulate all concerned for their outstanding recent and past achievements benefitting our wonderful town of Saltash.

Yours sincerely,  
Sue Hooper MBE  
(Founder and former  
Chairman – Saltash Cornwall  
Festival 1998/99/2000  
Committee)

## Shopping Habits in Fore Street



**Y**ear 5 pupils at Brunel Primary Academy and Saltash Library have combined to produce a study of the shops and shopping habits in Fore Street. The pupils carried out a number of investigations including classifying and identifying the different types of shops, a shoppers survey, a questionnaire for shop owners, a traffic count and a study of the street furniture available in Fore Street. The project was

led by Robin Duff of Primary Learning Initiatives and the class teacher, Mrs Wood. Said Mr Duff, 'the pupils were excellent and conducted themselves in a very mature way, they found out lots about the businesses on the street and the views of shoppers and the shop owners. The pupils produced graphs and tally charts and had to analyse their data and present it in an engaging and accurate way'. The work of the class is

currently being displayed in Saltash Library. Mr Duff went on to add he would like to thank the shoppers and the shop owners for their participation and support. 'Some children', he added 'were a little nervous to start with when asking the questions'.

He also went on to add his appreciation to the Saltash fair trade cafe in the Weslyn church for providing refreshments to the children



## Buffaloes Visit SHADO

**M**ember of SHADO (Saltash Handicapped and Disabled Organisation) were absolutely delighted and overwhelmed when they were paid a special visit by the Brothers of the East Cornwall PGL RAOB (Buffaloes) recently.

The Buffaloes visited SHADO to present a whopping cheque for £1,500 which was as a result of the outstanding fund raising efforts of Brother Trevor Mills supported by all the members of the East Cornwall Province.

Brother Reg Clarke who presented the cheque to President of SHADO – Sue Hooper MBE and Treasurer Jackie Ashton said at the

presentation: "The aims of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, established in 1822 in Drury Lane in London are to work for the benefit of local charities and communities.

"The East Cornwall Province has been established for over 90 years and meets in Saltash, Torpoint, Liskeard, Looe and Camelford – and over those years many thousands of pounds have been raised for various local and worthy charities and Trevor Mills chose SHADO to benefit from his fund raising year.

"Trevor recognised the importance of SHADO's work within the community and wanted to make this valuable contribution to SHADO's on-going work."

In sincerely thanking the Buffaloes – Mrs Hooper stressed how much the amazing donation to SHADO will mean to its members and indeed the community as a whole – she remarked that many local organisations use the building and without SHADO members and

supporters keeping the building in good working order the town and locality would not have such an important asset, therefore members were eternally grateful to the Buffaloes.

A buffet and reception was provided by the SHADO members – and members learned a great deal about Order of Buffaloes which proved to be most interesting.

For more information about SHADO please contact the secretary Maureen Ashton 01752 207774 or Chairman Teresa Orchard 01752 463420 – and for more detailed information on the East Cornwall Province contact Provincial Grand Secretary Stephen Mahoney – email – or visit the RAOB website – www.raobgle.org.uk

### Conundrum answers...

1. Spamalot
2. Lactic
3. Unicorn
4. Nepal
5. Trent
6. Bannockburn
7. Edward
8. Nine
9. Scavenger Nine-letter word: Bluntness

## SALTASH INNER WHEEL

**O**ur speaker for May was Debbie Williams from the charity the Gambia Project. In 2008 Debbie bought some land in The Gambia and had built a school and library and also a mud hut in which she lives.

Children aged from eighteen months to fourteen years come to the school where they are fed, given first aid, when needed, and of course have their lessons. Older girls come to the school with babies on their back as it is their job to look after the youngest in the family. As well as their school-work the children are taken to the beach near-by to be taught to swim. This is important as there have been many fatalities due to the dangerous currents in the area.

There are about one hundred children attending the school morning to evening and a child can be sponsored for two pounds a month.

Debbie was thanked for her talk and was presented with a cheque for two hundred and fifty pounds.

Two weeks after our club meeting one of our members, Diane Hobbs, opened her garden on a beautiful Saturday afternoon for a cake and cream tea afternoon. The tea was delicious, the weather perfect, the company good and some money was made for our charity fund.

## No Way for Disabled

A request to make a path to Saltash Leisure Centre, surgery and library disabled friendly met with the response that there was no money available.

During public question time at Saltash Town Council's May meeting a disabled lady requested that a ramp be placed alongside steps by Kimberley football stadium to make a path from Alamein Road to the leisure centre available for all.

The response from County Councillors present was that this might go on the 'wish list' but with county finances currently so tight there was no likelihood of it being granted in the foreseeable future.

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numbers  
07971484872  
or  
01579 345699  
marye.crawford@virgin.net**

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## Saltash Leisure Centre Summer Holiday activities 2013

Wednesday 24th July - Tuesday 3rd September

### Mondays

5th and 19th August

### Activity Day

8-16 yrs £12 per day 10am - 3pm

An action packed day of activities for those over 8. Including swimming, games and arts and crafts, children must be able to swim 50m competently and un-aided.

Please bring a drink, snack, packed lunch and swim wear.



### Tuesdays

30th July, 13th and 27th August

### Art Attack

4-7 yrs £4 per session 1pm - 3pm

Come along and get creative using lots of recycled materials to make goodies to take away.

Please bring a drink and wear old clothes.



6th and 20th August

### Snorkelling

8-16 yrs £10.80 per session  
1pm - 3pm

Run by a qualified PADI instructor teaching basic water safety and snorkelling skills.

This session is ideal for children of all abilities, but you must be able to swim 50 metres competently and unaided.



### Wednesdays

24th July, 7th and 21st August

### Activity Afternoon

4-7 yrs £4 per session 1pm - 3pm

An afternoon of activities and games guaranteed to keep your little one(s) entertained! Bring a drink.

### Thursdays

15th August

### Snorkelling

8-16 yrs £10.80 per session 1pm - 3pm

Run by a qualified PADI instructor teaching basic water safety and snorkelling skills.

This session is ideal for children of all abilities, but you must be able to swim 50 metres competently and unaided.



### Fridays

26th July, 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th August  
**Wet n Wild**

All Ages £3.50 per person 10am - 12 noon

Body boards, balls, super soakers and great music make this session great fun for all ages. Please note that all children under eight years must be accompanied by an adult and under fours will still be charged the full price due to a restriction on numbers in the pool.



For more information on Holiday activities visit our website or telephone the centre

**T: 01752 840940**

[www.tempusleisure.org.uk](http://www.tempusleisure.org.uk)

Callington Road, Saltash, PL12 6DJ



**Tempus**  
Making time for leisure

## Mid Season Tennis Tournament

Saltash Tennis Centre was suitably decorated with bunting and banners for its midseason tennis day. Chris Cansfield (Chairman) greeted Members and guests to an informal tournament cunningly organised by Coach Phil Tucker, this miraculously allowed all present to partake and through a points system arrive at ultimate winners. Coach Tom Wyman partnered by Felicity Wyman beating Steve Morris and his partner Noelle Boucherat. But the emphasis was strictly on the social and a fine buffet and cold drinks topped off by Strawberries and Cream made it an afternoon to remember. Who needs Wimbledon when you've got grass courts in Saltash?!!")

## Thefts from School and of Scooter

The Summer Half Term holiday saw a burglary at Burraton Primary School, where a go-cart was stolen. There were also trespassers at Burraton and St. Stephens Schools where children were seen climbing on roofs. Children were identified, names taken, and appropriate action taken, said PCSO Tom Cornwell, who suggest that during the longer Summer holidays, parents should ensure where their children were playing.

The school break-in was one of three reported burglaries over the previous month during which there had been also three thefts from motor vehicles and the theft of a motor scooter parked in Fore Street. There had also been nine assaults.

The better news from PCSO Cornwell was that crime in Saltash area continues to fall with 68 offences reported over the month as against 98 the previous year during the same period. Other offences included damage to the Co-op door, with one suspect believed to be identified and a dog allegedly dangerously out of control in Callington Road where he bit a female jogger.

Residents have been complaining about vehicles illegally parked outside a garage in Gilston Road, on the industrial estate, and Police have promised further intervention here.

## Local Loos Below Bog Standard

Local public conveniences are a disgrace and the Town Council is not willing to take them over from Cornwall Council until they are of an acceptable standard. This was the clear opinion of Councillors who were highly critical of the work carried out on the Waterside conveniences.

Meanwhile the only conveniences in the town centre, at Belle Vue car park, remain closed while awaiting work, though it was pointed out that the disabled toilet can now be accessed without the requisite key. The only other remaining conveniences at Longstone Park, also require attention.

Though the toilets in local public houses are available through the community toilet scheme some elderly people are not happy to use them, nor are some parents keen to let their children in

unaccompanied.

The Town Council had previously agreed to take over the Waterside conveniences but this is currently on hold. 'Until the facilities are presented to the town and the town accepts that they are up to an acceptable standard, the Town Council will not take over maintenance', declared Mayor Cllr. David Yates.

**Observer Telephone Numbers**  
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## Historic Conservation Area Extension Considered

The conservation area in the heart of old Saltash including Lower Fore Street and Waterside could be extended to include Essa Road and Port View. Some residents have sought this, the town council was told, especially following the eventual granting on appeal, of permission to build new houses in garden space on Essa Road. It is hoped that conservation area status might avoid similar future development.

However Councillors warned that it would also affect residents' rights to improve their homes, for example by fitting new windows. It would also involve considerable expense to local ratepayers in employing a consultancy company. Councillors have agreed to defer further action.

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award Silver Expedition

Five students, currently in Year 12 at saltash.net, set off this morning for Bodmin Moor in order to undertake their final Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition. The students taking part were: Ella Fadida, Zoe James, Connie Turner. Sam Church and Taylor Woodhall. Having contended with snow, hail, wind and rain on previous practice expeditions, today's warm and sunny weather was a pleasant surprise. The group will be walking for the next three days and will be assessed by teachers, Vicky Higgs, Helen Ripper and Gareth Jones, as well as support staff member, Graham Drewery. The very best of luck is wished to the team.



saltash.net community school is a thriving, highly successful 11 to 18 mixed, community comprehensive school. On April 1<sup>st</sup> 2011, the school achieved Academy status, another significant milestone in its history. Becoming an Academy means the school can continue to strengthen and develop all areas of the curriculum, including its specialism of Science, Maths and Computing.

Situated in an area of outstanding natural beauty the school secures high levels of academic success as well as many outstanding sporting and other extra curricular achievements. It offers excellent ICT facilities, state of the art science labs and has an on site farm with world famous pigs and chickens! It also has a modern floodlit All Weather Pitch.

The school works very closely with its seven partner primary schools to ensure Year 6 students have a smooth transition to secondary school. We strive to provide the highest quality education for all children in our care. We are proud of what our young people achieve and we look forward to welcoming you to our school soon.

## Open Evenings for 2013

Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> & Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> October

6:30 p.m.

saltash.net community school  
Wearde Road, Saltash  
Cornwall  
PL124AY

For a prospectus or more information please contact:

Tel: 01752 843715

[enquiries@saltash.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@saltash.cornwall.sch.uk)

[www.saltash.net](http://www.saltash.net)