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July 2023 - Issue 374

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## Call to Action

We say enough is enough

The Highways Authority would be obliged by law to take on the maintenance of the Tamar Bridge should Cornwall Council and Plymouth City Council agree that tolls should be dropped, according to a local campaign group's recent findings.

The original Tamar Bridge Act of 1957 states that if tolls cease to be collected, Cornwall and Plymouth City councils would still be responsible for the upkeep of the bridge. However, through careful examination of subsequent legislation, the Tamar Toll Action Group (TTAG) has discovered crucial small print in the updated 1979 Act.

"The 1957 Act placed most of the financial liability on the local authorities if they stopped

taking tolls, but the 1979 Act supersedes that and replaces it with the requirement that if tolls are discontinued the bridge shall become a highway maintainable at public expense," explains TTAG Vice Chair Scott Slavin. "Providing Plymouth City and Cornwall Council are in agreement, they can drop the tolls on the bridge at any time and Highways England would have to assume responsibility for its maintenance."

The action group submitted a question on this topic to the most recent meeting of the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee, and received confirmation that the 1979 Act is valid. "We want to shine a light on all possible negotiating points to make sure the public is aware of them, and to demonstrate to the authorities that we are taking an active interest and researching all ways forward," said Mr. Slavin. "The Cabinet member with responsibility for transport at Cornwall Council is Cllr. Connor Donnithorne, and he repeatedly cites the Tamar Bridge Act as reason for lack of action by the joint authorities when it's clear that the 1979 Act does at least provide some scope for negotiation with Government."

According to the campaign group, the problem is that this part of the Act only applies to the bridge. With the ferry crossings running at a significant deficit, finding a solution to what then happens at Torpoint remains a complex issue. "It is a case of a rock meeting a hard place," concludes Scott Slavin, "but after more than 60 years without any appreciable movement on the issue from Government, we feel it's time for the two authorities to start taking a stronger stance on behalf of the people who voted them into office."

TTAG is organising a peaceful protest march across the Tamar Bridge on Saturday 29th July, setting off from Alexandra Square Car Park at 1pm, to drive home the message that 'Enough is Enough'.

## Call to Action



Join us for a peaceful  
protest march across the  
Tamar Bridge  
Saturday 29th July

Why do we have to pay to access  
vital NHS services?

Do you pay hundreds of pounds a  
year to cross the Tamar?

We say Enough is Enough!

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Photo Mike Pitches Photography

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07971484872 or 01579 345699

E: [maryecrawford@hotmail.com](mailto:maryecrawford@hotmail.com)



# Town Messenger

Working for the People of Saltash

## News from Saltash Town Council Konsel an dre Essa



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Email: [schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk)

### Education Welfare:

Telephone: 0300 1234 101  
[educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk)

### Housing Department

Telephone: 0300 1234 161  
Email: [info@cornwallhousing.org.uk](mailto:info@cornwallhousing.org.uk)

### Social Services Department

Telephone: 0300 1234 101  
Email: [children@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:children@cornwall.gov.uk)

### Social Services Department

Telephone: 0300 1234 131  
[adultcare@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:adultcare@cornwall.gov.uk)

### Highways Department

Telephone: 0300 1234 222  
Email: [customerrelations@cormaclimited.co.uk](mailto:customerrelations@cormaclimited.co.uk)

### Transport Department

(Schools Transport)  
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(Bus Pass) Telephone: 0300 1234 222  
Email: [schooltransport@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:schooltransport@cornwall.gov.uk)

### Roads, Transport and Parking

Telephone: 0300 1234 222  
Email: [roadtransportandparking@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:roadtransportandparking@cornwall.gov.uk)

### Waste Department

Telephone: 0300 1234 141  
Email: via contact form on website only.

### Cormac Solutions

Telephone: 01872 323 313  
Email: [customerrelations@cormacitd.co.uk](mailto:customerrelations@cormacitd.co.uk)

### Fly Tipping:

Telephone: 0300 1234 141  
Email: [refuseandrecycling@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:refuseandrecycling@cornwall.gov.uk)

*Town Messenger  
news is supplied  
by the Town  
Council*

### Cornwall Councillors/ Wards

#### Saltash Essa ED

Cllr Hilary Frank  
[cldr.hilary.frank@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.hilary.frank@cornwall.gov.uk)

#### Saltash Tamar ED

Cllr Sheila Lennox-Boyd  
[cldr.sheila.lennox-boyd@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.sheila.lennox-boyd@cornwall.gov.uk)

#### Saltash Trematon

#### & Landrake ED

Cllr Martin Worth  
[cldr.martin.worth@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.martin.worth@cornwall.gov.uk)

#### Cornwall Councillors Cover such services as:

Housing – Education  
Social Services  
Highways  
Waste & Recycling  
Tamar Bridge

## From the Deputy Mayor of Saltash

I am very pleased and honoured to be elected as your Deputy Mayor again for the year 2023-24 working with our Mayor Councillor Richard Bickford who is also serving a second year.

Richard and I have very similar aims and ambitions for Saltash. This working relationship has led to a great deal of work trying our hardest with funding applications to enhance our town.

I do hope that you all took the opportunity to attend the two public consultations to view potential options for a green open space in the town and to begin a community discussion on public space, flood protection and a broader vision for the future of the Waterside. Your views are very important so if you haven't had the chance to look at them, please visit the following sites and take part in the online surveys: Green open space in the town: <https://sites.google.com/view/saltash-community-space> Saltash Waterside: <https://sites.google.com/view/saltashwatersidecct/home>

Those of you that know me well, know how passionate I am about supporting our youth organisations. The Town Council awarded Livewire and The Core £29,938 for the financial year

## Remembering Joe Ellison

I was saddened to learn of the passing of former Mayor of Saltash Joe Ellison. Joe (Geoffrey) was Mayor in 2006-2007 and was a Town Councillor for over 10 years. Joe also served Saltash as a Caradon District and Cornwall Councillor.

Joe was a key member of SWRA, a residents association of great renown, where Joe helped mastermind several projects, such as the opening up of Huntley Gardens in Lower Fore Street and the addition of mosaics to Silver Street, as well as being one of the driving forces behind the clearing and renovation of Elwell Woods and the construction of the Saltash Cornish Cross that sits proudly at the top of the woods. The play train at the Waterside is another SWRA project which Joe was instrumental in installing.

Revitalising and reimagining the town's regatta was another of Joe's passions, his vision, alongside others, helped turn a dying event into what is now the thriving, Saltash Regatta and Waterside Festival.

Joe was always happy to share his expertise and knowledge to anyone that asked, so it was no surprise



2023-24 to support the increased need for detached professional youth work in Saltash.

Unfortunately mental health issues seem to be a growing need amongst our young people in the town.

Compared to many towns in Cornwall we are so blessed to have the many volunteers who give their time to Badgers, Cubs, Brownies, St Johns, Cadets, football and rugby along with many more organisations. They are all looking for more volunteers, if you have a few hours a week spare, please let them know.

I have had the great pleasure of setting up "Friends of Victoria Gardens", meeting lots of new people who are volunteering to make it a lovely place to sit and ponder. We meet regularly on Saturday mornings at 10.30am to plan what's needed for the week ahead, have a cuppa and chat. Thank you also to the many people who have donated



that he helped the residents of Pillmere get another residents association off the ground.

Joe and his wife Clare moved to Wales in the Autumn of 2021 to be closer to family.

I was fortunate that some of my time as a councillor overlapped with Joe's and that I was able to work alongside him on a number of SWRA projects and on the Regatta Committee. He will be greatly missed, by myself as a good friend and others that were lucky enough to have known him. For Saltash he has left a tremendous legacy in all that he achieved.

*Councillor Richard Bickford  
Mayor of Saltash 2023-24*

plants and vegetables, again please continue to do so.

If you would like to join us, please register at the Guildhall or at Victoria Garden's on a Saturday morning. Look forward to seeing you there!

Saltash Town Council has approved a five-year Leasehold from Cornwall Council for Victoria Gardens and the Maurice Huggins Room, I have lots of ideas for the future of Victoria Gardens and the Maurice Huggins

Room. I would be delighted to hear some of your ideas too.

Lots of community groups are getting together to raise funds for their local play parks to be reinstated, there is also some match funding available for play parks from Saltash Town Council, please visit the Town Council website [https://www.saltash.gov.uk/edit/stuploads/8868\\_180600019.pdf](https://www.saltash.gov.uk/edit/stuploads/8868_180600019.pdf) for further information or contact the Guildhall 01752 844846.

## Your Town Council & Wards

### Saltash Essa:

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5. Cllr Jon Foster  
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6. Cllr Sheila Lennox-Boyd  
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### Saltash Tamar:

1. Cllr Lisa Mortimore  
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### Saltash Trematon:

1. Cllr Steve Miller  
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4. Cllr Yates  
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### Mayor:

Cllr Richard Bickford

### Deputy Mayor:

Cllr Julia Peggs

### Town Clerk:

Sinead Burrows  
T: 844846  
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**Councillors' Telephone  
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## Last Chance to Have Your Say on a New Town Centre Event Space

The consultation on proposals for a new multi-use community space in the heart of Saltash town centre will close on 14th July, so there is still time to give your views.

Over 170 people attended the consultation events at the Guildhall over the weekend of 16th and 17th June to give their views. Now the plans and feedback forms are available to view at Saltash Library Hub and online at [www.saltash.gov.uk/consultations.php](http://www.saltash.gov.uk/consultations.php)

The aspiration is to create a revitalised green space which would be able to host events, offer improved facilities for outdoor relaxation and bring the community together, as well as enhancing the viability of the town centre as a retail and leisure destination.

The four sites that are being considered are central Fore Street, the areas at the top and bottom of Fore Street and Alexandra Square Car Park. Peter Ryland, Chair of Saltash Town Team for this project said, "It was great to see so many people at our consultation events at the Guildhall, but if you couldn't make it, we still want to hear your thoughts before the consultation closes on 14th July. Please have a look at the website or visit the library and let us know what you think by completing a feedback form or via the Town Council

website."

The Saltash Town Team, working alongside Saltash Town Council, is leading on the project having secured Town Vitality Funding for a feasibility study from Cornwall Council. Councillor Louis Gardner, Cornwall Council Portfolio Holder for Economy, said: "Town Vitality funding is helping places examine their town centres and the continuing role they can play in supporting community and business activity. We're really interested to see how communities like Saltash explore opportunities for reimagining the ways in which their town centres are used."

Following public consultation, the design team will consider all the feedback and finalise the preferred option to present to the Town Team in September. The Town Team, working with Saltash Town Council, will then seek further funding to enable the project to move ahead in order to deliver positive environmental, social and economic benefits for the town.

## Stark Reality Leads To STARC

In response to an upsurge in shoplifting on Fore Street, retailers have joined forces to establish a 'Shopwatch' mutual support group called Saltash Traders Against Retail Crime (STARC). Led by Paula and Natasha from the Original Factory Shop, the retailers have already set up a WhatsApp group that enables members to notify each other about any suspicious activity as soon as it occurs.

Effective communication with the police will also be crucial, and STARC is looking to secure funding for radios equipped with earpieces that can be issued to all town centre businesses. Not only will this help tackle shoplifting, but it will also help prevent anti-social behaviour, fostering a sense of security for both customers and staff.

Going forward, STARC plans to produce stickers that can be prominently displayed on shop windows. This is the first step to banning individuals who exhibit threatening behaviour in one shop from entering any shop in the group.

"We're looking to make our town even safer," says Natasha. Retailers interested in joining the initiative are encouraged to speak with Paula or Natasha in the Original Factory Shop.

## STC Welcomes Work to Saltash Chronicles Embroidery

As custodians of the Saltash Chronicles embroidery Saltash Town Council have welcomed and approved proposed maintenance and additions to the embroidery project.

At the Services Committee meeting held on 27th April 2023, Saltash Town Councillors approved the cleaning, restoration, reposition and addition of panels to the work. This work will be undertaken by a selection of the original volunteers and will involve removing the embroidery from the Guildhall for a period of three months later in the year. The Saltash Chronicles Embroidery depicts the history of Saltash on 27 panels totalling 106 feet in length.

The impressive work is housed at The Guildhall and can be viewed by appointment. Please email [enquiries@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@saltash.gov.uk) or phone 01752 844846 to arrange to view the work.

Email your news to...

[maryecrawford@hotmail.com](mailto:maryecrawford@hotmail.com)

Tel: 01579 345699

Mob: 07971 484872



## Chamber Chairman Peter Ryland Keeping us Updated ...

Firstly a "Thank you" to those who took the time to visit and make comments at the public consultation regarding ideas for improving the town centre. The Chamber is one of four organisations in Saltash who have formed the Town Team, which is the driving force behind the project to deliver a new green realm in the retail heart of the town. The Town Team has appointed architects to prepare designs, which were shown in the Guildhall in June, and are available online and in the Library until 14th July. We will be assessing which of the ideas is favoured by the community, and therefore worth pursuing. We intend to deliver a final report by the end of the summer.

It was obvious from the Chamber monthly meeting that members have concerns on various matters. Although only just introduced, members felt the new car parking charges may have a detrimental impact on trade in the town. It was agreed to monitor the situation over the next few months to see whether there is any action the Chamber can take to help alleviate concerns.

The future of the Christmas Festival was discussed. The organisation and running of the event have now been under Chamber auspices for several years, but the question was asked as to whether it is now time to

pass it on to A. N. Other. A decision on the Christmas Festival was deferred to a later meeting, but members decided that since they are fully committed with other projects there is no capacity for the Chamber to deliver the Window Wanderland event, and we would leave it to others to host.

Finally, as Chairman, I reminded members that I had taken back the role as Chairman when the previous incumbent stood down, but only on the condition of taking on the role for one year. Following this monthly meeting there are only two more before the AGM ... I am waiting to hear who would like to take on the role?

## Mayor Announces Goals for Second Term of Office

"I have three goals which I hope to achieve during my second term as Mayor," newly re-elected Mayor Richard Bickford told guests at the formal mayor making ceremony. These were to see through three planning projects. The first was the Waterside Community Vision Development, plans for which had recently been put on public display. The second was to work towards what he described as "The Town Team's exciting plans for the town centre." The third was to apply monies from the town's successful "levelling up" bid to link the Waterside with the town centre.

Looking back on his first year as Mayor, Councillor Bickford recalled a tumultuous first term marked by momentous events including the celebrations of the Queen's platinum jubilee, the solemnity of her funeral and the joyous Coronation celebrations at Saltash May Fair. But above all, his most cherished memories revolved around being warmly welcomed by so many wonderful organisations. "Only as a Mayor does one realise how many dedicated volunteers, community groups and societies there are in Saltash," he added.

He looked forward to working for another year alongside Deputy Mayor Julia Peggs who, he said, "shares a clear vision of how to move this council forward." Councillor Peggs, also re-elected to serve a second term as Deputy Mayor, described her main objective as supporting the town's youngest and oldest residents. She pledged to continue supporting the Youth Council and particularly their work in addressing the mental health of young people. She expressed concern for elderly residents with mental health issues, especially those living with dementia. Furthermore, she aims to see many more trees planted around the town, and as a founder member of the Friends of Victoria

Gardens intends to help restore the park to being a source of pride for Saltash.

The Mayor with Mayoress Sarah Bickford and the Deputy Mayor with her consort Geoff Peggs took part in the ancient custom of newly elected Mayors of Saltash by tossing warm pennies to children waiting below and distributing fruit to them. The Mayor also presented two cheques for £1000 each to Saltash Environmental Action and Saltash Sailing Club Cadets, his two chosen mayor's charities last year. This year's mayor's charities, he announced, would be Saltash Food Bank, the Community Kitchen and Christians Against Poverty, helping people in Saltash with debt management.

### STC Awards Festival Funding

Saltash Town Council has funding for festivals and events being held in the town that are free events for the community to attend.

Saltash Town Council has awarded £300 to Saltash Old Cornwall Society to purchase audio equipment for their regular meetings. Saltash United Football Club has been awarded £1,000 for the refurbishment of their toilets.

For an application form, guidelines on how and when to apply and support to apply email enquiries@saltash.gov.uk or visit the Town Council website [https://www.saltash.gov.uk/edit/stuploads/8193\\_435536206.pdf](https://www.saltash.gov.uk/edit/stuploads/8193_435536206.pdf) or call 01752 844846.

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Mike Pitches Photography

A day of colour, music and fun was brought to Saltash, all with the aim of raising awareness of, supporting and celebrating marginalised communities in Cornwall. Saltash Pride '23 opened in spectacular fashion with the largest 'march in progress' banner in Britain, a majestic 50m long, 10m wide rainbow flag being carried by more than 50 supporters down Fore Street. The flag was preceded by Deputy Mayor Councillor Julia Peggs and the whole resplendent procession was led by Saltash Town Band. The march made its way down to Waterside and on to Jubilee Green where the rest of the day was given over to entertainment. All were made welcome, with many families among the estimated 2,000 who turned out on one of the hottest and sunniest days of the year so far.

"Devon and Cornwall police figures show an increase in hate crime of 50 % in each of the last three years," Matthew Kenworthy Gomes, Chief Executive of Cornwall Pride told the Observer. "Our ultimate aim in presenting these Pride festivals in eleven Cornish towns is to create a hate-free Cornwall."

While there was an amazing element of entertainment non-stop until early evening, there was also a wide range of stalls selling merchandise and publicising various organisations. As well as organisations including Cornwall Wildlife Trust and the RSPB, there were stalls specifically supporting the LGBTQ+ community, including their own rugby team, Plymouth Dolphins. In particular, there was 'Penguin Soup,' the only dedicated suicide prevention group for the LGBTQ+ community in Cornwall.

The entertainers, musicians of all genres and the musical storytelling 'Perry Winkle the Bard,' were all based locally. "We always seek to support local, inspirational Cornish talent," said Matthew.

This was the second full Saltash Pride Festival, though in previous years the Pride Bus has visited the towns during its tours of Cornwall. "The day has been an outstanding success. We have been delighted to welcome so many people from all sections of the Saltash community, and this has encouraged us to lay on another Saltash Pride as good or better in 2024," concluded Matthew.

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## We have moved !!

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May Fair 2023 coincided with the Coronation of King Charles III, and thanks to generous sponsorship from Carlton Plastics and Waterways Drainage Specialists, organisers were able to curate a lineup of superb bands on the Longstone Park stage, transforming the evening's entertainment into a mini festival leaving the audience with Coronation memories to last a lifetime.

From emerging talents like Division, to Lost in Space with their madcap mix of funky ska, retro grooves and gypsy stomp, and local favourites Whisky Falls, the range of music catered to diverse tastes, ensuring there was something for everyone. The grand finale came in the form of the sensational Queen tribute band, Good Old Fashioned Lover Boys, who flawlessly captured the essence of the legendary rock group.

Longstone Park provided



the perfect backdrop for the mini festival, offering breathtaking views of Kit Hill and beyond. With the stage set up in all its glory music filled the air, creating a joyful vibe that tumbled out over the park, captivating the hearts and feet of the crowds.

Buoyed by the resounding success of this year's music lineup, organisers are already planning for May Fair 2024.

They have set their sights on bringing an Abba tribute band to the Longstone Park stage, a fitting tribute to mark next year's 50th anniversary of Abba's victory in the Eurovision Song Contest with their timeless hit, "Waterloo."

Saltash May Fair has been steadily evolving over the years. Event organisers are careful to celebrate its cherished traditions but also to embrace new elements that unite the community. The emerging mini festival elevates the event's appeal, attracting a wider audience and fostering a heightened sense of togetherness. By blending the old and the new, Saltash May Fair continues to evolve, ensuring its enduring significance in the hearts of the community.

Band pictured top left  
Lost In Space



## Saltash Festivals Achieve Crowdfunder Goal Thanks to Community Support

Organisers of Saltash May Fair, Regatta and Christmas Festival are overjoyed as they celebrate reaching their Crowdfunder Appeal fundraising target of £15,000. The achievement has been made possible by the tremendous support of individuals and local businesses, highlighting the significant role the community plays in these vibrant and free-to-attend events.

There is just a handful of core volunteers delivering these festivals, although organisers are quick to emphasise that the Tamar Trotters have provided crucial support in ensuring that the Fun Run, 5k, and Half Marathon are well-organised and attended, and that Saltash Redeemer Church delivers the spectacular cardboard boat race and treasure hunts.

Many of these volunteers have devoted years to the events, witnessing rising costs, dwindling sponsorship, and increasing paperwork. As well as planning and delivering, organisers face the huge task of raising an eye-watering £50,000 from scratch every year. This fundraising task can be exhausting, and can detract from the joy of organising the celebrations. It makes the relief and joy of achieving the Crowdfunder target even more sweet.

Karen Lilley, Chair of the Saltash Regatta Committee,

expressed her gratitude, saying, "Sadly, none of the national or regional Crowdfunder partners actually provided match funding. But local businesses, community groups, and residents stepped up to support us. We are immensely relieved and grateful to every individual and business that made a donation. A massive thanks to you all!"

"We were carefully watching the Appeal, and little by little, a little became a lot," exclaimed Hilary Frank, lead organiser of the May Fair and the Christmas Festival. She went on to emphasise that it wasn't just the Appeal's financial contributions that made a difference, but also the uplifting messages left by people. The collective donations and support of the community have reaffirmed the importance of these festivals and their role in fostering a strong sense of unity and belonging.



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Photos Mike Pitches Photography

## Saltash Songs and Shanties Festival United Through the Power of Music

Echoes of laughter and harmonious voices filled the air as the Saltash Songs and Shanties Festival drew to a close. The remarkable festival, inspired by the beauty of Cornwall and the enchanting Tamar Valley, captivated audiences of all ages with its diverse repertoire and infectious spirit. The brainchild of Saltash resident Lindsay Deane, it proved to be a resounding success, highlighting the wealth of musical talent within the community.

With shanties at its heart, one of the most anticipated events of the festival was a workshop delivered by talented folk singer, Claire Ingleheart, renowned for leading the shanty group Femmes de la Mer. Claire led over 50 enthusiastic amateurs in singing traditional and contemporary shanties and songs. Voices harmonised and spirits soared.

The workshop provided a platform to sing beloved classics like the timeless Mingulay Boat Song, but also embraced "new" folk songs, including a composition by Claire herself paying homage to renowned Saltash rower, Ann Glanville. This fusion of old and new showcased the festival's commitment to preserving traditional music while nurturing contemporary creativity.

After the workshop, the spirited group made their way to the Two Bridges pub, and treated pubgoers to a rendition of their newly honed singing skills. An encounter with a curious punter led to an amusing exchange. "You sound really great. How long have you been singing together?" the man inquired. The response of "About two hours" brought a smile to his face and surprise to his eyes.

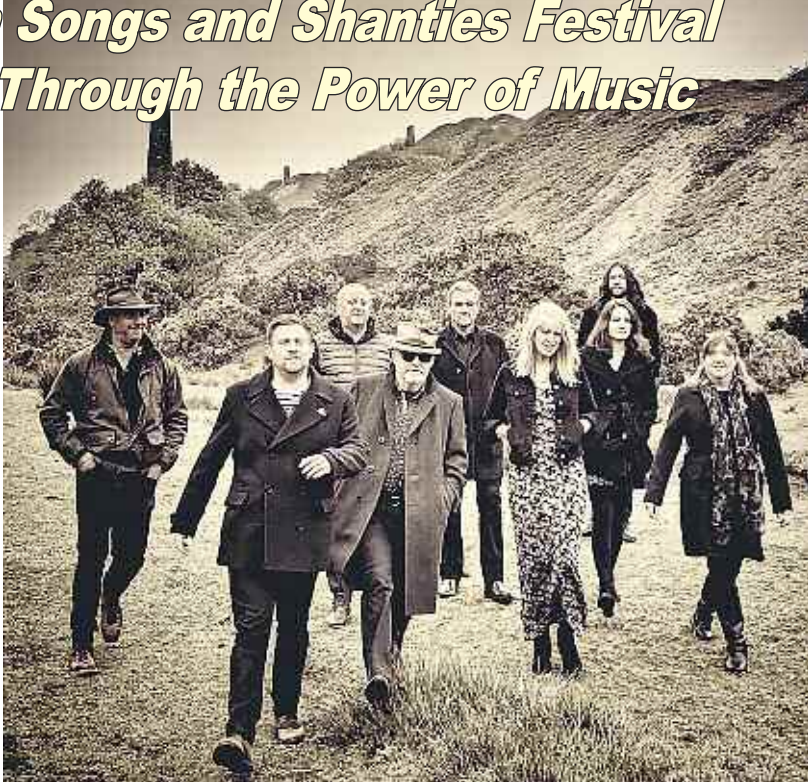
The festival featured a wide range of events, from the nationally acclaimed Abbey Brass Quintet performing music by local composer Judy Whitlock to a moving film

of John Treleven, who left his home in Porthleven to become one of the most sought-after tenors of his generation. There was even a poolside concert at Saltash Leisure Centre where swimmers were accompanied by handpan music.

One of the most outstanding concerts was given by Barrett's Privateers, a talented crew hailing from the Cornish side of the picturesque Tamar Valley. Members share a deep love of shanties, traditional folk music and Cornish melodies, and their lively performance, blending male and female voices, left a lasting impression on the 'congregation' of more than 200 people who had packed in to the historic church of St Nicholas and St Faith.

Gideon Barrett, captain of Barrett's Privateers, expressed his admiration for the Festival, acknowledging the remarkable talent and paying tribute to Festival Director Lindsay Deane saying "I used to think that Saltash was a town of karaoke singing. I've changed my mind." His words echoed the sentiments of many, as the Festival succeeded in uniting enthusiasts, fostering a sense of musical togetherness, celebrating the rich musical heritage of Cornwall and showcasing the abundant local talent.

As the final notes faded away, the resounding success of the festival left a lasting impact on all who had experienced its magic. Only in its second year, it has already become a testament to the vibrant musical spirit that thrives in Saltash.



## £108,000 of Shared Prosperity Funding to be Decided Locally

Do you have an idea for a community project that needs professional support to develop a feasibility study, business plan or architect's drawings? You could be granted funding through the local CAP and the Community Capacity Fund.

When Cornwall Council was established in 2009 as a Unitary Authority, 19 Community Network Areas were set up to take, drive and influence action on priority community issues. Saltash Town Council took its place alongside 10 neighbouring town and parish councils to form the Cornwall Gateway CNA.

Cornwall Council's policy has changed to reflect changing needs, and in a recent reorganisation these 19 CNAs have been replaced with 12 Community Area Partnerships (CAPs). The Cornwall Gateway CNA has merged with the Liskeard Looe CNA to form a CAP comprising 29 parishes.

Covering wider geographical areas, it is envisaged that the CAPs will have a stronger strategic voice than their predecessors, and have, for example, been empowered to make recommendations on applications for funding, including applications to the Community Capacity Fund.

The new CAP for this area has a total of £108,190 in Community Capacity funding that can be allocated to help communities develop their project plans. Enter 'Community Capacity Fund' in the Search facility of Cornwall Council's website for more details and support.

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## A Colourful Weekend of Fun on Land and River

Get ready for a weekend filled with thrills, spills, laughter and entertainment as Saltash gears up to host its annual Regatta, supported by grant funding from Saltash Town Council with Southwest Surfacing Specialists as lead sponsor. Taking place on 29th and 30th July, this eagerly anticipated event promises to be a highlight of the Saltash summer calendar for gig rowers and families alike. And with a diverse range of activities and entertainment for all ages, this year's Regatta is shaping up to be the best one yet.

Kicking off the festivities on Saturday 29th July, the Regatta Parade, led by the award-winning Saltash Town Band, will make its way down Fore Street to the Waterside marching along to the lively theme of 'Beside the Seaside.' Dress up and join the procession, gathering from 10am in Victoria Gardens for a 10:30 departure, and experience the joyful atmosphere that this annual spectacle brings.

Throughout the weekend, a bustling market featuring over 100 stalls will showcase an array of food and drink, handmade crafts, and charity stalls. Whether you're a foodie looking to sample local delicacies or on the lookout for unique handmade gifts, the market has something to delight every visitor.

The two stages will rock with sensational live music performances over the two days. Enjoy the energetic sounds of bands like 2 Unique and the Sultans, as well as the harmonies of groups like Saltash Rock Choir. Let the music move you as you soak up the community atmosphere of the festival.

Gig Racing on Saturday is hosted by Saltash-based Caradon Pilot Gig Club. Watch

as teams battle it out on the River Tamar, showcasing their skill and determination in this thrilling sport.

Sunday July 30th will be packed with more fun events. The Gables Dog Show from 11:30 am is sure to make tails wag and put smiles on faces as it offers furry friends the opportunity to strut their stuff and compete in a range of entertaining categories. Join the colourful chaos of the Paint Party at 1pm, as packets of powder paint are joyfully thrown around, creating a vibrant spectacle of hues and laughter. And brace yourselves for the thrilling Cardboard Boat Race at 2pm, watching as crews put their creativity and engineering skills to the test, attempting to navigate the river in boats made entirely from cardboard. It's a sight not to be missed!

So, make sure to mark the last weekend of July on your calendar and head to Saltash Waterside for a weekend of unforgettable fun. Whether you're cheering on the cardboard boat racers, dancing to live music, admiring adorable dogs, exploring the bustling market or joining the vibrant Paint Party, the Saltash Regatta has something for everyone.



## HOPPER TRIPS - July 2023

### Saturday 8th July

### Liskeard and District Show

A great day out meet the animals shop the exhibitors stands enjoy a lunch on site one of the SW biggest one day events  
Leave Saltash 09.30 Return 16.00 - Travel only £6

### Friday 14th July

### Day trip to the Eden Project

Always popular a visit to this world famous exhibition here in Cornwall with a full day to explore have lunch and relax  
Leave Saltash 10.30 return 17.00 - Travel only £10

### Sunday 23rd July

### Sunday Lunch at Buckfast Abbey

A popular lunch venue, great food at a value for money venue visit the Abbey then afternoon tea at Endsleigh Garden Centre  
Leave Saltash 11.00 return 16.30 - Travel only £9

### Sunday 6th August

### Sunday Lunch at

### The Elliott Arms Tregadillett

A fantastic old Inn full of history and charm great food reasonable prices great welcome from the staff coffee at Pol Pen on the way up  
Leave Saltash 10.30 return 16.30 - Travel only £8

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# Captivate the Kids on a Summer Budget

Many parents will be trying to limit spending money on activities, food and outings this summer. With the cost of food and other essentials having soared over the past year, finding free things to do with the kids is going to be a priority for lots of families this summer. Here are five money saving tips to keep kids entertained this summer.

## Set the summer fun factor to ten

Start as you mean to go on and set the bar for fun from day one. 1st July was international joke day, so why not get your best gags together and take turns to tell them or even create a small stand-up show?

## Create a theme day

Most of us have heard about theme parks, but how about having a theme day at home? A ‘Dinosaur day’ could involve wearing your favourite dino outfit all day, eating like a T-Rex or stomping and roaring in the park. Themes can shape the whole day, from what you eat, where you go and what you do.

## Low cost meals

With the sudden break from free school lunches, it places an added burden on parents to budget for extra food. Some restaurants and cafes offer £1 or free children’s meals during the holidays, so

look out for what’s on offer in the area.

## Join your library’s summer reading challenge

If you haven’t already, join your local library – it’s free. As well as having access to hundreds of physical books and audio stories, Saltash Library has various events available including storytelling, theatre and Lego sessions. They are also taking part in the Summer Reading Challenge this summer – offering activities, competitions and even virtual awards for children to win.

## Budget for summer

At Christians Against Poverty (CAP) we see the challenge that parents face over providing for their families whilst keeping their finances afloat. Budgeting is a great way to prepare for the summer holidays, and a simple online search can lead you to useful budgeting tools. If you or someone you know

is financially struggling or in debt, please know there’s help and hope. Call CAP on 0800 328 0006 or find out more about what we offer at capuk.org.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a UK charity working with over 800 affiliated churches to deliver debt help, budgeting guidance, support to find work, life skills groups and more. Visit [capuk.org](http://capuk.org) to find out more.

# Floral Folklore and Herbal Remedies Discovered at Churchtown

Each and every one of the diverse array of flowers to be found on Churchtown Farm Nature Reserve would appear to have its own unique folklore and mythology as well as its own traditional medical or culinary use. Those who attended the recent wildflower walk organised by Friends of Churchtown Farm learned many fascinating stories behind the common and lesser-known flowers identified for them by Chris Ullman of St. Cleer.

The vivid red campion which bedecks the hedgerows, they learned, derived its name from being worn as garlands by champions crowned in Roman times, while the lushly scented white bedstraw, as well as forming bedding material in medieval times, was also known as ‘false baby’s breath’. Interestingly, as a member of the coffee family it can be ground, roasted and drunk as a coffee substitute.

Fascinating tales were told, too, of the meadow vetch, believed to offer protection against evil, and of the buttercup which has a scent believed to induce insanity. Other flowers with intriguing names flourishing in Churchtown include nipplewort, ivy leafed

# Sustainable Saltash

A regular column on changes Saltash residents are making to confront climate and ecological breakdown.

When we moved to our house 5 years ago, what we wanted more than anything was a garden. Somewhere for children to play. Somewhere to relax, somewhere to feel connected to the world. We were fortunate to find it. A terraced house garden with a lawn and some beds. On a slope so we get the sun. Perfect.

Like so many people moving in to a new home, we spent the first summer making a mark on it. Clearing, opening up space, planting new things. It was warm work that year. The following year, it was hot. In fact, the warmth started in February, leading into the first of several summers that have marked a trend towards dry heat in a county that has thrived on abundant rainfall.

It soon became clear that we were creating work for ourselves. The sun baked the

toadflax, pennywort, fumitory and goose grass. Greater knapweed was used in Greek mythology to cure Hercules’ wound, and was later regarded as a remedy against the plague, while common agrimony was described by Chaucer as a cure for back pain.

Not all plants found at the Reserve are beneficial, however. Hogweed can cause blisters, and foxgloves, which fairies use to make hats as well as gloves for foxes, is a poison or a remedy depending on the dosage. In a damp patch, the group stumbled upon hemlock, the most poisonous plant of all, famously used by Socrates to end his life.

As well as discovering flowers, the group listened to the songs of the white throat and skylark, spotted various insects including ringlet and marbled white butterflies, and marvelled at the wide variety of flora and fauna to be discovered so close to Saltash.

clear ground, bedding plants died, the grass turned brown. Then winter brought rain. Lots of rain. The lawn turned to mud, roots rotted, the ground was waterlogged and runoff soaked the path.

A few years later we know the place, and are learning what is now the norm. Gardening is not what it was when I was a child. Fine. We let shrubs grow taller, put a bench beside one to give us shade. We have planted fruit trees to feed us and shade us. They will create a low canopy as their roots hold the soil and soak up the downpours. Our daughter will have places to hide and explore. We put in a pond for frogs and newts, and to catch rain for watering.

We have done all of this gradually. No more extreme clearing and getting things done. It’s a given that a new plant will need help for a year. Watering and nurturing so it can get established and survive, so we don’t overface ourselves. One or two at a time. Our focus has changed. We want to stay here indefinitely. We know that over our lives, we will increasingly value shade. We have discovered that the shade from a tree is vastly cooler than that from a baked umbrella. We know that we will need to collect our own water if we are to justify using it on our plants. We have added storage where we can and tried to make it useful to wildlife. We know that rain will be heavy but unpredictable, so we have planted trees and shrubs in place of annuals. They can establish and handle extremes. The natives are beautiful and bring in birds and animals. We know that we will want to be out here, so we have made a sheltered space for ourselves, with the odd bit of fruit handy.

If any of this helps you plan for the future, all the better. We hope you will be spared some of our mistakes. If you think we have missed something and would like to tell us, please do.

-Marc Bramham

This column is a conversation starter for our whole community. If you have comments on the subject, ideas of your own or suggestions for future content, please do get in touch at [sustainable.saltash@protonmail.com](mailto:sustainable.saltash@protonmail.com)

# Health Action Group - Special Report

Written by Andy Sant

I am a doctor in Cornwall, and I also have the unnecessarily long job title of Managing Director for the North and East Cornwall Integrated Care Area (ICA). My job is to get the best healthcare possible for people in North and East Cornwall - by trying to get NHS and public sector organisations to work closer together.



In previous articles patients have written about the setting up of a “Health Action Group”, and I am heartened to see how Saltash has come together in this way. Our group has now met twice, and we thought it was important to share with the town key elements of our discussions. We all know about current problems in the NHS, like long waits for ambulances, fewer GPs, waiting lists to even see a dentist, and patients remaining in Derriford hospital who are fit to return closer to home.

Local NHS organisations also have to make savings this year. But the important thing is that we believe that our group can influence the local NHS to make things better for the people of the town. I think it is worth listing a few of the key principles which will underpin our actions:

## We want Saltash to get new NHS buildings.

Although St Barnabas is well loved in the community it is still a 125-year-old building. The group agrees that the NHS will be unable to re-open the wards at St Barnabas - and I know how disappointing that this will be for some of you. I personally have now started meeting regularly with the people who may be able to help us get something better in the way of buildings, and consider the options for getting NHS beds back elsewhere in the town.

## We want to use St Barnabas more

Whilst we are waiting for the possibility of new buildings, we want more things done in the current places. I am working with Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (CFT) to identify what services are currently provided and to add more if we can. The group has strongly stated that services at

St Barnabas must be developed until a new building is available.

## We want more dental services

We are asking if we can spend our money differently to get more dentists for the town. This is going to be tricky, and it may take some time. But it is a principle we all agree with.

## We want to see the two GP surgeries work closer together and with community services.

This fits with national policy but it is something that we all agree we want to wish to work towards - with the aim of getting more coherent services for people who are ill and need to access healthcare services near their home. I am hoping that I will be able to tell you more of our discussions in a future article and update you on real change that the group, with the support of your Town Council and others, is making. We will be engaging with the wider public as plans become clearer, hopefully after our next Group meeting on July 12.

Your own thoughts and ideas on this are still needed. Email [patient.voice@icloud.com](mailto:patient.voice@icloud.com) or drop a note into the Community Kitchen, 8 Fore Street.

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## Tamar Reflections

### Saltash Bygones Collection

In the May Observer Tamar Reflections and Bygones featuring such interesting stories of Saltash's proud history and indeed, celebrating and acknowledging many of Saltash's forefathers of distinguished reputation, I promised part two in this issue and there is so much to tell, and I am so pleased that over the past 50 odd years, I have collected such wonderful photos and publications and periodicals to enable me to pass such interesting reflections onto the discerning readers of our wonderful Saltash Observer.

**Incumbent Mayors and responsibilities**  
I promised to pick up where I left off starting with Councillor W.P. Trood 1905 he oversaw the filling up of the tip (now Brunel Green) and in 1906 overseeing the District Nursing Association

formation.

In 1907 Alderman R. Miller, J.P. was instrumental in the Empire day celebrations which was the first for the Borough of Saltash.

Councillor T. Lean in 1908 oversaw improvements to the Saltash Guildhall and further, in 1909 he was in office when water was brought across the Royal Albert Bridge, and the Ferry waiting room opened on the Saltash side.

In 1910 Alderman R. Miller, J.P. led the



celebrations for the new Steam Ferry and the Coronation of King George V.

Electric lighting was being considered for the Borough in 1911 during the Mayorship of Councillor E. Smith, so too in 1912 the improvements at Recreation Field.

During 1913 when Councillor G.J.L. Lang was Mayor there was a substantial extension to the Recreation Ground.

**Civic Chains**

Councillor Lang stayed in Mayoral office for the duration of the Great War from 1914 until 1918, when the gold Mayoral Chain was completed.

The town's War Memorial was unveiled in 1919 by Mayor J.H. Pooley and in

1920 Mayor Pooley presented the Borough with the first pendant of the Mayoress's Chain (more on Civic Chains in future issues).

In 1921, Mayor Dr. H.O. Grenfell oversaw the Street improvements which were considerable and England Captain T.H.B. Bishop; R.N. saw the opening of the bowling green and Tennis Courts in 1922.

**Working Class Houses**

It was during the Mayorship of Alderman J. Lander in 1923 that the Saltash Borough

saw the erection of what was called the Working Class Houses; Mayor Lander also oversaw the reconstruction of the Saltash Guildhall in 1924.

The new water tank was erected in 1925 overseen in the additional Mayoral year of T.H.B. Bishop, so too, in 1926 another Steam Ferry Bridge.

When Councillor J.A Venn was Mayor in 1927 he initiated the new Motor Fire Engine (named Mary) the following year in 1928 he oversaw the erection of 24 Council Flats.

**Ancient Fair and Water Court**

Lt-Col. W.P. Drury C.B.E., R.M. in 1929 initiated the Ancient Fair and Water Court celebrations additionally (which we still celebrate to this day) whilst he was Mayor - and the commencement of the construction of the New Pier in 1930.

It was in 1931 during the Mayorship of Alderman G.H. Howard that the New Pier was opened, and in 1932 Mayor Howard launched the new Ferry Bridge.

In 1933 whilst Mayor Councillor H.J. Davy was in office the extension of the Saltash Borough by the inclusion therein of the Civil Parish of St. Stephens-by-Saltash and thus, the last meeting of the original Council took place on March 22nd. 1934.

**Under The Cornwall Review Order Of 1934 On The Extension Of The Borough**

On 3rd of April 1934 during again the Mayorship of Councillor H.J. Davy the first meeting of the New Council under the above order, was the revival of the Saltash 'Royal' Regatta and at the end of the same year and still with Mayor Davy saw the erection of Stones to mark boundaries of the extended Borough.

In 1935 Mayor H.J. Davy revived the Beating of the Bounds of the Borough; and there was the Admission of the first Honorary Freeman. Further, the opening of the Bathing Pool at the Saltash Waterside, plus the purchase of Ashtor House and Wharves and the commencement of Housing Estates at Warfelton. **Royal Visitors**  
During the Mayorship of

## Memorial Seats at Forder Green

Two Memorial seats have been unveiled at Forder Green to commemorate two popular local residents. Mrs Sue Hooper, Patron of Forder Community Conservation Association (FCCA), unveiled the seats. The first seat was in memory of Gerald Hamling, whose family had lived in Forder for generations; the seat was at the request of Gerald's daughter Susan Sharp. The ideas of the two seats were welcomed by the management and membership of the (FCCA).

Alderman E. Webber 1936 saw the Coronation of H.M. King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. Moreover, the Royal visit of the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester. Additionally, the first Saltash Council House occupied was at Warfelton Crescent.

Still under the Mayorship of Alderman E. Webber 1937/38 the Borough saw the completion of the Housing Estate at Warfelton Crescent, and the construction of the Boat House at Ashtor Wharf ... **And in 1939 the declaration of WW2**

**First Female Mayor of Saltash**

During and after the War years, male Mayors continued (from 15th Century) until 1952/53 (20th Century) when Saltash Borough saw the first ever female Mayor - Councillor Miss W.M. Fearnside, OBE. J.P. A great and historic moment in the history of Saltash, which has continued ever since gladly!

There is of course much more history of Saltash 'Bygones' to tell, and I will continue to reflect upon Saltash's quite extraordinary past in later issues.

I do hope that this feature from 1905 to 1953 - following last month's stories, will be of great interest to the Saltash Observer readers; and I pledge to tell more meaningful and interesting tales in the months and years to come.

Sue Hooper MBE  
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Photo by John Hooper

Gerald's grandmother Henrietta Allen was the village 'midwife' and not only delivered Gerald, but other babies in the village too. Gerald's father (William) worked for Farmer Maddiver (near Forder) and Farmer Hosking of Shillingham Farm. The other Memorial seat unveiled by Mrs Hooper was the Mona Tomaszewska-Honywill Memorial seat. Mona was a great supporter of Forder over many decades and was a former Patron of the FCCA. At the unveiling, Mrs Hooper was able to proudly recall her past and close association with Farmer Maddiver, Farmer Hosking and Mona Tomaszewska-Honywill. Mrs Hooper also thanked Jackie Keith who had worked very hard and closely with the families and the Duchy for the installation of the seats; and in addition Steve Carew who had kindly installed them.

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# Essa Voices

### Car Parking Charges

In May of this year, Cornwall Council introduced new parking charges, moving all its car parks in to three zones. As well as increasing revenue to cover maintenance, it seems that one of the aims is to encourage a modal shift towards using public transport. The idea of reducing car usage is commendable, but the implementation of these ‘one-size fits all’ charges has raised plenty of concerns. One half of Fore Street lies in my ‘patch’ as a Cornwall Councillor representing Saltash Essa. The other half lies in the Division of my colleague Cllr. Sheila Lennox-Boyd. We are both concerned about the potential detrimental impact of the charges on our local economy, and in March we joined 13 other Cornwall Councillors from various political groupings in sending a letter of protest to Cornwall Council’s Cabinet.

### Impact on the Saltash economy

Cornwall Council’s new parking zones have divided the Council’s 135 car parks into three zones, with Zone A car parks, which tend to be in tourist ‘hot spots’, being the most expensive. One hour of parking here in Alexandra Square and Belle Vue East car parks (both Zone B) now costs £1.00, while four hours will set you back £4.80. Along with the increase to a whopping £576 for an annual pass in these two car parks, there are concerns that the charges will lead to reduced footfall in the town centre. Many businesses are already struggling, and these increased charges could make the situation even worse.

### Pushing Ahead Despite Objections

During the public consultation in March, as many as 1336 objections were raised against the changes, compared to only 34 in support. People had all sorts of concerns, and to be honest, they made a lot of sense. Objections were raised about the lack of clarity in the consultation process, and respondents expressed concern about the introduction of evening parking charges in Zone A car parks and Sunday parking charges across all car parks. Despite significant opposition from the public and from Councillors, though, the Council’s Cabinet decided to proceed with the majority of their proposed changes.

### Public Anger

Unsurprisingly, this has led to a wave of dissatisfaction, generating petitions and public statements of opposition. Truro has become the only place in Cornwall

with night parking charges in all of its car parks, and the Business Improvement District there has spoken out strongly against the changes. A petition launched by disgruntled Penzance residents on Change.org reached over 5,000 signatures before the end of June, while residents of Looe, who have seen the price of an annual ticket jump from £349 to £960, have also launched a similar petition.

### The Need to Think Locally and Globally

While higher parking charges may align with environmental goals by encouraging reduced car usage, they overlook important local factors. Cornwall’s rural nature and limited public transport options make it challenging for residents to switch to alternative modes of transport. In our letter to Cabinet, we were clear that we felt charges should reflect local conditions and local need. Each area has its own challenges. For example: I can think of only one other town in Cornwall that has to cope with a city with a population of over a quarter of a million across a river from it.

Public anger is particularly strong, perhaps, because it feels like locals have been left at the bottom of the pile when these charges were planned. Back in the day, Caradon Council introduced a popular locals’ pass – one of my fellow councillors still has his! Surely some way could be devised for locals to get subsidised parking across all of Cornwall’s car parks? We need to strike a better balance between generating income and helping residents get to work or take their families to the beach without it costing an arm and a leg.

I fully recognise the global benefits of reducing car usage, but at the same time we need to think realistically about carbon and modal change, investing more in public transport. I’m hearing that the charges are encouraging increasing numbers of people to drive around looking for free back street parking, which increases the release of carbon dioxide, not reduces it! **Get in touch**

At a recent event in Saltash Guildhall, several residents approached me with frustrations about the parking charges. But is this representative? Could you let me know if you are now struggling to find a parking space outside your home? I’d also like to hear your experiences of using the parking app. And while the Multi-purchase tickets seem to be good value at £2.00 per 24-hour session, I’m hearing that they can



Councillor Hilary Frank  
cllr.hilary.frank@cornwall.gov.uk

only be used in one named car park. Have you tried buying them? What are your views? Do you think, perhaps, think the higher charges are justified? I’m really keen to hear from you so we can gather evidence and make sure that any review the Cabinet carries out is well-informed and charges going forward strike an appropriate balance.

## Just Thinking Aloud

Recently my wife and I have had the undiluted pleasure of the company of all five of our children. They had devised a rota for spending some time with us. A bonus for me was holding my nine week old grandchild in my arms and watching him smile at his grandpa. We’ve been in fair Esse since 1975, so all five of our offspring spent their younger years here before heading off to higher education, then finding work and living in various parts of Tahiti, Japan, Florida, Corsica (plus other bits of La Belle France), Germany, Scotland, Australia, Wales and England. There may have been some others, but I forget. Currently, one is in Saltash, and the others in Wiltshire, West Sussex, London and Le Languedoc.

Why am I telling you this? Because they have something to tell us. In comparing the Saltash of their youth with the Saltash they see now, they are unanimous in their appreciation of the variety of what our town offered and continues to offer as community activities. Not for them the “there’s nothing to do in Saltash” claptrap. They compare us with the aforementioned and do not find us wanting. That is good news.

Now the not so good news, on Boris’s birthday I stayed up long past my normal bedtime to watch “that debate” to the bitter end. Mistake! Afterwards I couldn’t sleep and ended up making myself another cuppa. Don’t worry, I’m not going to bore you rigid with statistics or a verbal assault on named individuals. I just want to pick up a word that I heard frequently used during the debate and have recently read in various publications. It is “egregious”. As someone who studied the classics I am able to tell you that originally it came from the Latin egregious, which means illustrious or standing out from the flock. It was a compliment to someone who

## Revd Magrath’s Resignation

Bishop Philip has received the Revd Magrath’s resignation as priest in charge of the benefice of Saltash (St Nicholas & St Faith and St Stephen) and priest in charge of the benefice of Landrake (St Michael) with St Erney and Botus Fleming. This takes place with effect from 3 September 2023.

Bishop Philip thanks the Revd Magrath for his ministry in these parishes and wishes God’s blessing on him for all the future holds. Rev’d Magrath wishes the deanery well with implementing their deanery plan, but believes it is not a ministry to which he himself is called.

## “Saltash at War” Appreciated by Capacity Library Audience

Saltash, a town steeped in history and resilience, has long found itself thrust into the forefront during times of conflict. From the possible Roman fort discovered on the site of Norman Trematon Castle to the construction of a nuclear bunker during the Cold War, our vibrant community has witnessed its fair share of wartime events over the centuries.

This led to members of a Saltash group formed to commemorate the centenary of the Great War deciding to mark Community History Month with a presentation entitled ‘Saltash at War’, held at Saltash Library. Expertly, chaired by Mrs Sue Hooper MBE and hosted by the knowledgeable Barry Brooking, the event was enjoyed by a capacity audience.

Covering almost two millennia, the presentation delved into various historical periods with a particular focus on the major conflicts of the twentieth century. Attendees were treated to intriguing insights into significant events such as the Prayer Book Rebellion, when Trematon Castle fell ‘by treachery’; the Civil War, when Saltash changed hands a staggering eight times leaving the town devastated; and the Napoleonic Wars, when French prisoners were kept in hulks off the Foreshore.

The more recent chapters of Saltash’s wartime experiences were not neglected. Attendees discovered the stories of thousands of World War I soldiers who embarked on the town to fight on the front lines, as well as the hardships endured during World War II, which were still vivid memories for at least three individuals in the audience. Of personal significance to presenter Barry Brooking was the tragic tale of six Saltash firefighters who lost their lives to a landmine, one of

them being his own grandfather.

The talk was enhanced by slides that brought the stories to life, providing a visual journey through Saltash’s wartime past. Mayor Richard Bickford, who was present with Mayoress Sarah, described the presentation as a fascinating

experience led by a wonderful team of subject experts.

As Saltash continues to honour its history and the sacrifices made by its residents, events like ‘Saltash at War’ serve as a testament to the indomitable spirit of our community.

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