



SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

June 2011 - Issue 227

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MAYORAL COUPLE SAW SALTASH AS GOOD TOWN FOR A GROWING FAMILY

Attracted to cross the Tamar from Plymouth by the high standard of schools in Saltash, our new Mayor and Mayoress Colin and Marilyn Oakes were soon fully involved in the lively community spirit of the town that has been their home for twenty-five years.

A Plymouthian by birth, but a Cornishman by marriage, Colin soon realised from the Saltash Christmas Light Celebrations and the Town's May Fair, that this was a good choice of town to bring up a growing family. His three sons, Shaun, Craig

and Matthew were all educated locally and the Mayoral couple are now enjoying as much quality time as they can with their seven grandchildren.

A scout himself from the age of eight, Colin was soon involved in the local Scout Movement, introducing his own sons and other young people to the sense of adventure, teamwork, and responsibility that it engenders. As their young family grew up he and Marilyn were soon involved in local PTA's and marching bands.

They joined Saltash Twinners in 1987 and have been pleased to help promote growing friendships between their home town and Plougastel Daoulas. More recently they have joined the bowls club, determined to lead

the town council team to victory in its annual fixture against the club.

Marilyn has become increasingly involved with the League of Friends of St Barnabas Hospital. Last year Marilyn organised a highly successful concert in support of its funds with the assistance

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At a recent visit to Saltash.net to see the head teacher Local MP Sheryll Murray met and congratulated three teachers from the school that were successful in the National Teaching Awards. Paul Horrell along with Teaching Assistant Eileen Sloggett received South West Regional Commendations and Nicki Bovey was the Regional winner of the Science teacher of the year.

Sheryll said, "It is a pleasure to meet such talented individuals who care so deeply about the job they do. I warmly congratulate them on their achievement."

Pictured: (L to R): Sheryll the Year SW Region - Murray MP, Paul Horrell Commendation), Nicki Bovey (Secondary Teacher of the Year SW Region - Winner), Isobel Commendation), Eileen Bryce Head Teacher and Max Sloggett (Teaching Assistant of the dog (the school dog))

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SALTASH AND K3 CLIMB TO THE TOP.

Climbing in Saltash for everyone aged 5 - 95! We're aiming high, there's a lot of work still to do but we're sure we can win. All we need is the Cornish community to help us.

The K3 Management Committee has just heard that we are one of the two successful projects who will be competing for your votes in The People's Millions and we really need you to pull out all the stops and help bring a new activity to Saltash. K3 is the only project in Cornwall that has been chosen this time.

Our project is to build a climbing wall in the hall at K3 that can be used by any group, organisation, school, family or young person.

We want to raise aspirations, help build confidence and get people moving through climbing, and all we're asking is for you to pick up your phone and dial the number to vote for us. The number to call won't be released until the morning of the 29th on the People's Millions website and in the Daily Mirror, but with the help of local people, the K3 team will be out

and about on the streets very early handing out this number to Saltash residents. Lines are open from 9am to midnight and each person can call up to 10 times from one number. From a BT landline this will cost 10p per call.

This is a great opportunity to bring something completely new to Saltash that can be used by all ages and build on the community spirit that already exists in our town. Please help us do that by calling on the day, or if you would like to get involved please call us on 01752 842586 for more info.

**Saltash Observer
Readers...we need
your help**

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Mayoral couple

continued from page 1

of her youngest son Matthew, now head of music at Lipson School, Plymouth. She also sings with Saltash augmented choir and is thrilled to be the Mayoress of the town where she enjoyed two years of her childhood, Cornish born (in Truro) she later came to Saltash and was educated at Longstone (now Brunel) School for a while.

The mayoral couple both believe strongly in the importance of retaining a community hospital in the town, both having received treatment there within the last year. Accordingly, the League of Friends is to be one of the two Mayor's charities in the coming year.

The other is to be the saltash.net.academy trust. The Mayor has declared one of his priorities this year to be to encourage greater involvement between young people and the older generation and the Trust is one means by which this may be achieved. They intend, in addition to support as many other local charities as possible.

It has already become apparent that a busy year lies ahead and that Colin will have to fit his work as a self-employed decorator around official engagement, but he and Marilyn are keenly looking forward to the year as the Town's first citizens.

"Next May we celebrate our fortieth wedding anniversary and I can think of no better way to spend the next twelve months than in serving our community in this way," he concluded his acceptance speech as the Mayor choosing ceremony.

NEW MAYOR RECEIVED KEY TO THE TOWN

A new tradition was added to the long-standing tradition of Mayor Choosing in Saltash. Outgoing Mayor Adam Killea handed to his successor Colin Oakes, an ancient key in a wooden case as a symbolic key to the town.

"It is intended to symbolise the passing over of responsibility for good guardianship and stewardship of the Town," Councillor Killea added as he passed it over.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Truro were among other civic dignitaries present as guests as Councillor Killea explained that he had picked up the idea from a similar custom at the Truro

Mayor Choosing. He had thereafter purchased and cleaned up a suitable looking key and hoped that this would be added to the Town's many traditions over future generations.

Looking back over a busy year in which he had overseen a revision of the Council Protocols, the setting up of a new Staffing Committee and the appointment of a new Town Clerk, Councillor Killea thanked all Councillors and Saltash citizens for their support. The incoming Mayor in proposing the best thanks of the Council to the retiring Mayor recalled Councillor Killea as

"Always energetic and playing a pro-active role as Town Councillor and especially as Mayor. Although having a full time job as a teacher he had made time to attend numerous events in Saltash, in Cornwall and even over in Plymouth."

In reply Councillor Killea, who a year previously had introduced himself as "The day teacher and the night mayor," quipped, "Don't worry! The night mayor is almost over!"



SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...

Education was the topic this week. I was delighted to welcome pupils from Sir Robert Geffery's School of Landrake to Parliament. After spending time touring the House of Commons and House of Lords, the school children were taking part in a Team Game as I arrived in the McMillan Room. This is one of the more modern Committee Rooms often used for Select Committee Enquiries. It was a pleasure to be able to talk with the local children and answer some of their taxing questions about my life as an MP.

The trip was organised by the Parliamentary Education Scheme and places on the scheme are very limited. I am delighted that a school from my Constituency was successful in securing a place and look forward to visiting the school when my diary allows at a future date.

Returning to the Constituency on the overnight sleeper, it was a real pleasure to visit Saltash Community School (Saltash.net) and meet the Head teacher, Mrs Isobelle Bryce, along with some of the staff.

My visit coincided with the news that three teachers from the school were successful in the National Teaching Awards. Paul Horrell along with Teaching Assistant Eileen Sloggett received South West Regional Commendations and Nicki Bovey was the Regional winner of the Science teacher of the year.

I was also delighted to meet the school dog Max and to visit the livestock area where the school chickens were trying to annoy the wonderful sleeping Cornish Black pig.

After this exciting visit and learning about how the chickens had been adopted by the school after starting life as battery hens, we moved on to the Area Resource Base where I presented the children with swimming certificates.

It was a real delight to see some of their work and I hope to return sometime in the future.

I have now visited many schools throughout South East Cornwall and I am so proud of their achievements.

Boats on the Move

Display boats bedecked with flowers have for some years adorned various corners of Saltash. More recently some of them have been disused and have deteriorated.

A recent meeting between Town Councillors and Saltash Rotary has taken place regarding further sponsorship of the boats. Saltash Lions have also expressed an interest in sponsoring one.

Meanwhile there are plans to move the boat behind the Co-op Car Park, now fenced off and barely visible, to the wharf to replace the boat currently there and in poor state of repair. It is also intended to move the boat on Saltash Station from the up platform to the down one.

THE ESSA FILES...

Ex-Mayors all know the pang of withdrawal symptoms; the inexplicably leisure-filled weekends, the feeling of lightness around the shoulders and the twitches every time someone says 'Mr Mayor' (but not to you!)

It was therefore very kind of Mary to invite me to continue penning a column for the Observer – one of the most enjoyable parts of the last year. This month I'd like to talk about Town Centre Improvement.

About three months ago it was agreed that it was time to see some real projects happening on Town Centre improvement: to that end the 'Saltash Town-centre Improvement Group' ('The STIG') was born: a mix of councillors, CIC Directors, traders and investors, and very project focused. We are now close to securing the funding to start our first round of projects: firstly signage: we want to improve the welcome to our town – the first thing that visitors see, to attract them in. Secondly hanging baskets: to brighten up Fore Street we aim to have 30 hanging baskets on the Fore St Lamp-posts, hopefully in early June. Thirdly pavements: we are going to hire a professional to give the

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Fore St pavements a real good heated-clean, which should also shift much of the chewing gum.

Fourthly we are looking to introduce a parking scheme to counteract Cornwall Council's recent charge increase. The idea is that if you spend more than £1 in a participating shop, you will be able to claim back the cost of the first hour (40p). The shop can then claim the costs back each month. We want to encourage more people to shop and spend, but also to thank those who already do. This scheme should start from the Autumn.

Watch this space, or watch the Town Centre, for more info!

Cllr Adam Killea

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For Observer readers

From Councillor Colin Riches

St Stephens Ward

The thing which has been exercising me most over the past few weeks has been the Core Strategy for Cornwall. We have to come up with this new plan which will accommodate the projected growth in population, the resulting housing need and the required infrastructure. There are three projected growth models for housing for the next 20 years - 38,000, 48,000 and 57,000 people. The way that housing is built in Cornwall can be either concentrated in the major towns, dispersed throughout all settlements with a larger amount going into rural sites or to be economy led with the the areas with bigger growth in the economy providing more sites. Saltash at the moment is looking at a smaller

growth in providing housing whilst favouring a dispersed model. Nothing is set in stone as yet and there will be more discussion before our town plan is ready for inclusion in the Core Strategy.

Yesterday in Cabinet following the Cornwall consultation on waste collection Option A was chosen that is broadly keeping it in line with weekly rubbish collection and fortnightly recycling. I know I'm in a minority on this one but I favoured a fortnightly collection of rubbish, weekly recycling and separate food waste collection as all research has shown that recycling goes up significantly in this scheme. That's life what! Win some, lose some.

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Mayor Colin aims to bring together the generations in the Saltash Community

Bringing together the generations, in particular the Town's youth and its senior citizens within the Saltash community is one of the specific aims of our new Mayor Councillor Colin Oakes. "I have already been in contact with various organisations and school heads and have received considerable support and encouragement from all," he informed the assembled throng following his formal 'choosing' as Mayor of Saltash for 2011-2012.

His other specific aims are to push forward work for the regeneration of Fore Street into a lively and prosperous hub of the community. "The plans have been put forward, it is now important to put them into action," he believes.

Thirdly he is anxious to work with local police to ensure that despite the financial cuts within the police authority, Saltash remains a safe environment for all its residents.

The Mayor choosing took place as ever in the Town's historic Guildhall before Mayors, Deputy Mayor's and other civic dignitaries from Plymouth and throughout Cornwall. This year there were also two deputy mayors and a councillor from our twin town of Plougastel-Daoulas, Brittany, especially apt since our new Mayor and Mayoress Colin and Marilyn have from its inception been keen supporters of the Saltash Twinners organisation.

Councillor Colin Oakes was proposed as Mayor by retiring Mayor Adam Killeya who described Colin as one who, during his year as Deputy Mayor, had "thrown himself into the role of Chair of Civic Amenities, organised a highly successful town Christmas event, overseen the 'Saltash Showcase' and been deeply involved in such diverse issues as footpaths, allotments and the festival fund". He had deputised for the Mayor at a number of events, "even to attending a cream tea competition organised by the Lord Mayor of Plymouth."

Adam described his successor as "a person full of



common sense, patient and supportive, hardworking – and an excellent dancer."

Colin's wife Marilyn, who will serve as his Mayoress, Councillor Killeya added, is "Also an excellent and hard working community member in her own right being especially involved with the St Barnabas League of Friends.

In seconding the new Mayor, Councillor Bob Austin advised him that as Mayor "One becomes a different person for a year, putting one's own life on hold." He added that "It is an experience which one will never forget."

The new Mayor's first duty was to follow the tradition inaugurated by his predecessor, of appointing a Mayor's Scout. As a lifetime supporter of the Scouting Movement the Mayor was pleased to appoint Hannah Smith, a Senior Scout, to that role.

"I feel humble and privileged to be given the opportunity to represent the town in which I have lived for twenty-five years and seen my

family grown up," the new Mayor told his audience. From the beginning he had been pleased to discover the Saltash community spirit and he and Marilyn were soon actively involved in a variety of organisations before he became a Town Councillor in 2007.

"You don't need to go far in Saltash to meet someone you know," he concluded. "There is a real heart to the Town and as Mayor I will do all in my power to keep it that way. We live in challenging times I am prepared to face the challenge and to help preserve our community and our heritage. I look forward to meeting as many people as possible in my



year of office and it is important for all to feel that they have a voice and that their opinion matters. This is your town, please look after it, use it and enjoy it."

Deputy Mayor 'A Financial Guru and Man of Probity'

A man who speaks with vigour, gusto and passion. A financial guru setting budgets and masterminding the Town's finances.



These were two descriptions of our newly elected Deputy Mayor Martin Gee from Councillors Sue Hooper and Joe Ellison who seconded and proposed him for the Deputy Mayorship at this year's Mayor Choosing.

Councillor Ellison recollected meeting Martin, his wife Maggie, now Deputy Mayoress, and daughter Melissa when he came to Saltash in 2002.

He and Councillor Gee were soon serving together in the Town's Waterside Residents' Association. They both joined the Council eight years ago since when Martin has headed the Town's vital Policy and Resources Committee.

"He had strongly held views and a forthright way of expressing them," advised Councillor Hooper. "A man of good principles he expects no less from his contemporaries. He pays strict attention to probity, especially regarding the public purse and when Martin speaks, councillors listen, whether or not they agree."

In thanking fellow councillors for the deep honour of electing him Councillor Gee also thanked the people of Pill Ward for affording him the opportunity of serving the Town. Having lived in Saltash for 23 years he looked forward to meeting new people, supporting the many organisations in our vibrant Town, and above all, "I am to support our new Town Mayor Colin in all his aims and endeavours."

New Regular Events at Saltash Library

We have a creative writing group that meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month 2pm – 4pm. This is not intended as a structured course, just an informal relaxed group for any generation of aspiring writers.

We also have an informal reading group which started on 2nd June, it will be held on the 1st Thursday of each month 5pm– 6pm. This is open to all ages/genders. The book we are reading this month is 'The suspicions of Mr Whicher – by Kate Summerscale'.

Other events that regularly occur in the library are Knit and natter- a craft group that meet Tuesday 1pm – 3pm, Drop in sessions with Volunteer Cornwall- the last Friday of the month 10am – 1pm. Story time – Friday 2pm – 2.30pm and David & his guitar (children's music session) Tuesday 10.45am till 11.30am.

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saltash
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New Learning Programme comes with Academy Status

This year's new 'year seven' intake at saltash.net community school will be the first year group to enter since the school's success in being granted Academy Status. The resulting additional control over the curriculum will have an immediate effect on the new students who will be participating in a highly successful 'integrated learning' programme which helps ensure the changeover from primary to secondary school goes smoothly. In addition to studying the basic core subjects year seven students will spend six periods each week on the course focused on looking upon themselves as effective learners developing twenty-first century learning skills.

The new course builds upon a 'learning to learn' programme that has been developed over some years with the involvement of Jeremy Skelton, head of Religious Education Department. This has attracted great outside interest particularly from the examination board O.C.R. which is promoting the Saltash scheme for national practice.

Favouring all children who are having to adjust from being oldest in their primary school to the youngest in a larger school it especially helps those from smaller schools. While being prepared to be secondary school learners the young students will be developing cross curricular skills and also, as a social positive, mixing with their peers from other primary schools.

Approval by the Ministers at the Department for Education to the school being granted Academy Status was celebrated as a significant step forward in the provision of education for Saltash students.

"Becoming an Academy will give us more control over our finances and resources and will help us to ensure that we can continue to provide an

exciting and relevant curriculum for all our students," said Headteacher, Isobel Bryce, when the news was announced at the end of the Easter term.

"It is a very exciting time in our school's history. We remain totally committed to providing the best possible education for all children in our care and to working closely with our seven partner primary schools in the Saltash area and with the other secondary schools and colleges across South East Cornwall.

"We are a very successful inclusive school and proud of the fact that we are able to meet the needs of children of all abilities and from across a range of backgrounds. I believe that becoming an Academy will help us on our upward journey."



Soccer success as Students ski through America

Saltash students have been enjoying sporting success and sampling fresh sporting skills on their school pitch and as far away as the USA.

Here at home it was a triple footballing success when two of the school teams were crowned county football champions with a third as runners up.

The Year 7 team defeated Truro 6 - 2 and the Under 15's beat Helston 5 - 1 in the finals while the year 11's were

proud to achieve the runner up spot.

"I believe that this is a first in a Cornwall Schools' Football Association history for any Cornish school to have reached three finals in the same season," said the School's delighted Football Manager, Mr Roger Reynolds, who has coached all three teams. "All three are to be congratulated on the standard of their football but also on their superb attitude and effort," he added.

A different sporting experience half a world away was enjoyed by the eighteen students and staff who flew off during the Easter vacation to enjoy a 'Boston Ski Party.' For some it was their first time flying, and first experience abroad, but they soon took to their skis and enjoyed the near empty ski runs packed with deep snow. They also enjoyed a frenzied visit to New York packing in sightseeing with retail therapy.

The students were a real credit to the school and everyone, who met them, including a ski instructor who had recently been instructing President and Mrs Obama, commented on how positive and polite they were, the accompanying staff were pleased to report.

Chicken supports Students Mayfair Stall

Chicken Saltash supported by Mini Chickenman made an appearance at this year's May Fair.

They added to the colour of the saltash.net school's stall at which staff and students were handing out goody bags and raising money for the Friends' funds. the school is proud of its free range livestock, a great attraction to its students, so the chickens' attendance was especially appropriate.

A popular feature of the stall, especially for passing students and former students, was the 'Guess the teacher' competition, attracting many entrants but very few totally successful guessers.

Other saltash.net students manned an adjacent stall supervised by staff member Suzie Allen. They were selling confectionery seeking to raise funds for their World Challenge Expedition to Peru next year.

Gold Commendation Success



It was a glittering occasion at the Year 7 and 8 Assembly this morning when 9 students received Gold Commendations.

8 of the Commendations went to Year 7 students who were the first students in their Year Group to reach this level of achievement over the past Academic Year. The Gold Commendations recognise excellent levels of effort and a consistent attitude towards learning across all subject areas.

Ed Gilford, Bronwen Hall, Abigail Medland, Lydia Herbert, Freya Marsh Emily Sweet, David Hall, Joshua Wanless and Jerrica Bird.

Congratulations go to all of these students. Pictured with the year 7 and 8 students are Head of Year 7, Mr Rowe, Assistant Head and Year 7 Link, Mrs Griffin, and Mrs Bryce, Headteacher.

Year Elevens bid Farewell to Five years of School

Fun and laughter not unfixed with a touch of sadness was shared by the saltash.net students whose five years of studying and sharing their school activities together was coming to an end.

They had been hard at work studying for the GCSE examinations that were to burst upon them the following week, but for one day on which the atmosphere was described as 'incredible', examinations were forgotten by the year eleven students concluding their compulsory education. Though many would be coming back as sixth formers, others would be studying or working elsewhere so now was the time to celebrate with a parting party that would live long in memory.

Students - and year tutors - came to school in a variety of costume setting the mood for



the day. Following the presentation of special awards within the tutor groups there was a massive 'It's a Knock Out' fun sporting contest followed by chilling out over a BBQ lunch.

Then it was time to prove that Year Eleven has Talent with a variety of live music culminating in a final assembly at which five GCSE music students performed songs

especially written as a farewell to five years of shared experience.

"A wonderful day and one of the best memories of my teaching career," summed up Headteacher Isobel Bryce. "They have been a fantastic year group and it is good to see them end their years of compulsory schooling on a high and go positively into their examinations."





saltash.net community school is a thriving, highly successful 11 to 18 mixed, community comprehensive school. On April 1st 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 our 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!

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.





For a Prospectus or for more information please contact:

saltash.net community school
Wearde Road
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Cornwall
PL12 4AY

Tel: 01752 843715
enquiries@saltash.cornwall.sch.uk
www.saltash.net

Our Open Evenings for 2011 will start at 6.30 p.m. on Wednesday 28th & Thursday 29th September






Pirates of the Tamar to Invade Saltash Regatta

A feast of family fun ashore and a spectacle of sailing and rowing events on the water are promised during an action packed weekend of Saltash Regatta.

This years theme is 'Pirates of the Tamar' following a popular cinema release and the children's entertainment which promises to be better than ever, will have a distinct Pirate theme. As well as pirate entertainers our own black hearted buccaneer 'Brian the Whip', otherwise known as the town crier, will be introducing the new Olde Saltash Town Stocks in which misbehaving children will be locked up.

The fun will begin on the opening day Saturday 9th July when the Grand Parade will leave Victoria Gardens at 10.30am to wend it's way down Fore Street to the Waterside, As well as a civic party with the May Fair Princesses and music from the Cornish Wreckers and Crooked Tempo Samba it is hoped that local schoolchildren will join in the procession in pirate rig. It is also hoped that hundreds of pirate hats and eye-patches will be distributed to the children from the committee tent on Waterside.

The Regatta will begin in spectacular style with around 140 crews pulling traditional Cornish pilot gig boats up the river hosted by our own Caradon Gig Club. Most hotly contested for however is likely to be the Five Towns Challenge in which our Saltash town councillors will be rowing against civic leaders from other East Cornwall towns. The day also sees the completion at Saltash of the gruelling Prince of Wales Cup race with teams from HMS Raleigh rowing for the historic cup dating from 1909, a true piece of Saltash history.

Sunday's events on the water begin with the Tamar Canoe Association's Kayak demonstrations displaying the versatility of their small boats. This will be followed around mid-day by one of the weekend highlights, the race to England. Eighteen

crews are entered to row in fancy dress for the honour of planting the Cornish flag on the English shore and racing back-flashing oars and fast moving fun are guaranteed. Meanwhile on shore there will be non stop entertainment at the two venues, the Waterside and Jubilee Green. These venues will be linked once again by a lively street market selling a variety of tasty speciality foods, local and exotic.

At both Waterside and Jubilee Green live music will include firm favourites Wreckers' Morris and Crooked Tempo Samba as well as the lively Roosters and a return of Jill Cole and Kev Burns. Other music to suit all taste will vary from the Cornish street band the Cornish Hornets to the laid back tones of crooner Michael Campari and the rock sound of our own young people outside Livewire.

Children in particular will enjoy the Pirate Walkabout show, as well as street entertainment, a ride on the miniature railway, Victorian roundabout and human gyroscope, to which will be added a surf simulator.

A new event will feature on the Saturday, safety precautions being approved, a 'Wild Swim' in which a team of lifeguards will compete to swim across the Tamar, then race up the hill and over the Tamar Bridge back to the Waterside.

The Streets will be closed to traffic for the full two days. A free bus service will operate from the Grenada services area at Carkeel to the Waterside continually from 7am on Saturday, around 8am on Sunday until 5pm on both days.

Come early and stay late is the message, so as not to miss any of the fun, bring your lunch or patronise the food stalls distributed

around the Waterside

Win a £100 cash prize Entry to the Regatta is free but by buying raffle tickets at the committee tent visitors can help ensure the future of this Saltash spectacular community event, as well as having the chance to win one of our many prizes.

The regatta committee is grateful to principal sponsor Saltash Town Council and to major sponsors China Fleet Club, Spinnaker International, Babcock Marine, Kawasaki Precision Machinery and Carlton Plastics.

Conundrum Corner

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

- 1 In Charles Dickens's Oliver Twist what is the name of Bill Sykes's girlfriend?
- 2 What name is given to the small, sour blue-black fruits of the Blackthorn?
- 3 Which botanical symbol is used by the Countryside Commission to mark Nature Trails?
- 4 Which Pacific island has the alternative name of Friendly Islands?
- 5 In which British city is the concert venue Usher Hall situated?
- 6 Which town in South Africa was subjected to a four-month siege during the Boer War?
- 7 In the books of Kathleen Hall what is the name of the Marmalade Cat?
- 8 With which instrument do you associate the musician James Galway?
- 9 What is the correct name for the piece of equipment used to fix a saddle to a horse?

Answers on P6

Saltash May Fair AGM

The Saltash May Fair Committee has announced that their Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday July 19th at 7.00p.m. in the SHADO Centre, Plougastel Road, Saltash.

Whilst the 2011 event was generally thought to have been another tremendous success it was not without it's problems, which will no doubt have an effect on how May Fair is organised next year. The Committee hope that the AGM will provide a platform for local traders, the organisations that booked street stalls and the public in general to discuss how the Towns major annual Civic Event will evolve, and everyone is welcome.

Observer Tel:
07971484872 or
01579 345699

Follow the Kelliwyk Road!

Following the array of Cornish flags of St Piran lining Fore street, the Street itself has now been given its Cornish language name of 'Stret a-rag.'

Observant shoppers will have noticed the alternative street names shown at the top of the street by Victoria Gardens.

This is the beginning of a new policy for Cornwall Council whereby, as in Wales, street names will be shown bilingually as an when the nameplates need replacement.

We might look forward to seeing Saltash street designated as Fordh an Eglos, Fordh S, Stefan, Fordh Leder and Fordh Kelliwyk, being Church road, St Stephens Road, Hillside Road and Callington Road respectively.

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Friday 17th June 2011

There will be lots of exciting things happening to include...

The staff will be dressed in Yellow...should be interesting...

Guess the number of sweets in the jar, guess the weight of the Bananas. Please pop into the Hearing Room/NHS Centre for a tea/coffee and a lovely yellow cup cake.

Or you could join the Brunel Inn's Go Yellow Charity Bingo on Tues June 14th, or pop in for a drink and Guess the name of the Teddy.

www.stlukes-hospice.org.uk

May Fair Marathon

A cool easterly breeze blowing up Fore Street on May Fair Sunday morning was ideal for the host of athletes assembling there, though less so for the families, friends and other well wishers there to cheer them on their way. At ten o'clock the Mayor sounded the starting klaxon and two hundred and twenty three pairs of feet pounded up Fore Street.

The Saltash half marathon, known to serious athletes as one of the four toughest in the country, was under way.

No sooner had Mayor Adam Killea started the serious race than he handed to klaxon to his Mayoress Merryn Killea and hastened to change and to join the crowds of more relaxed runners lining up to start the fun run. The hundred and seventy six fun runners included families, groups of children and some in fancy dress as well as four girls linked together for the run.

The Mayoress sounded the klaxon and the fun runners were away for a gallop round the town. Spectators barely had time to pause for refreshment in the busy café before the first fun runners were pounding back down Fore Street to the finishing line to receive a well deserved medal and chocolate bar. Some of the youngest children were among the first home-half marathon winners of the future.

There was a longer break with rumours coming over the tannoy of approaching half marathon contestants before a lone runner turned from St Stephens Road and put in a final spurt down Fore Street to become this year's half marathon winner. He proved to be Chris Rimmer of Plymouth Harriers, coming within half a minute of the course record in a time of one hour 13 minutes and 43 seconds. It was his first

experience of this course which he had found 'challenging' with its hills and believed he might have been faster still without the wind against him on the homeward stretch.

Second and third home were Jim Cole of Tavistock AC and Peter Waumsley of Tamar Trotters in 1 hour 19.06 and 1 hour 20.04 respectively. First female runner home, not for the first time was Tamar Trotter Anne Luke in 1 hour 27 minutes 2 seconds.

More leisurely exercise was enjoyed by those who participated that afternoon on Harding's Hike.

The Mayor and Mayoress were outside the 'Cecil Arms' to see off the group of walkers led by Observer Ace Reporter Martin Lister. The walk of just under six miles took in some of the finest footpaths and lanes in our splendid countryside. As they wended their way round Antony Passage, Greeps, Elmgate, Longlands and Trehan the Maytime countryside revealed bluebell banked lanes and woodlands with meadows and hedgerows coloured with campion, speedwell, stitchwort, a few orchids and a host of other flowers bursting into late Spring splendour.

May Fair weekend was once again a time to savour the community spirit of the town and the beauty of the country around at it s very best.

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Pennies (and Oranges) from Heaven



Saltash Mayor Choosing was an exciting event for local children in more rumbustious times. As soon as the new mayor had been elected crowds of poorly clad urchins would gaze up eagerly at the upper window the Guildhall waiting for the Mayor, in his newly adorned robes, to appear.

He would then toss fruit and hot pennies for the expectant children to catch or to chase after. It has been suggested that the wealthy burghers derived great amusement by seeing the children burn their fingers in their eagerness for the pennies.

The custom, believed to date back well into the nineteenth century, still continues but in more orderly fashion and coins somewhat cooler. As newly elected Mayor and Mayoress Colin and Marilyn Oakes opened the Guildhall window a number of children, including a brownie pack, were waiting, hands out, ready to receive the fruit and coins from above. And though oranges and twopence coins may not be such a rare treat as those received by the Saltash children of yore, their eager enthusiasm surely matched that of their long-gone predecessors.

Old Cornwall Society welcomed to Ince Castle

Having on previous pilgrimages searched out the distant wonders of Cornwall, the members of Saltash Old Cornwall Society, on their first Summer Pilgrimage of the year, were welcomed to one of Cornwall's most interesting and beautiful houses a few miles from Saltash.

Lord and Lady Boyd allowed members to discover their historic home of Ince Castle one long May evening. Lady Boyd first escorted her guests around the exterior of the castle described as a 'new built brick house' in 1653. The castle was besieged and captured during the civil war and its fortunes have waxed

and waned ever since, it having been extended, fallen into disrepair, and restored from being a tumbledown ivy-clad farm.

The guests were then invited into explore the interior and to admire the rich variety of furnishings, paintings and other works of art from all periods. Of especial interest were the albums of pictures showing Ince and its environs from the early nineteenth century. Finally the Old Cornwall Society visitors enjoyed the beauty of the garden and grounds overlooking the Lynher River before taking the darkening lanes homeward.

Society Secretary Martin Lister thanked Lord and Lady Boyd for the rare privilege accorded to members of being invited into a historic house that has been a family home for five centuries, each owner including the present ones having added to its interest and beauty for future generations to enjoy.

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Independent Booksellers Week

A week of events at the Bookshelf

Monday 20th June – The return of our good friend, E.V. Thompson, with the paperback copy of his latest book. 11 am to 1 pm. Come and have lunch with him!!! Tuesday 21st June – Suzanne Morton – One of our favourite authors 'Smiling Angels' - is a well-known and delightful author. Suzanne is always pleased to meet new readers with similar experiences. 10 am to 12 noon Wednesday 22nd June – Come to Pentillie with us – Meet our Authors and hear them speak, and answer your questions – Chris Robinson, Ann Widdecombe, Virginia Spiers,

Julian Stockwin and Debby Fowler. You can buy lunch and visit the grounds of this lovely Castle. Tickets are sold in advance only, from The Bookshelf. Thursday 23rd June – Meet Johnny Kingdom at 4 pm and discuss his new book 'West Country Tales'. Friday 24th June – The Bookshelf Crossword Day – Pop in, have a coffee and try our crosswords –£1 for each entry. You can win a book token prize! Runners up will receive Galaxy Chocolate. Saturday 25th June – Mike Critchley will be here in the morning – he's bringing lots of stock with him, many Maritime books, and some excellent bargains.

Saltash U3A

After a welcome to everybody from our Chairman, Mike Scott, he went on to explain the Committee Nomination Forms which had been given out to members, and which must be returned by July. The elected committee will take up their duties in September when the A.G.M. is held. He also made an appeal for helpers who would be available when non-committee assistance was needed.

The Spring News Letter is out and is bigger and better than ever thanks to the work and expertise of Sue Martin, who edits and produces it, our thanks go to her.

French classes with Norman Hutchins will resume on Friday 20th May at Wesley, and new members are welcome.

Viv Lillies' Sewing and Craft Group is operating again at her new address in Cedar Court and would welcome new members, as would the Scrabble Group, which is led by Amy Farnsworth.

A second Geneology Group has been formed, so there is space for more interested people, and Yvonne Oram is proposing to start a Writing Group in June and can be contacted at yvonne.oram@blueyonder.co.uk

The speaker this month was Dr. Mike Hayward, an artist and historian, who gave a talk, illustrated with his own paintings, entitled 'The

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Conundrum Answers:

1 Nancy 2 Sloes 3 Acorns 4 Tonga 5 Edinburgh 6 Ladysmith 7 Orlando 8 Flute 9 Girth Nine-letter word: Flagstone



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THE HEARING ROOM
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Voyage of the Mayflower' pointing out the many difficulties and hardships which the early settlers had to endure.

At the next meeting on June 9th the speaker will be Paul Wilson, and the title 'A World Where Every Voice Is Heard'

Heritage Celebrate Quarter Century of Preserving the Past

The twenty-fifth annual general meeting of Saltash Heritage marked a major milestone in that society's history, pronounced Chairman John Parsons in opening the meeting.

The Society manages the Town's Museum and Local History Centre and this year has organised an exhibition on local education, 'Please Sir!' which has already attracted much interest. Mr Parsons described the Society, now a quarter of a century old, as 'a vibrant organisation still seeking to continue the aims of that first committee.'

As well as managing the Museum which in itself takes up to fifty-three man hours from it's volunteer stewards each week, the Society carries out many other local functions, added Secretary Mrs Elizabeth Sharpe-Asprey. These include putting on a number of temporary exhibitions around the Town, opening the Museum specially to welcome groups of children or adults and giving outreach talks most recently at the Town's Community School.

The Chairman, the Secretary and the Treasurer, Peter Payne-Hanlon, were unanimously re-elected as was the full management committee with two new members.

The business meeting was followed by a break for refreshments. Members were then entertained to a presentation on 'Cornwall in the Civil War' given by Roger Smith and Peter Nicholas. They outlined the vital role that their county played in that bloody conflict in which British battle deaths were proportionately in excess of those of two world wars. They described the three main

battles and some of the many skirmishes fought in the county and in which Essex's Parliamentary Army fell into 'the Cornish Mousetrap.' This led to the forming of the victorious New Model Army. Many remnants of that war remain in Cornwall and particularly in and around Saltash which changed hands many times during the conflict. Indeed three hundred troops were supposedly executed in the Town. Much more may yet be uncovered, said Mr Smith who emphasised that archaeology helps to endorse the findings of local historians.

The Society welcomes new members interested in local history and especially those willing to steward in the Museum, full training being given. Those interested can contact the Secretary on 01752 847800.

Cornwall Cabinet Backs Tories Pledge to Maintain Weekly Refuse Collections

Cornwall Conservatives back Cornwall Council's Cabinet decision to maintain weekly rubbish collections. Leader Alec Robertson said: 'We stated in our Conservative Election Manifesto in 2009 that we were committed to maintaining

weekly rubbish collections.

However, it was also important, in order for us to make a properly informed decision, that not only did we consider the options, but that we also consulted with the people of Cornwall to listen to their views. This is why I called for the public consultation. We received 10,000 responses. Approximately 2/3rds of respondents wanted the weekly collection to be maintained, even though it will cost slightly more than if we changed to fortnightly collections. We are delighted that the people of Cornwall have agreed with our position. Having listened to the public and taken their views on board we shall go out to tender shortly for the new contract which is due to come in from April 2012.' It is expected that contractors will be keen to secure the new and substantial contract covering the whole County and will provide quality bids at highly competitive prices. There is a lengthy and 'due diligence' process involved to evaluate the bids which will include an 'In House' provider and several national companies. An announcement of the successful bidder is anticipated in the Autumn this year. This will allow the body selected reasonable time to prepare to deliver the required arrangements starting April 2012.

LEARN COUNTRY SKILLS ON COMMUNITY RESERVE

Such traditional country skills as hedgelaying, coppicing and dry stone walling can be acquired while helping to maintain Saltash's own local nature reserve.

The Friends of Churchtown Farm Community Nature Reserve not only organise guided and themed walks around the reserve on a monthly basis but many members also enjoy practical conservation work. On the first Saturday of each month a volunteer team, led by Nature Reserve team staff, gains experience on habitat management, socialises with like minded people and helps make a real impact on the Town's Community Nature Reserve. Anyone interested in joining the group is invited to contact warden Keith Rawlings on 01752 - 846407.

The Friends also wish to remind the public of the potential hazards of fire, especially following the exceptionally dry Spring this year. A substantial fire near the railway had to be extinguished by the fire brigade which had great difficulty in crossing the fields to reach it. Fire is especially damaging to birds and

animals on the Wildlife Reserve during the season that they are raising their young. Anybody seeing anything disturbing on the reserve is asked to contact warden Keith on the above number.

MP Calls for action on 0844 numbers

South East Cornwall MP Sheryll Murray has written to Health Secretary Andrew Lansley MP calling on him to act over surgeries with non-geographic 0844 numbers.

Sheryll began her campaign against the use of these numbers over three years ago when she presented a paper to the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust in a bid to resolve the issue. Sheryll, who then worked for a local doctors surgery, heard the concerns of many patients first hand and was determined to act.

Sheryll explained, "The government undertook a consultation on the use of 0844 numbers in 2008 and 2009 which found that 86 percent of people said that the use of these numbers should be banned. Many thousands of people also signed a petition on the Downing Street website. The government listened and put in a deadline of 1st April 2011 to bring in these changes.

"Unfortunately many surgeries up and down the country have not made this change and I am now calling on the government to ensure that this decision is enforced for the benefit of patients.

"It is often much more expensive to ring these 0844 numbers especially when calling from a mobile. I am disappointed that these numbers are still in use."

HERITAGE VISIT TO HISTORIC MINE

Learning how to distinguish their kieves from their buddles and discovering how rocks deep under Cornwall were converted to the ingots that travelled across the world proved part of a fascinating visit by Saltash Heritage members to King Edward Mine.

Set in the heart of Cornwall's historic central mining area the surface buildings are little changed from the end of the nineteenth century when Cornish mining sank into terminal decline. A group of local enthusiasts is busily conserving and

Town Correspondence goes Cornish

Saltash Council publications and correspondence will emanate from 'Konsel an dre Essa' it has been agreed.

This is the Cornish Language translation of 'Saltash Town Council' which wording will continue to appear above the Cornish.

"Saltash is still firmly in Cornwall even though it may soon be part of a parliamentary constituency including Devon," Mayor Councillor Adam Killea told the Council. "To add these Cornish words to our documentation would be to help support the Cornish language and Cornish culture."

Camborne and Redruth Town Councils, it was noted, already have similar Cornish wording on official documents while it is now Cornwall Council policy to encourage street names being in Cornish and English.

After some heated debate it was agreed to add the Cornish translation to bilingual documents by eight votes to four with two abstentions.

With the array of St Piran's Cornish flags lining Fore Street this is another means of Saltash seeking to confirm its Cornish identity.

Allotment Holders plan Pond and Beehives

The recently allocated allotment land at Churchtown Farm, let out until needed for burial purposes, has already attracted an active Allotments Society.

It's Chairman, Tony Gerrard addressed the Town's Civic Amenities Committee on its actions to date and plans for the future.

A pond is proposed for the bottom western end of the site and this has been agreed by the Councillors. They also confirmed as acceptable a request to keep bees in the allotments.

"Churchyard and Hawke"

An Exciting Read...

Once again E.V. Thompson gives us an exciting adventure based in Cornwall. His historical research and use of local knowledge makes this book is another fascinating tale.

This time he brings us back to the events which involve the Cornish detective, Amos Hawke. He is once again involved with Tom Churchyard, who has been engaged in unofficial undercover work in the murky streets and taverns of London's 19th century slums. However, Tom Churchyard suffers a serious beating whilst doing this work, and so he takes himself to Cornwall to recuperate.

Here, in spite of his injuries, he becomes right-hand man to Amos Hawke, who is now a senior Cornish policeman. Constable Churchyard's knowledge and experience of the London rogues proves invaluable, as Amos Hawke seeks to out-manoeuvre a gang of villains. They appear to be thieves, whose plan is to plunder the mansions of the Cornish gentry. But Churchyard and Hawke manage to get the better of the gang and bring them to justice.

While the detectives are carrying out their investigations a brutal murder is committed. Because of this the detection proves far more complex than appears at first glance. The story moves on through the tracking and arresting of the villains, leading to a satisfactory conclusion. "Churchyard and Hawke" is an exciting and insightful novel of the years when the Cornwall Constabulary was in its infancy in another novel testing the investigative skills of Amos Hawke.

Currently available in Hardback, but shortly available in a Paperback copy at £7.99.

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FORMER GAS SHOWROOM SHOWCASES EVENTS

The former gas showroom at the foot of Fore Street will continue to showcase local events.

A recent display on the repainting of the Royal Albert Bridge, featuring some of the bridge's history has attracted much interest.

A programme of allocation for the premises, cleaned up by town councillors for this purpose last year, is being prepared by the Council's Industry Commerce Transportation and Tourism Committee. It's Chairman, Councillor David Yates, reminded members that the use of the premises was strictly for non commercial and not for profit organisations and events.

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SALTASH ROTARY CLUB YOUNG WRITER COMPETITION

Saltash Rotary Club's Young Writer Competition was run in conjunction with Saltash Library this year. The Library Manager wrote to the local primary schools, visited some of them and ran a Writers' Workshop during the February half term.

Eighteen excellent entries were received in the 7 to 11 age group covering stories and poems. The Overall Winner

was judged to be Rowenna Hoskin from St German's Primary School. The Runner-Up was Megan

Furlonger from St Stephens Primary School. Special recognition goes to Emily Jane Horsham from Sir Robert

Geffery's School for the best poem and the Runner-Up in this category was Rachel Adkins from Bishop Cornish



A CHORUS OF APPROVAL AT CHURCHTOWN FARM

Dawn was yet to break over St Stephens but already the robin, blackbird and song thrush were up and making themselves heard as were twenty-three amateur ornithologists eager to embark on a dawn chorus walk.

They proceeded onto Churchtown Farm Nature Reserve along green lanes still being used as superhighways by passing bats. Here they were introduced by Cornwall Wildlife Trust's Peter Kent to what he described as a 'worldwide wonder of nature.' The gradually growing crescendo of the dawn chorus, he explained, was the songbirds' way of simultaneously saying 'go away' and 'come here' to other male birds and to prospective females respectively.

Amid the sound of the resident blackbirds, thrushes, and robins Peter pointed out the call of the newly arrived warbler migrants from West Africa, in particular the dominant call of the blackcap and the more scratchy tone of the whitethroat. The chaff stridently sounded his name as the wren joined in with his fast and complex song, up to a hundred notes being recorded in eight seconds. The migrant garden warbler 'like a babbling brook' contrasted with the two note call of the great tit.

As the dawn light spread along the hedgerows and tree lines from whence the birds were calling the group moved on to the marshland area seeking to hear the reed bunting as swallows swooped overhead. A dunno piped from a bramble bush as the avid listeners climbed down to the creekside woodland and quarry hoping to meet the little owls seen hereabouts.

Between distinguishing between the various songs, Peter Kent explained how the chorus changes as Spring advances, how more mature birds extend their repertoire, and how some species such as the tit produce the 'beau geste' effect of making one bird sound like several.

A full morning light fell upon Churchtown Farm the satisfied listeners left the reserve to the high flying skylarks rejoicing in the new day and adjourned to the 'Cecil Arms' where the landlord had kindly opened to provide them with coffee, bacon butties and the opportunity to discuss their pre-dawn discoveries.

The event had been organised by the Friends of Churchtown Farm who organise monthly walks on the reserve (usually starting at a somewhat later hour!) on a variety of themes.

Primary School. Silver Eliot and Tyler Sellars, both from St Germans Primary School were the Winner and Runner-Up in the 7 to 8 section. The awards were presented at the Library by the President of the Rotary Club, Mr David Brown. Everyone who took part received a certificate and the six prize winners also received books donated by the Library. Rowenna received a Book token donated by the

Rotary Club and her story was sent forward to the District round of the National Competition where she came a well deserved second. The Rotary Club would like to thank the Library Manager, Sarah, and the staff for their help, and the judges for the time they spent in judging the entries. It is hoped next year to extend the competition to the 11 to 14 and 15 to 18 age groups.

INNER WHEEL CLUB

April /May Report

Our speaker at our April Meeting was the poet David Prowse, who writes verse in The Western Morning News every Saturday. He has also broadcast on BBC Radio Cornwall.

David was born and brought up on a farm in Morwenna and later became a gardener at St. Theresa's Chesire Home in Marazion.

He read a number of his poems to us and told us some very amusing stories of his early life, growing up in West Cornwall. His subjects ranged from a visit to the cinema in Penzance with his girlfriend, to Friday night, bath-night for the whole family! He had everyone in fits of laughter and needless to say this led to some reminiscing amongst the members.

He brought along some of his books, which were eagerly snapped up by club members, who had enjoyed his talk so much.

The Meeting was chaired by Ann Potter and Anne Davey gave the Vote of Thanks. Our May Meeting was a quiet affair. Ann Potter took the chair again. Being the last meeting of the Inner Wheel year, all major fundraising and social being completed, we enjoyed a nice meal and a chat and finalised plans for our forthcoming 50th Birthday Celebration in July.

More ride by Rail from Saltash Station

Passenger usage of Saltash Station has increased by fifteen per cent over the previous year the figures for 2010/2011 indicate.

The numbers using the station to commute to Plymouth, to travel to London or other major cities, or to enjoy days out in Devon and Cornwall have doubled over the past decade.

This has in part been due to the improved timetables introduced by First Great Western at the behest of our highly active Saltash Rail Users Group. The number of direct services to and from London Paddington has encouraged local business and pleasure travellers to use the easy option of Saltash rather than drive and part at Plymouth Station.

The new Summer Timetable, out now, offers a range of attractive days out in beach resorts or local towns of interest.



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