

# SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

June 2013 - Issue 251

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## The Bells Pealed for First Citizens David and Stephanie

As the bells of St. Nicholas Church rang out to mark the choosing of a new mayor for Saltash, the time-honoured traditions ensured that the town now has a first citizen whose main object is to ensure that Saltash can decide its own future development into the twenty-first century.

Councillor David Yates, who had completed a year as



Deputy Mayor was proposed as Mayor by retiring Mayor Cllr. Martin Gee who described him as 'showing the initiative and drive required to ensure that we must have a Saltash neighbourhood plan within twelve months'. He outlined the new Mayor's civil experience, including chairing the industry

commerce transport and tourist committee and serving on the community interest company. 'He is well supported by the new Mayoress, his wife Stephanie, who while not working as registrar is a keen 'twinner'- Indeed David and Stephanie had recently returned from a visit to Saltash's twin Breton town of Plougastel.

The new Mayor, who works in Devonport on nuclear powered submarines, has negotiated to work part time so as to allow time required for his busy civic life.

Summing up the year ahead the new Mayor acknowledged that there would be difficult choices to make and added, 'we need co-operation, communication and a sense of our own community'. From his experience so far serving the town he had concluded, 'I have learnt that everyone has a

story to tell, a point to make, information to offer. People are our eyes and ears.

In seconding the new Mayor Cllr. Derek Holley, in more light-hearted vein, pointed out that he was a man of great wisdom and influence, proved by the fact that since he took control of salt and grit bins Saltash has suffered no more severe winters. Now that the new Mayor's beloved Norwich City team has avoided relegation his tension is relieved and he can concentrate on civic affairs, and having recently visited Plougastel his English should be much improved. Above all, as a keen thespian with the Burraton Players he is used to taking the stage and knows when to start and when to stop speaking. More seriously Cllr Holley described David as a reliable councillor with wide ranging professional expertise and a good dose of common sense. He has also, over the past year, been called upon to evolve as emergency planning officer.

The new Mayor appointed sixteen year old Kieran O'Connor, RAF cadet corporal, as his 'Mayor's Cadet'

Tradition dictates that the newly appointed Mayor and Mayoress scatter warm pennies and fruit from the Guildhall window to eager children waiting below. This year, it being half term, it proved impossible to organise such children. Fortunately Mandy, of the Guildhall staff, decided to hurry up Fore Street and gather some youngish people to foregather so that the tradition might be maintained and the new Mayor could face as active future year having honoured the fun tradition of the past.

We are pleased to confirm that Cllr Yates will continue the tradition of every Mayor over the past twenty-one years, writing a monthly column for the 'Observer'.

We will be including a profile of our new Mayor and Mayoress in your next Observer



### Tribute to Former Student, Adam Smart from saltash.net

It was with great sadness that we received the news this morning that Adam had lost his fight for life following the traffic accident at Carkeel on Monday. Our immediate thoughts are with his close family and friends to whom we send sincere condolences.

Having spent all seven years of his secondary education at saltash.net, he is someone we will remember warmly, particularly for his consistent desire to help and support others. As a 6th Form student he was exemplary in his commitment to school life and the wider community. An all round excellent sportsman, he represented the school at a national level for trampolining. He showed true dedication in support of numerous charitable causes and he was also always there to support any 'friend in need' whenever the occasion arose.

Adam's final 6th Form report summed him up as someone who adopted a positive approach to life being 'friendly, cheerful, considerate and helpful'.

He will be greatly missed within the Saltash community.

### Past Year as Mayor Humbling but Wonderful

It has been a phenomenal year, with Maggie and myself humbled at the way the people of Saltash have welcomed us'. So concluded retiring Mayor Martin Gee, having proposed his former Deputy David Yates to succeed him, 'These people make Saltash such a wonderful place to live in', he concluded.

'Martin always leads from the front', averred the new Mayor, in proposing a vote of thanks to his predecessor. 'He puts his views on funding issues succinctly, loudly and often, and in running the council meetings leaves no doubts as to his views. He has represented us well all over the town and internationally;

Cllr, Adam Killea added his thanks for the enthusiasm with which the late Mayor had attended events and his commitment to ensuring that the accounts were in good order.

### Prepare for the Summer Holidays ...

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## From the Back Benches

Who has stolen the tender from the play station on the Waterfront. It has gone missing since 31st May. Amazingly it has been removed by Cornwall to replace a damaged part. We await its return. This play equipment was provided by Saltash Waterfront Residents Association and repainted by them last year.

Speaking of the Waterfront where are the revamped toilets. They are there in such a primitive state that the Town Council refuses to adopt them. The facilities are in porcelain, the drier attached to the wall and the lights are household fittings, these are easy vandal targets, and a huge potential cost for Saltash if adopted. And later damaged The facilities should be stainless steel, driers put into walls and lighting recessed into ceilings. Another poor do from Cornwall.

The town has lost some support in that some officers of the now defunct Caradon District Council have retired or taken redundancy. These people who know our town are being replaced by either officers from Truro or even the whole service is being outsourced to an organization in Bristol. Could this spell disaster if it is estates or services that require local knowledge? It is certainly no good for employment in Cornwall. The majority of rubbish by the station was removed last week but alas somebody has thrown a TV on the site.

It is not all woe. The Marine group of young people is now part of the Naval

Training called Training Ship Defiance. There are 5 empty shops in Fore Street, two of which being taken and are being developed. The Cornish Cross looks good and work on the Elwell wood site continues. It has caused much talk the vast majority being favourable.

Welcome to our new Councillors Lee Russell, John Brady, Gloria Challen and Councillor Gina Donovan who was co-opted by the Town Council at the last meeting

by Martin Gee



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CORNWALL COUNCIL

and our PL12 community  
For Observer readers  
From Councillor Hilary Frank  
Saltash South

'May you live in interesting times' is the old curse, supposedly Chinese. As a 'newbie' to Cornwall Council and to major elections, I was woefully unprepared for the hard slog of an election campaign. Highly recommended as a diet (I managed to lose 4kg) but not good for footwear (I wore through 2 pairs of shoes), the campaign took me and my family through various levels of apprehension, stress, exhilaration and exhaustion. Still, at the elections on May 2nd I was humbled and delighted to achieve my goal of winning a seat to represent the citizens of Saltash South. But with seemingly endless training sessions at County Hall and plenty of queries from Saltash South citizens coming in, I soon realised that election day hadn't actually been the goal, it was just the starting line...

First of all, I had to get my head round the intriguing political scene at County Hall. The 3 major groups all held a similar number of seats (36 for the Independent Group, 36 for the Lib Dems and 30 for the Conservatives), so there was no clear overall control immediately after the election. There was a strong momentum for the groups to set up a 'One and All' alliance, to put aside political interests and work for Cornwall as a whole. Weeks of intensive negotiations followed, but sadly an alliance turned out to be impossible. Personally, I feel this is a shame as the situation was an ideal opportunity for everyone to pull together for the sake of Cornwall. The situation we have now is that the Independent and Lib Dem groups are working together to provide the leadership in the Council, with 5 Cabinet posts being taken by Independents and the remaining 5 by Lib Dems.

I'm sad to say that over the last 2 years as a councillor on Saltash Town Council, I became increasingly frustrated and despondent at Cornwall Council's lack of listening and communication skills. But I've been pleasantly surprised at the way the new Cabinet and senior Cornwall Council officers have openly recognised the communication failings of the last administration, and at how they have placed importance on improving relationships going forward. The Cabinet published its aims in the beginning of June. It announced that it would be working for a fair deal for Cornwall, based on:

- A 'can do' positive and responsive approach.
- A 'lean' council focusing on providing value for money, cutting wasteful spending and delivering the most efficient service.

• The development, enhancing and improvement of the Council's relationships with its partners, the Parishes and Towns and the public.

The Cabinet members seem to be a dedicated, caring bunch with a wide range of experiences, so I am cautiously hopeful that even though it isn't a cross-party Cabinet it is still a stronger, more listening administration than the last one. Of course, it ain't going to be a bed of roses, especially considering the thorny financial difficulties local government is facing nationwide. But in Saltash, all 4 Cornwall Councillors are also on Saltash Town Council, which makes us stronger as we do our bit to make sure the Cabinet and Cornwall Council live up to the promises.

Our fight for Saltash to get proper recognition (no, Truro, we are NOT part of Plymouth) is being helped by various high profile events in our town: the Olympic Torch Relay, the Cornish Cross and the Regatta, to name just a few. This year, a new event will be added to our calendar: on October 5th ladies of Saltash are invited to walk through Saltash on a Moonlight Memory Walk, raising money for Little Harbour - the children's hospice in St. Austell Bay. The Saltash fundraising group for the Children's Hospice Southwest has worked tirelessly over the years, and it is a tribute to their dedication that Saltash has been chosen as only the second town in Cornwall to be the backdrop for this special walk. Falmouth is the other town that has hosted a Walk - they are in their 5th year and regularly have over 300 participants. We can beat that, can't we, Saltash ladies? It is a busy season for Saltash ladies as we are also being invited to help create large, stunning batik flags as part of a public art installation in Cornwall. Participation in the flag workshops is free, so please contact the Guildhall if you're interested in the flags or the Walk.

So it may well be interesting times, but there is a positive mood within Cornwall Council, the 4 Cornwall Councillors are determined and dedicated, and based on past experience I know the people of Saltash will respond. Interesting times are just a series of circumstances to create positive opportunities... aren't they?

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## Secretary of State Inspects New Bridge Site



Pictured: Sheryll at the new roundabout with Patrick McLoughlin.

The Transport Secretary of State, Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP, took time during a visit to Cornwall to see for himself the site of the £1.5 million footbridge and roads improvements due to take place at the Carkeel roundabout in Saltash.

The footbridge is planned on the Plymouth side of the roundabout to allow people to cross from Saltash to the Tamar View industrial estate which includes many businesses including Waitrose. There will also be road improvements to increase capacity which is

designed to improve traffic flow in the busy summer months.

In a statement Sheryll Murray said, "It was good to be able to speak to the Secretary of State on a site visit to this very important investment into the road network

in Saltash. I have been campaigning since I was first elected to ensure a footbridge was installed on this site and it is really good to have a government that has listened and that this work will be complete by March 2015."

## New Deputy Mayor is Familiar Face

Although new to the council, having been co-opted only this year and confirmed in her seat at the May election, the newly elected Deputy Mayor Cllr. Jean Dent is a familiar figure in the town. She has lived here with her husband Bill for around a quarter of a century and their two sons, now adult were brought up and educated in the town.

She has taught at various schools in Saltash and Plymouth.

Bill and Jean are best known however for their hard work in support of service and ex-servicemen through the British Legion and are always to the fore organising the annual remembrance day parades. Jean is less visible but equally active in helping resolve social problems as vice chair of the legion's welfare committee for Cornwall.

'She has been working hard with the Mayor on the neighbourhood planning team,' said Cllr. Bob Austin in proposing her.

'I am pleased to second Cllr Dent as a fresh face, well known in the area as her husband is added Cllr, John Brady. 'She will bring new ideas and a new protocol to her office'.



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# 'The Best May Ball to Date'

'The best May Ball to date,' was the unanimous verdict of staff who had the pleasure of accompanying Year 13 students from saltash.net community school to their Leavers' event at the Duke of Cornwall Hotel on the evening of Friday 10th May. The students certainly 'dressed to impress' and, although initially disappointed that the rain and wind prevented a photocall outside, went on to make the most of the grandeur of the hotel's foyer and sweeping staircase where many group photos were taken to help capture the excitement and enjoyment of the occasion.

The students and staff were then treated to a delicious three course dinner in the beautifully decorated Ball Room, before they danced the

night away to hits old and new, which formed the soundtrack for the seven years the students had spent together at saltash.net.

Speaking after the event, Headteacher Isobel Bryce, said 'As always our young people were an absolute credit to their families and to our school. I cannot believe their time at saltash.net is coming to an end but I hope the May Ball will have given them many more wonderful memories to take away with them, as they move on in their lives and careers.'

The Ball was organised by Nick Scantlebury, Head of 6th Form, Laura Wilkinson, Deputy Head of 6th Form and Sue Briggs, 6th Form Administrator, with the help and assistance of the 6th Form students committee.

*Saltash.net  
School  
Feature  
See Page 4*



## Keep Shops in Lower Fore Street

The conservation area of Lower Fore street should maintain its shops, Saltash Town Councillors agreed. They recommended refusal for an application for a shop next to Elliotts 'Time Warp' grocers to be converted into office accommodation.

While some councillors suggested it would be preferable to attract employment by allowing offices the majority view favoured maintaining the ratio of shop premises in the old heart of the town.

- 1: Tamsin West, Francesca Bryce
- 2: James Taylor, Joe Crabtree, Harley Bray, Rhys Brock-Spanton
- 3: Sam Doney, Scott Taylor, Aaron Rance
- 4: James Taylor, Isobel Bryce (Headteacher), Dugal Shirley

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## Electronic Info for Bus Users

Updated information on 'real time' bus arrivals and departures should soon be available for Fore Street passengers, Electronic indicators, such as are in use in Plymouth's Royal Parade and St. Budeaux Square were due to be installed shortly, the Town Council's Industry, Commerce, Transport and Tourism committee has been informed.

The First Devon and Cornwall Company has also announced release of an app for users to access information about their services.

A new bus shelter for Broad Walk has also been provided for installation shortly while a response is still awaited concerning a shelter sought for Liskeard Road. It was noted that the Babis Farm shelter, opposite Church Walk, was reported as covered in graffiti and this would be inspected. Town Councillors had not been aware of the impending withdrawal of the town circular 33 and 33A services despite an agreement with First that there would be prior consultation on

any such service changes. A one way system was being introduced on Barkers Hill, up to St Stephens church, in response to concerns regarding buses using the route. The one way system will go ahead despite buses no longer travelling the road.

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## Saltash.net... Anticipate an Exciting Future as a Centre of Academic Excellence

A sense of excited anticipation is promised as hundreds of year 6 children from all around Saltash prepare to embark on one of the greatest adventures of their young lives: converging upon saltash.net community school for a fun day of learning experience. Following last year's successful Year 5 Theme Day of 'Reach for the Stars', this year's theme of insects and other creepy-crawlies has been called, 'Have you got the learning bug?', a title suggested by one of the school's senior students. Carefully planned out by staff and senior students, the day is intended to introduce children to secondary school life in a fun environment while conveying the exciting range of opportunities and experiences that lie ahead of them at saltash.net.

Many will have already experienced the school, some through the saltash.net Saturday School in which year 5 students from partner primaries have been enjoying a linked ICT and English project based around 'robots'. Sessions aimed to build confidence, communication and creative skills while giving a feel of life in a secondary environment.

### Exciting Future

The school which they will be joining is itself anticipating an exciting future as a centre of academic excellence as it enters its third year as an independent academy. 'The benefits of academisation include in particular having far more control over our budget and resources,' explained headteacher, Mrs Isobel Bryce. 'This enables us to prioritise key projects for development. Extra funding is used in many ways including increased levels of staffing which allows smaller group sizes and more individual attention, in particular in Maths, English and Science. It also allows an increased level of intervention and of support enabling us to build on our breakfast and homework clubs provision, with organised transport home

from the latter when necessary.'

### Refurbishment of Music and Drama Departments.

The school has also been able to target key areas for capital maintenance and improvement including the refurbishment of music and drama departments. The special needs area has also benefitted with more space being provided for one to one support.

Students have been particularly excited at recent ICT purchases which include ACER tablets for two year seven groups, the aim being for full one to one devices to be introduced on a rolling programme over the next few years. As an academy, also, saltash.net can bid for central government funding as it has, successfully for the recent all weather pitch as well as changing room and toilet makeovers. This year £535,000 is being provided for re-roofing the school while a separate British Gas award of £135,000 for an energy makeover will include provision of solar panels and energy efficient lighting saving energy costs and so releasing monies to be utilised in improvements elsewhere.

New students can look forward to being a part of a school which continues to collect awards for excellence in learning and to offer an amazing array of sporting and other extracurricular activities on and off the campus.

On his recent visit to the school, reported separately in your 'Observer', the Speaker of the House of Commons, John Bercow MP, as well as speaking to a hall full of senior students and discussing the more human side of politics was anxious to discover three aspects of the school that especially interested him.

### Academy of Tourism

Firstly he wanted to see the livestock area, being fascinated at the idea of a farm in the school and students duly introduced him to the animals. Secondly he was intrigued to visit the new build Academy of Tourism with its video conferencing suite. Thirdly he was keen to meet staff and students in the Area Resource Base, 'Trematon Unit', where students with severe learning difficulties receive one to one tuition.

'I am really impressed with what the young people asked me and with the warmth of my

welcome,' was Mr, Speaker's evidently heartfelt summary. 'I could clearly tell that this is a very good school with many outstanding features.'



## Year 11's Last Day

There were tears and laughter throughout the day on Friday 10th May as Year 11 students at saltash.net said an 'official' farewell to each other and to their teachers before the start of their GCSE exams on Monday 13th May. Although the students will still be coming into school for revision sessions, this was the last time the whole of the year group would be gathered together so everyone wanted to make sure it would be a day to remember. As has now become an annual tradition at saltash.net, the Year 11 students and their tutors arrived in school on the Friday morning in a superb array of fancy dress costumes, which just seem to become more inventive year on year. During morning tutor and registration time, the students were presented with their Year Books which gave everyone an opportunity to reflect on their time together at saltash.net over the past five years.

Lessons proceeded as normal up until period 4 when the whole year group gathered together in the school's gym for a very big tea party! Teaching and support staff served tea

and cakes and scones with jam and clotted cream to an appreciative student body. After an



opportunity to write messages of good will and good luck in their Year Books, the students proceeded to the main hall for their final assembly. Led by Head of Year, Mark Feldwick, and Assistant Head of Year, Eileen Sloggett, the assembly focused on celebrating the many achievements and successes of the young people. Musical entertainment of the highest quality was provided by Flo Bonner, Joe Lang, Cameron Oakes, Jack Payne and Ronni Swan.

Speaking at the end of the day, Headteacher, Mrs Bryce, said, 'It was a very emotional day. We are extremely proud of every one of the students in this year group and know they will be hugely successful this summer but it is never easy saying farewell to a Year 11 cohort. Fortunately many will be returning in our 6th Form but for those proceeding to college or apprenticeships we wish them all the very best for the future.'



## 'Every Child Matters'

Festivals Cornish and Chinese have been celebrated by saltash.net students over a year that has also seen students sharing memorable experiences in such destinations as London and Oxford as well as many on the school's Saltash campus.

Students' Cornish studies led to a St. Piran's day feast in the canteen while the school was decorated with students' posters and poems of 'my favourite thing about Cornwall'

By contrast a Chinese themed lunch, served by lunchtime supervisor Sue Best in Chinese themed outfit, helped introduce oriental culture to the Chinese New Year.

The 'Saltash Hopper' bus bore students to the dreaming spires of Oxford where they were immersed in the city and colleges – and the location scene for Hogwarts dining hall. Others travelled to London as some of the fortunate thousand



Royal Commonwealth Observance Service in Westminster Abbey

children and dignitaries to share in the Royal Commonwealth Observance Service in Westminster Abbey.

A virtual visit abroad was held by video conference when students talked to an MEP in Brussels, bringing real world politics direct to the classroom. An actual visit to the school was made by Baroness Jolly who marked Parliament Week by discussing with students her work in the House of Lords.

While the school continues to

maintain the highest of academic standards, attracting many students from outside its immediate catchment area, students still remain active also in fund raising, fun events, educational visits in Britain and beyond, all seeking to fulfil the school's total commitment to the 'Every Child Matters' belief that all students should be able to both 'Enjoy and Achieve'.



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

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

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

### Open Evenings for 2013

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

6:30 p.m.

saltash.net community school  
Wearde Road, Saltash  
Cornwall  
PL124AY

For a prospectus or more information please contact:

Tel: 01752 843715

enquiries@saltash.cornwall.sch.uk

www.saltash.net



## 'JAM AID TOO' Live 313

Music event at Botus Fleming in aid of Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research

Following on from last years' extremely successful live music charity event in aid of Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research, 'JAM AID TOO' will take place at the Rising Sun Inn, Botus Fleming near Saltash on Saturday 13th July 2013. Numerous dedicated and talented local musicians have agreed to perform throughout the afternoon and evening. Free entry, all are welcome and the funds raised on the day will be donated to Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research (Registered charity 216032 - England & Wales). The first performance will commence at 2pm and a diverse range of individual musicians, groups and small bands will play original songs and well-known classics until late in the evening.

Volunteers will be running a BBQ and thanks to donations from local and national organisations a prize draw will be held at the end of the evening. Draw tickets can be purchased throughout the day and all proceeds from the draw will be donated to the charity concerned. Organiser Chris Speed from Hatt explained "Some very talented musicians will be entertaining the audience with a wide range of music throughout the afternoon and evening until late" and added "in addition to the scheduled acts that will be performing inside the Rising Sun Inn, our volunteer jammers will also be playing outside the pub and providing musical entertainment for all the family". While the entertainment indoors will

run to a set schedule, any musicians or singers who wish to participate in the additional outside 'open mic style' entertainment on the day will be welcome. The event is being supported by various local and national businesses. Any other local organisations that are willing to donate draw prizes provide relevant support, or anyone who can help promote the event by displaying an event poster should telephone Chris Speed on 07929028675.

Observer Telephone Nos  
07971484872 or  
01579 345699



01752 840835

THE HEARING ROOM  
111-113 Fore Street, Saltash PL12 6AE

## Ex-Pupils from Saltash Grammar School Re-Union 1954-1959

On Friday 17th May ex pupils of Saltash Grammar School from 1954-1959 gathered for lunch at the Whitsand Bay Hotel. Many had not seen each other for 55 years, so there was a lot of catching up and reminiscing to do! Those present from that era were.....

Paul Brewer, Johnny Weekes, Margaret Hearn (nee Andrews), Catherine Olufsen (nee Shears), Graham Chapell, Nina Chapell (nee Rowe), Vanda West (nee Bersey), Jill Fraser (nee Wiltshire), Tony Williams (with wife Susan, nee Ironside, who also attended the school), Tony West, Benn Lines, Roddy Elworthy and Mike Anning. The event was so successful that it is intended to have another in the autumn. Would anyone reading this who knows the whereabouts and contact details of any others from classes 1A and 1Alpha please contact Mike Anning (anning@amichael39.orange.home.co.uk).

## Lovely Lucy Became a Bride



The beauty of the idyllic Boconnoc estate matched that of the bride as Lucy, well loved hairdresser of hair.comb, married James Hambly at the venue on a sunny spring day. Eighty guests, joined by fifty more that evening, saw Lucy with her four bridesmaids in full length fuchsia pink dresses, wed before best men Craig and Greg who were to entertain all with a hilarious rap duo outlining James' pre-Lucy life. The evening disco was enhanced by live music from Crafthole's Friday Night Boys' who included James' father Paul, as well as by classical guitar beautifully played by Mark. A perfect day concluded, for the happy couple, with a honeymoon in the Peak District and then over to Jersey.

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## Conundrum Corner

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

- 1 What sort of entertainment is a Sir Roger de Coverley? (5)
- 2 Pecans and Pistachios are types of what? (4)
- 3 On what type of surface is the sport of Curling played? (3)
- 4 Which Norwegian port is the northernmost town in Europe? (10)
- 5 In Roald Dahl's book of the same name what type of creature is the Esiotrot? (8)
- 6 What is the name of the area in Kent, Surrey and East and West Sussex between the North and South Downs? (5)
- 7 How was a supporter of the Parliament against Charles I during the Civil War known? (9)
- 8 What nationality was the composer George Frederick Handel? (6)
- 9 Lady's Slipper is a variety of which plant? (6)

Answers on page 7

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**SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...**



I was really pleased to welcome the Secretary of State for Transport to Saltash last week to see for himself where the long awaited pedestrian foot bridge will be constructed across the A38 to the east of Carkeel Roundabout.

The money has been provided after a great deal of lobbying and I was pleased that the Secretary of State felt this was justified after seeing how busy the traffic was for himself.

Sadly this meant that I was unable to attend the important debate in Westminster when a vote took place on an amendment that I signed expressing my concern that the Queens Speech did not include provision for enabling legislation to hold a referendum on our future membership of the European Union.

I am delighted that my colleague James Wharton MP was drawn in 1st place in the Private Members Bill ballot and has chosen to introduce a Bill which will become the enabling Act should this get through both houses. I will do everything I can to help him succeed.

After campaigning throughout the Constituency during the local election campaign, there was a consistent message from people on the

doorsteps. They do not trust the word of politicians, no matter how often we make promises. I can fully understand their position when we have seen recent behaviour from people like Nick Clegg, the Deputy Prime Minister.

Mr Clegg promised a referendum in literature that was delivered to many homes throughout the country and certainly far and wide in South East Cornwall. One such leaflet stated "The Liberal Democrats want a real referendum on Europe. Only a real referendum on Britain's membership of the EU will let the people decide our country's future".

Clegg and the Lib Dems refused to support a Government Bill to allow that referendum.

I can fully understand why people do not trust the word of politicians when a political party like the Lib Dems misled them in such a way.

I will make a promise now. I will vote in favour of any Bill which will give the people a referendum on our Membership of the EU. My view is clear, for over two decades I have campaigned against the draconian Common Fisheries Policy. I believe people should be allowed their say. That is democracy.

**CHURCHTOWN FARM SALTASH AWARENESS/ OPEN DAY**

**SATURDAY 13th July 2013 10.AM - 4PM**

The Annual Discovery Day is being held in Wearde Park (the field next to the entrance in Wearde Road). We were disappointed that last year's event had to be cancelled because of heavy rain but hopefully the weather will be kinder to us this time round.

We have organised lots to keep visitors amused – something for all the family. There are static displays and craft demonstrations, face painting, organised walks and a falconry display to add to the interest. Refreshments will also be available throughout the day. To enable people to plan their visit, the Falconry Displays will take place at 11.00am and 3.00pm and the guided walks will commence at 10.15am and 1.30pm.

There is no entrance fee – we are encouraging people to come along and enjoy the reserve and all the things on offer.

**Better Bus Service to Hospital**

Those needing to attend Derriford Hospital or just visiting can avoid substantial parking charges and hunting for parking space by using the Citybus service which has now doubled in frequency.

Serving a route from Pillmere through the town the first bus leaves Fore Street for Derriford at 6.11a.m. and from 8.13 until 17.43 there is a half hourly service, with similar service in return. These are frequently operated by large double decker Citybuses. This is now the number 30 service.

The Citybus 43A service now no longer serves Pillmere but covers Maybrook Drive and St. Stephens on its route from Latchbrook to the city centre every fifteen minutes.

**Euchre Team Enjoy another Away Day**



The Ploughboy Euchre team enjoyed another of their fund raising days out, visiting other pubs and playing Euchre whilst enjoying a few fun games along the way to raise money for local charities, it was the turn of The Breakthrough Breast Cancer charity to benefit by the sum of £330.00 on this occasion.

Pictured Mike and Joan of the Ploughboy with Euchre team members Phil Bennett and Colin Kirby with the cheque for £330.00

**The Forgiving Sand Theresa Le Flem**



**The Book**

1994, Cornwall

With the fishing industry in crisis it is becoming increasingly difficult to make ends meet in a small, coastal town. Christina's quiet beach café is losing money and her ruthless brother-in-law, René, is determined to close it down. Disabled since childhood, Christina is determined to maintain her family business but neither her mother nor her sister are interested in helping her. But when John Madison, a widowed and lonely local skipper, desperately seeks Christina's help with his young daughter she is both disturbed by and drawn to him. Who can save her beloved Sea Cafe? And when John asks her to take a risk, will her heart be torn in two?

**The Author**

A daughter of the artist Cyril Hamersma, Theresa was raised in London and married at nineteen. After having three children in quick succession she trained as a hairdresser, took up pottery but ended up working in a factory to pay the bills. After her eventual divorce she married again in 2006. Finally, having the support of friends and family, and with her children settled in New York and Kent, Theresa is able to follow her passion for writing and express her strong views about social injustice. She is an avid listener of Radio 4 and a keen gardener, growing all of her own vegetables. Her first novel, The Sea Inside His Head, was also published by Robert Hale.

**Praise for the Author**

'A gripping piece of social history' – Historical Novels Review

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## TV Presenters Praise Cornish Cross at Unveiling

Saltash's Cornish Cross was vociferously praised by two well known television presenters and Cornish residents at its official unveiling. Richard Madeley and Judy Finnegan were invited to perform the official unveiling in front of an invited group of civic dignitaries and those who had been involved in the lengthy negotiations and hard work that resulted in the mighty twenty metre cross arising above the Tamar crossing in April.



"If a sculpture could truly be called iconic this is it – a breathtaking and modern vision", said Richard. "There are several hundred Cornish crosses in existence but this is a truly Cornish landmark, a Neolithic sun wheel."

Judy compared the colour of the cross with the blue seas and skies of Cornwall touched by the copper-gold of the sun. She told of her own love of Cornwall since first taking family holidays here thirty years ago, leading to the purchase of their Cornish home fifteen years ago. She spoke of the enchantment she feels each time she crosses the Tamar, enhanced now by the magic of the cross.

This followed a presentation in the Guildhall by those members of the Saltash Waterside Residents Association who had planned the regeneration of the scrublands that Elwell Woods had become. They then considered adding a 'wow' factor that was the Celtic Cross, originally put forward as a millennium year project and subsequently shelved. The designer and those involved in the creation and erection of the massive cross then spoke of the technical issues that it created before all present were guided in small groups along the newly laid out footpath through Elwell Woods.

Following the unveiling Richard and Judy joined civic guest from Cornwall, Plymouth and the Deputy Mayor of Breton twin town Plougastel, and all other guests in a sumptuous buffet provided by Jennifer's Delicatessen.

## Speaking of Speakers – John Bercow proves he is the Order of the Day!



saltash.net community school was honoured to host a visit by the Speaker of the House of Commons on Friday 19th April. Organised by Head of Politics at the school, Mr Adam Killeya, and also attended by Sheryll Murray, MP for South East Cornwall, and the Mayor and Mayoress of Saltash, Martin and Maggie Gee, the event was deemed an outstanding success by all who had the privilege of meeting with and listening to the Right Honourable John Bercow.

The Speaker was met by Headteacher, Isobel Bryce, accompanied by the Head Students - Ross Raymond-Jones and Ellie Suter. Ross and Ellie then took him on a tour of the school which included its Livestock Area, where he met some year 7 students and Socks the school pig. He also had a chance to visit the school's new 14-19 Travel and Tourism centre, and the Trematon Area Resource Base where the Speaker, who wrote the 'Bercow report' into Special Needs education, met students with severe and complex learning needs.

After his tour, the Speaker addressed the school's Sixth Form, along with year 11 Citizenship students. He praised the school for its welcome, community spirit and facilities, and spoke of his enjoyment of being able to do such visits as part of his role. He went on to talk about the role of the Speaker and recounted how his wife Sally had tested him as he endeavoured to learn the names and pictures of over 200 new MPs in 2010! The Speaker also spoke of the importance of young people being interested in Politics, and of recognising that if they want to be directly involved then 'they can do it!'

The speaker went on to lead a Question & Answer session with the school's A Level Politics students, tackling issues as diverse as the rise of

UKIP, Mrs Thatcher, and 'Punch and Judy' Politics.

The visit ended with a parting gift of saltash.net goody bags for each of the Speaker's three young children.

Speaking after the visit, Mrs Bryce said, "We were delighted to welcome the Speaker, and to hear him describe us as a very good school with many outstanding features. When he praised the level of welcome and interest that our students had shown, it made me extremely proud. He was an engaging and inspirational speaker whose message regarding what he had achieved in his career, after attending a state school in North London for his secondary education and then proceeding to Essex

University, was pitched just right for our students who are on the cusp of moving on from saltash.net to a wide range of Higher Education providers."

Mr Killeya added, "This was a wonderful opportunity for all students to learn more about Politics from someone at the very top – his answers to the questions were honest, frank and very interesting, and the students got a lot from it."

Politics student, and Deputy Head Student of the school, Jack Crosley (18) said, "I was particularly impressed that such a senior politician would come on visits like this when he doesn't have to – many politicians do visits or rallies to get votes but he doesn't need to do that and he still found time in his busy schedule to come to speak to us."

## Letter to the Editor

As a former Saltash Town Mayor and District/Town Councillor, I am very proud of my adopted town and have been for over 32 years. I am also proud of Saltash's new and powerful Celtic/Cornish Cross which really endorses Saltash as "The Gateway" to Cornwall". "Sorry! to Torpoint, but there is no contest."

I'd also like to take this opportunity to remember and praise one of our greatest and hardworking councillors who was lost to us so young and so sadly to the dreaded cancer. That person was Councillor Pip Miller who was the inspiration and worked so hard to push for the idea of the 'Cross.' Sadly, she could not live to see it today but the least we can do is to remember with gratitude the one who really deserved the credit. There was one other person who worked hard for Saltash and the 'Cross' with Pip and that was Stephanie Phipps R.I.P. who sadly died young and also a victim to the dreaded cancer. I would also like to thank the Saltash and District Observer for remembering them and Simon Thomas who did likewise.

At the very least I hope my letter will set the record straight regarding "The gateway to Cornwall" and as is so often the case, the "Silent Heroines."

Now for the bad news! Anyone driving to Cornwall sees "The Gateway to Cornwall Celtic Cross". However, if you go by train, shut your eyes as it becomes Saltash, Gateway to the Tip!! You cannot walk

on the pavement due to the overflowing rubbish! Take a walk down to the Waterside and get your photo taken with our very own "Mummy." Once upon a time it was a Statue of our very own "BRUNEL." Another walk is along Fore Street, Cornish flags up and down but why leave them up when (as flags will) they become worn out & tatty. I hope our new councillors read my letter but most of all, I hope Mary will publish my letter in full from a citizen that cares a great deal about Saltash.

Since mailing this letter, to everyone's surprise, we are delighted to inform you that the "Mummy" had gone back to being "Brunel".

Baz Gregory, Saltash

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Conundrum answers...

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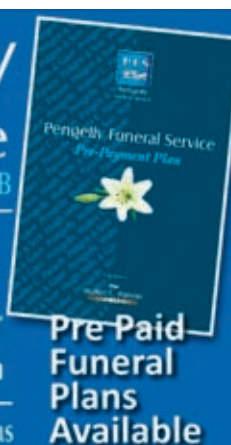
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Regional Hearing Specialists have fitted thousands of Free Digital Hearing Aids Since 2009



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The Saltash Audiology Centre is the local headquarters for Regional Hearing Specialists, serving the NHS. Launched on the 1st May this year and based on the former NHS hearing centre in Fore Street, the new concerns benefits from the experience and customer satisfaction of its predecessor business, while expanding through the new opportunities that the NHS now offers.

New changes mean that anyone who considers that they might have a hearing problem can seek advice from their general practitioner who will, if it is confirmed that a problem exists, make a referral. This

gives the NHS patient a newly opened opportunity to choose from any registered NHS provider.

As the successor to a well established local business based on two NHS contracts held for the last four years Regional Hearing Specialists are perfectly placed to provide such a service locally and elsewhere in the country. Where there is no local base they are negotiating to have their highly skilled and fully qualified audiologists attend local health surgeries on a regular basis. Such arrangements are already set up around Truro and at several surgeries in Plymouth while negotiations are

continuing to expand these services throughout Cornwall and Devon.

**Qualified Professionals**  
Saltash NHS patients however, as well as those living conveniently close to Plymouth, can simply ask their GP to refer them to the Saltash Audiology Centre in the heart of Fore Street, with its dedicated team of qualified professionals, will ensure prompt and caring attention, with an appointment for a free hearing test usually fixed for the following day, and certainly within the next few days.

**Free Batteries**  
Following the test, should a need for it to be confirmed, the audiologist will arrange for the immediate fitting of a digital hearing aid made to individual requirements employing recent audio-technology. The hearing aid, as well as the test and all follow up treatment are all provided free to NHS patients. This free professional care extends to a three year follow up with free batteries when required as well as an annual visit for a re-test to detect any changes in hearing

requirements. After three years if needed all patients are then entitled to an automatic upgrade.

To discover the full advantages of the Regional Hearing Specialist services and have any questions answered all are welcome to call in to the welcoming reception office in Fore Street Saltash where Kristy, the friendly and qualified receptionist will be happy to help further. Alternatively call Alison on the Freephone Number 0800 488 0172. Regional Hearing Specialist are an acclaimed local business dedicated to assisting with hearing problems, they have fitted Thousands of free NHS digital hearing aids since 2009 and are looking forward to expanding further nationwide with Saltash, as ever at the heart of their business.

**Nine Years Ago**  
This represents a new focus for Andrew Carmichael who has been involved in building up business in Saltash since establishing 'The Hearing Room,' nine years ago. While he is still actively involved in what has become Bloom Hearing Specialists, Andrew has seized what he sees as a major opportunity to take full advantage of expansion of the NHS services to offer this wide range of free hearing services to Saltash, and through Saltash to Plymouth and the entire South West. He has simultaneously, as of May, set up in Stoke on Trent and is already expanding into Worthing and from there, the South Coast. Setting up with four audiologists these have already doubled to eight and more qualified and support staff are being considered to join to the expanding business.

While the Regional Hearing Specialists are already being established here in the South West in the Midlands, and the South Coast, it is intended that the spacious premises in Fore Street will remain at the heart of the organisation with the IT, accounts and all other support staff based here offering opportunities for expanding local employment.

**Free Patient Service**  
"We aim to create a service within the community," Anticipates Andrew Carmichael, "The changes in the NHS system allow us to provide a better free patient service than could be offered before, and we intend to ensure that we take full advantage of this and offer an unmatched professional hearing care to all of those in need of it."



Andrew Carmichael



## Creating a Service within the Community

Is the Newly Re-named Saltash Audiology Centre...  
**With New and Familiar Friendly Faces**

Those visiting the newly re-named Saltash Audiology Centre and who have had previous experience of hearing care in Saltash will see some familiar friendly faces, and welcome new ones.

Alison, long known as the friendly face on reception, is now fully utilising her experience at the heart of the business, has been invited upstairs to take overall control in helping Andrew in supporting nationwide expansion of the business.

Paul, the familiar qualified hearing aid audiologist who has been based in Saltash for five years, remains and is now joined by Jo Hillier.

Jo, newly welcomed to Saltash, brings with her thirteen years of working for NHS hearing services in Wales. Having moved to Cornwall with her husband and young family she is delighted and thrilled to be involved in the opening of a new business offering such a wide range of free professional services to all who are able to take advantage of them.

New on reception Kirsty has previously worked as



Alison

hearing aid technician and on customer services. Having previously served as in house repair technician she is now the welcoming face of Saltash Audiology Centre well qualified and experienced to explain help and support the new services that they are able to offer.



Paul



Jo



Kirsty



Andrew Carmichael



## Regional Hearing Specialist

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For more information & advice contact Kirsty on reception

**Tel: 0800 488 0172**

E: kiwi@rhsmail.net

Open 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday

Saltash Audiology Centre is operated by Regional Hearing Specialists on behalf of the NHS



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