

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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June 2015 - Issue 275

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Bells Rang Out for Bill and Jean as Mayor and Mayoress



Once again the bells of our medieval former Mayoral Chapel of St. Nicholas and St. Faith rang as under the beautiful barrel roof of the adjacent 18th Century Guildhall Councillor Bill Phillips was formally chosen to join the roll of Mayor of Saltash which has been recorded since 1552 and doubtless stretches back further.

A resident of Saltash for over thirty years, Councillor Bill Phillip's was proposed as Mayor by retiring Mayor Councillor Mrs Jean Dent. She spoke of his hard work during his five years on the council including Chairing the policy and resources committee and serving on staffing and the burial board. He is also a prominent Rotarian, having served as President, and formerly an active Tamar Trotter.

Among his many good qualities, added Councillor Derek Holley in seconding him. Is that he does not suffer fools gladly, though it is unfortunate in this regard that he will be in charge of fifteen town councillors for a year. Councillor Holley also added that Councillor Phillips' Rotarian connections have been very useful in helping to get practical work around the town done.

Following his election Councillor Phillips donned the Mayoral robes and then proudly invested his wife Jean with the Mayoress' chain of office.

They both then joined in the ancient Saltash tradition

Continued on page 2

Public Can Plan for Our Town's Future

'This is a unique opportunity for us in Saltash to have a future plan for the town that is not imposed upon us but is agreed by us as a community.' The Saltash Neighbourhood Plan, which will guide the development of the town until 2030 was launched into its first consultancy stage by Councillor David Yates with these words as he urged everyone who lives or works in the town of whatever age group to become involved, as an organisation, a neighbourhood group, or an individual.

After several years of discussion the plan is now starting on its community engagement stage. Chances have been made to comment at May Fair and presentations in the Guildhall and Burraton Community Centre. Now a questionnaire is being prepared which as well as being on line should be sent out to every home in the town and rural areas around. The more that are completed and returned the greater weight the eventual plan will have when submitted to Cornwall Council. 'In completing this residents will be asked to think about jobs and housing needs and the kind of community we want in Saltash, not just for ourselves but for our children and future generations', added Councillor David Yates.

There may then be a series of public workshops on specific issues such as industry and housing before a draft neighbourhood plan is prepared and goes to statutory consultation. It will then be submitted to Cornwall Council who will need to be assured that views of every aspect of the local society have been included. There will then be a chance for amendments before a final plan is submitted.

The final stage will then be a public referendum when all will have the chance to vote on whether or not to accept the plan. If the town chooses to adopt it, the plan then becomes a statutory instrument against which any future planning application will be judged. The neighbourhood plan will have all the backing of a legal document.

'We need all input possible as well as

volunteers to assist in implementing this consultation', Councillor Yates stressed. Further information is on the website www.plan4saltash.co.uk and the e-mail address is

info@plan4saltash.co.uk. Alternatively those interested can call 01752 844846 or visit the Guildhall. Presentations can be organised to be given to any interested group or society.

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Bells Rang Out for Bill and Jean as Mayor and Mayoress



continued from page 1

of tossing warm pennies and fruit to an excited crowd of children waiting below including the Fifth Saltash Brownie pack and the Second Saltash Beavers.

Councillor Hilary Frank was then proposed and elected as Deputy Mayor with her Japanese born husband Sho Frank as consort.

In his acceptance speech the new Mayor Councillor Phillips spoke of his being posted to work in the South West thirty years ago, deciding on Saltash as where he wanted to live and never since regretting it. 'I will continue the aims of previous Councillors in ensuring that

Saltash is and remains the best place to live and work,' he concluded.

The new Mayor chose as his Chaplain the Reverend Michelle Parkman'

As his Mayor's Cadet he selected Air Cadet Corporal Yazmin Leverton, aged 17 and a student at saltash.net school. Yazmin has herself a proud family tradition of civic service, her great grandfather having been a renowned Chairman of Cornwall Council, Kimberly Foster.

Retiring Mayor Councillor Jean Dent spoke of her 'wonderful' year of office which had taken her all over Cornwall. In Saltash she had met many splendid local

people and also welcomed guest from Africa and India as well as choirs from Russia and the Czech Republic. However her most unusual experience was sitting in Ashtorre being 'grilled' by a Japanese journalist, with translation carried out by the new Deputy Mayor Councillor Hilary Frank.

'I said twelve months ago that I hoped to keep Saltash together as a community and I believe that the Town Council has done so'. Councillor Dent concluded, adding a few words of advice to her successor, 'When you put the chain on you will stand a bit straighter and walk a bit taller. It's good fun. Enjoy it.'

Mayor Decided Thirty Years Ago 'Saltash' is Where We Must Live

'Thirty –two years ago my wife Jean, I and the boys were thrust into Westcountry Life', our new Mayor Councillor Bill Phillips told those at his mayor choosing ceremony. 'We looked around the area and once we were over the Tamar Bridge we decided that was where we must live - and we have never regretted it'.



A man of Kent born in the dockyard town of Chatham, he left school aged fifteen to become an electrical apprentice in the other dockyard city of Portsmouth. With an interruption for service in the RAF which took him overseas, he returned to Britain and resumed his career to become a Draftsman, moving on to work in Devonport – and opt for Saltash as his family home.

'Having retired three times, on the third occasion I

wondered how to usefully fill my time. I was told that a Town Councillor was needed and accordingly found myself serving the town as Councillor', continued Councillor Phillips. 'Now five years later my fellow councillors have honoured me by selecting me as Mayor'.

He had served as Deputy Mayor and is also a Rotarian, having served as president, and founder member of Tamar Trotters running club.

Since coming to Saltash with three young sons his family has increased from five to fourteen, ten of whom still live in the town. 'I am proud to call myself a Saltash resident'. Councillor Phillips concluded.

He has promised to continue the aims of previous councils 'to ensure that Saltash is and remains the best place to live and work'.

CORNWALL
COUNCIL

& our PL12 Community

For: August 2013 Observer readers

From: Councillor Bob Austin

West Ward, Saltash



Have your say for the "Case for Cornwall"

Thousands of people are already backing the "Case for Cornwall" to give Cornwall more control over areas such as health, housing, transport and funding. Over the past few weeks we have been developing our draft proposals for additional powers and freedom for Cornwall and now want local residents to get involved and help us shape the final proposals to submit to the new government in July. Council Leader John Pollard has been holding consultation events up and down the county - if you have not been able to get to these events there is still chance to meet him at the County Show on the 4,5,6th June. This is a vital time for Cornwall and we want as many people to #standupforcornwall as possible.

Affordable Housing

In my last report in February I did mention that Cornwall Council was aiming for 1,000 new affordable homes to be built during the 2014/15 financial year. The council's affordable housing team has worked hard in partnership with housing associations, charities and private developers and they have met this target of 1,000 by delivering a range of affordable homes to rent, shared ownership and discounted homes to buy. Last year Cornwall was second amongst English local authorities in the number of affordable homes built, this year, we expect to be once more one of the country's top performing councils.

Graffiti

You will have probably all

noticed that there has been a spate of Graffiti in the town, which is unusual for Saltash. The police are now on the case and arrested a suspect.

Toilets again!

Cornwall Council is seeking creative ways of working with town councils and the business communities to keep public toilets open by funding them in a different way. As of April next year the Council budget for toilets will be dropped to zero. There are 240 public toilets in Cornwall and all but 78 have now been passed back to Town/Parish councils or private landowners. The Town Council in Saltash have already agreed to take on the Waterside toilets and the Town Devolution Team are working with Cornwall Council and are negotiating a way forward for Belle Vue and Longstone Park toilets. If a commercial enterprise would like to take these over, either as part of the existing building or use the land next to the building, then, subject to planning, Cornwall Council would want to hear from you with your ideas; however tenderers will be required to continue to provide the public toilets as a condition of the lease. If you have any ideas then contact our Town Clerk 844846 who will feed the information into the Devolution Team.

Councillors' Allowance

Could your community group benefit? Each of the four Saltash Councillors has £2,000 to assist projects run by 'not for profit organisations'. Applications can be made until February 2016 by contacting your particular Divisional Cornwall Councillor or calling 0300 1234 100.



Volunteer Service PL12

Come and chat to us about local volunteering opportunities

We're in 4 Fore Street on Thursday mornings or

Telephone 01752 848348 or

Email: volunteering@communityenterprisespl12.co.uk

Congratulations to everybody who received certificates from the Mayor at our 'celebration of volunteering' event at the Guildhall. Thank you for all you do for our community.



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The operating name for Saltash Gateway CIC

Town Centre Needs 'Recreation and Meeting Places' Says Strategy Plan

Any regeneration of Saltash town centre should concentrate upon the Alexandra Square, Fore Street and Railway station area, the Cornwall Council's first draft town centre strategy for Saltash proposes.

Support would be given to retail use within or on the edge of the town centre. There was considered to be no requirement for the expansion of the town centre and any increased needs could be met by redevelopment and infill development in and adjacent to the centre. Opportunities to strengthen the centre with provision of new retail and leisure use must be focused on appropriate quality of design and consideration of heritage impact. Some sites possible for redevelopment are currently used for car parking and parking needs would have to be considered in any proposed development.

Currently the town centre was found to include 57.3% retail premises 13.7% professional services and 11.2% food and drink outlets. The proportion of empty premises at 7.4% was a considerable decrease and there had been an up take of over 52% on previously vacant premises. This put the current vacant premises comfortably below the Cornwall average.

Changing attitudes towards town centre shopping expectations of a town centre environment mean that residents expect more from a town centre than a variety of retail units for their regular shopping. There is a need to

move away from pure shopping to a more 'experience base' with recreation and meeting places within the town centre environment, Cornwall's town centre strategy for Saltash found.

Textile Bin Situated at Saltmill Park

There is a textile bin situated in the Saltmill car park.

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Essa Files

I am writing my latest column from my new office as the Saltash Observer's Malta Correspondent. When I say office I mean my hotel room, and when I say 'new Malta Correspondent' I mean that being on holiday for half term isn't an excuse to miss one of the editor's deadlines.

Saltash to Malta was obviously something of a journey and reminded me that getting there is not always half the fun. There are quite a few times in life when this is true for example having to sit through all the Eurovision songs in order to get to the interesting bit (the scoring. For someone with an interest

in European politics this is the best way to find out which countries like or dislike each other this year: the day when Cyprus doesn't given Greece 12 points it probably means war). Other pertinent examples might include my poor students having to get through their exams to reach what they want to do next, or indeed my having to negotiate with Cornwall Council in order for Saltash Town Council to be able to take on more services.

Having said that tricky journey can make one appreciate the end result all the more (except in the case of the Eurovision Song Contest where it transpires from the scoring that more or less everyone still hates us). The hard work revising will no doubt make good grades taste the sweeter and the frustrations of bureaucracy battling will serve to make the (hopeful) hand over of meaningful services to Saltash all the more satisfying. In the meantime I can reflect on crying babies on the Megabus, crowded tube trains and inefficient German airports (yes really) with a certain amount of good humour as after a lovely day exploring Valetta I sit on my balcony, catch a bit of sun and sip my ice cold beer. I wonder if the editor might consider setting up a permanent Malta office?

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Deputy Mayor was Emperor's Translator

Our Deputy Mayor Councillor Hilary Frank is a 'Cornish Maid' born in Redruth and educated in Penzance and Truro, though her travels since have taken her far afield and in particular to Japan where she met her husband and now her consort Sho.

Subsequent to studying Japanese at London University her achievements have included working with the FIFA World Cup Team in Tokyo in 2002, being the first non Japanese person to personally translate for the

Emperor and by no means least bringing up two delightful daughters Emmie and Aya. She met husband Shojiro at a sumo wrestling match. She wore a red kimono at their Tokyo wedding and they had a further ceremony at Landulph Church.



Since winning a bye-election to Saltash Town Council in 2008 she has vice chaired the Services Committee and chaired the Cross Committee, organising various major events including The Olympic Torch Relay event and supervising each Christmas Festival. In 2013 she was elected to Cornwall Council where she serves on a number of committees her favourite being the standards advisory committee for religious education. She still finds time to work as translator, lecturer at Plymouth University and of course be a loving mother to two proud little girls.

No Signage for Superstore as Traffic Hazard

Large 'Click and Collect' storage lockers with non-illuminated display advertisements are planned to be placed on the Callington Road near Carkeel roundabout by ASDA superstore.

Town Councillors were unenthusiastic at another supermarket encroaching on the Town to the likely detriment of local businesses. 'They will bring nothing to the town', commented Councillor Jo Ellison. However they could see no viable grounds to refuse permission for the lockers themselves and thus recommended approval.

The signs, however, were considered to be a danger to traffic in a busy stretch of road already over-loaded with signage and advertisements. Councillor John Brady proposed to recommend refusal of them and Councillor Ellison seconded this on the grounds that the cumulative signage in the area has an adverse impact on highway safety.

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Local Community School Maintains its Proud Academic Position

In the fifty years since the secondary school that is now saltash.net community school was established at its magnificent site overlooking the Tamar and Lynher estuaries, much of its fabric and its teaching syllabus has changed beyond recognition. Yet its ethos, shared by the thousands of students who have passed through its doors over half a century, remains the same. Our local community school maintains its proud academic position, confirmed each year by its results, while remaining a happy, thriving community comprehensive school where students flourish in a mutually caring community.

In an era that has seen so many changes it is notable that there have been only four head teachers over fifty years, Mrs Isobel Bryce, who has enjoyed thirteen years as headteacher, tells us, ‘The fact that there have been just four heads in fifty years sums up our kind of school, a true community school where those who have served as heads really believe in our founding principal of inclusion and are a hundred per cent committed to providing the best possible education for Saltash and the surrounding area’.



Grand Community Celebration Planned for 50th Anniversary

Saltash.net community school plans to mark its first fifty years of educating and seeing off into the world our area's young people, with a grand community celebration welcoming one and all. Past students, those with children at the school, those with younger children and all with an interest in the future of the younger generation will be welcomed to the official open day on Saturday 4th July. A wide variety of entertainment and activities are planned for all the family, from bouncy castle for the youngest visitors, to a chance for older ex-students to enjoy a nostalgic tour and note recent changes.

Present students are proudly looking forward to showing off their school on guided tours that will be taking place throughout the afternoon. It is anticipated that some students from the school's earliest years will be amongst those taking advantage of this.

Indeed the headteacher's P.A. Jude Hollyman was delighted to make contact with one ex student who was amongst the first to walk through the newly opened school doors back in 1965. Roger Gillett is planning to come all the way from Bermuda to help celebrate the day and to link up with former school friend Gary Davies of Hatt.

They and others will be able to look back at the school's history through an exhibition, arranged with the help of Saltash Heritage. A wide range of photographs and general memorabilia is already planned for display but any more old pictures, uniforms and other items of interest which could be loaned for the day would be welcomed. Please post, e-mail or drop into reception any such material which can be returned afterwards if appropriate.

A wide variety of entertainment outside is planned, ranging from sports on the all weather pitch to a dog show. The grounds command some of the most spectacular views of any school anywhere and it is hoped that they can be enjoyed to full effect – but a wet weather contingency plan has also been prepared.

Other entertainment includes a variety of games for young and old and a range of stalls – prospective stall holders wishing to participate are invited to contact the school. There will be various demonstrations by staff and students and of course musical entertainment. This ranges from bands formed by school students, in association with Livewire Youth Centre, to community groups and bands including Wurlitzer. With the entertainment continuing from 2 p.m. through to 8 p.m. it is hoped that many visitors will stay on to enjoy the full gamut of activities, and the

weather contingency plan has also been prepared.

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school's catering students will be among those offering tasty homemade refreshments to ensure that none need go hungry.

Over the past fifty years the school has had much to celebrate as its students' achievements in so many fields have been recognised not only by OFSTED but by renowned individuals, and international organisations – as we continue to report in your ‘Observer’. Our school's headteacher staff and students all hope that as many people as possible will be able to come together to ensure that the anniversary celebrations are as outstanding as the school has proved to be.



Jamaican Journey

Ex-student, Zoe James, returned to saltash.net community school during the week of recently to lead assemblies for years 7 – 11. Currently on her Gap Year before commencing university in the Autumn, Zoe was invited back to share with the school community details of her journey to Jamaica with other representatives of the Baptist Mission Society, a volunteering project that saltash.net had supported through its non-uniform day fundraising efforts last year.

Zoe, accompanied by Reverend Michelle Parkman from Saltash Baptist Church, gave an excellent presentation with three other Gap Year students who had accompanied her to Jamaica. The assembly gave details of the community work the group had been undertaking

in a range of different schools, youth clubs and churches, and also gave current students an opportunity to try out their Patois!

At the end of the assembly, Reverend Parkman invited students to a special lunchtime meeting of the school's

Christian union ‘Soul Survivor’ for anyone interested in finding out more about Jamaica or opportunities available during a Gap Year. (Picture shows Zoe with her fellow Baptist Mission Society team members, Reverend Michelle and five members of Soul Survivor Club.)

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First for Gold!

Year 7 students receiving their first Gold Commendation is always a very special occasion at saltash.net.

This year, Will Hunt and Lauren Davies shared the honour. Will, who came to saltash.net from St Stephens Primary school and Lauren who previously attended Weston Mill Primary school, showed that they had made an excellent start at secondary school, contributing 100% effort to all of their learning experiences.

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Secondary Education in Saltash Dates back Over Nine Decades

While it is half a century since ‘the school on the hill’ was established at Wearde, then on the edge of the town, the history of secondary education in Saltash dates back over nine decades to 1927.

It was in that year that Saltash Grammar School first opened its doors in Cross Park. The building still serves as a school, housing St. Stephens primary pupils. However it was not until 1951 that the secondary modern school opened in the town, utilising the former Board School in North Road. The site has since disappeared under the bypass near the tunnel portals.

Both schools were filled to capacity and students, staff and parents were thrilled at the opening of the exciting purpose-built premises on the hill at Wearde in 1965. This was originally a grammar school.

Meanwhile, the North Road and Cross Park premises jointly became a high school, with students spending much of their time being bussed between them.

As the comprehensive system replaced grammar schools in Cornwall all schools were integrated, with Cross Park taking the youngest secondary school students, and buses continuing to convey students between the three sites.

A fire which severely damaged North Road school in 1975 led to the need for further extensions to the main premises at Wearde including the new sports hall. Cross Park, from 1977 ceased to be for the youngest pupils instead becoming a fifth and sixth form centre.

At last in 1984 further extensions at Wearde enabled all secondary education in the town to be focussed on the one site. As of 1992 this was now known as Saltash Community School.

The new millennium saw

it awarded specialist school with combined science and mathematics and computing status. To mark this, and its entry into the digital age, the school was, by its students' choice, renamed saltash.net community school in 2004, the year before its 40th Anniversary in 2005. It also became one of only a few schools in the country with a rural dimension built into its specialist bid. Pupils continue to enjoy the school farm and its animals with the students of the Trematon Zone, who are shown as having complex educational needs, especially appreciating this corner of the school premises.

In 2011 the school attained academy status opening up new opportunities to enhance the education and pastoral care offered as it enters its second half century.

Students Enlighten Richard Branson on the Future of Technology!



Recently, two students from saltash.net community school in Cornwall were among a group of only 8 from across the UK to meet with Sir Richard Branson, and let him know exactly where they think technology in education needs to go.

The students are part of a new initiative in the ‘Generation Tech’ project, and make up the Digital Youth Council. The council meets regularly to discuss where they see technology in schools heading. Impressively, of

those eight students, two come from the same school, saltash.net which is the only school to have two members selected.

The students will eventually meet with government ministers and offer their ‘Big Ask’, detailing what they need the government to do to ensure that as students they leave education with not just the knowledge, but also the key skills required to succeed in life.

After the success of previous meetings, at this most recent visit to London the students were joined by Richard himself to discuss their ideas and plans. The discussion was led by the students, and Amy Donovan and George Seymour from saltash.net made a huge

contribution towards it.

“It was incredible – one of my proudest moments as an educator,” explained Scott Wierprecht. “Our students were front and centre of the discussion. Amy explained exactly what they were up to and the goal of the Youth Council. George then followed this up by explaining what they need to do to ensure their ideas were taken up in other schools, mentioning all the exciting projects on offer at saltash.net, and how last year he had even been flown to Barcelona to present to World Leaders as part of a Microsoft Forum!”

Sir Richard gave some ideas of his own, and told the students that their ideas were so good they should start their own business!

should start their own business!

“The meeting with Mr Branson was quite time pressured, so not all students got to ask him questions. Deservedly, however, both our students had their questions selected as two of the three to be asked,” added Mr Wierprecht.

The opening question was from student, George Seymour, who wanted to know about his worst moment in business. “Unsurprisingly, the crash with Virgin Galactic was mentioned,” commented George. “What was interesting, was that Richard’s worst moment was on the day he launched Virgin Airlines, and his bank tried to close his account as they said he was mad. He only had the weekend to find a new bank or his whole empire was over. His key message was there is a fine line between success and failure.”

Amy followed straight after, with a slightly trickier ask. “I wanted to know whether he made the more eyebrow raising signings to his record label as a ‘tack tickle’

business move, or just to be rebellious,” she explained. “He didn’t quite commit to an answer but explained that in business you always have to take risks, and if you aren’t taking risks then you aren’t being challenging enough. I also told him I loved his Jacket – and he nearly gave it to me!”

The whole experience was incredible for the students, and only encouraged them more to continue their own school project, codename ‘Aspire’. “A lot of people commented on how lucky they have been to get this opportunity,” finished Mr Wierprecht. “I disagree – this isn’t luck; it is testament to the fact that if, like them, you put in hard work and have a goal, you will get the rewards.”

This is the fourth time in 12 months students from our school have been selected to meet national and international leaders or present on a Global Stage – that isn’t just luck.”



saltash.net Invited to Advise Microsoft Globally

The summer term at saltash.net community school got off to an excellent start with the news that one of its teachers had been selected by Microsoft to be part of its newly formed Worldwide Education Advisory Council. Mark Sparvell, Microsoft's Worldwide Senior Education Manager, wrote to the school saying, “It gives me great pleasure to recognise Scott Wierprecht as a member of the Microsoft Education Advisory Council.

The formation of this pilot Advisory Board will comprise ten showcase school leaders and three Expert Educators. The role of the board is to provide expert advice ‘from the field’ regarding Microsoft education programs, activities and engagements globally.’ Mr Sparvell added that ‘The educators reflected on the board are some of the most inspiring and exemplary educators who are committed to transforming

half the credit is due to me, as this is just a reflection of the amazing culture saltash.net has towards new technology and improving life chances for our young people.’ Headteacher, Mrs Bryce, added, ‘What makes this all the more remarkable is that there

are only three ‘Expert Educators’ selected from across the world and Scott is one of them! He is also the only UK representative on the Advisory Board. This is fantastic for our school and its students and for Cornwall and the South West of England.’

Headteacher, Mrs Bryce, added, ‘What makes this all the more remarkable is that there

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Phil Rang the Bells for Victory Again Seventy Years On

As the bells of St. Nicholas Church rang out to celebrate the seventieth anniversary of Victory in Europe day as well as to summon the faithful to worship, one ringer vividly recalled having seventy years earlier rung in a Cornish bell tower to mark the end of six years of war. Philip Rundle MBE had been aged 15 when he rang the bells of St. Mewan Church on that historic day.

That was the first occasion on which Church bells had rung since the outbreak of war as their sounding was supposed to be only given as a warning of invasion – or so the BBC have been claiming. Mr. Rundle wrote to advise them that there was one exception, by special request of Prime Minister Churchill that bells rang out in 1942 to mark the historic victory at El Alamein. Before that bottle, Churchill was to remark we never won a victory, after it we never suffered a defeat.

The BBC news desk has acknowledged Mr. Rundle's letter and amended its item to reflect this.

And how was Mr. Rundle so sure of this? As a twelve year old he was in St. Mewan tower ringing to celebrate the victory that changed the tide of war.

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Pat is Back in Business with Soft Furnishings



In celebrating the opening of a new shop in Saltash, the large crowd who gathered at 'Patricia Ann's Soft Furnishings' also welcomed back the well-known and well loved craftswoman who was back in business.

Pat Kitt had previously built up an enviable reputation for her needlework skills during twenty years in business at the top of Fore Street. She reluctantly gave up the business eight years ago to nurse her sick husband who sadly died last year.

Former Councillor and Chair of Saltash Chamber of Commerce Bruce Reid who said that Pat 'missed the buzz of business and the contact with Saltash people' formally opened the new business. He

continued, 'This goes to prove that the business 'design world' is for the young at heart'. Pat greeted her guest at the formal opening with a bouquet of flowers for all the ladies and a spray for Bruce Reid's wife Edna as well as others who had particularly supported her new enterprise Shirley Jefford Mary Crawford and Debby of Saltash Bookshelf.

All the guests then enjoyed a sumptuous buffet provided by 'The Bookshelf Tea Room.'

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Monica Whipp – The Spirit Behind Sir Francis and Lady Drake

In colourful costume as Sir Francis Drake and his Saltash born wife Mary Newman they were inseparable. In life too Brian and Monica Whipp were equally denoted from when they first met properly at a Christmas dance in Holloway, London in 1954, aged 18 and 20 until Monica's death this May day, following Alzheimer's and pneumonia.

Brian Whipp, who is frequently seen around the town as a pirate among other personas is best known as Sir Francis Drake, but, as he frequently has maintained, 'Without Monica there would be no Sir Francis.' It was she who skilfully created the variety of costumes with which the couple enlivened the Saltash and Plymouth scenes, as well as more recently supporting Brian as consort in his role of Saltash Town Crier.

Having grown up a street away from each other, following that first fateful dance the relationship flourished while Brian served overseas in the RAF before their marriage in 1958. They had three children, Helen, Mark and Theresa, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

The funeral in St. Nicholas Church was attended by four pairs of Town Criers and consorts as well as several Town Councillors, members of the Elizabethan group to which the Whipp's had belonged, and Commander Crichton, leading of the pipe band. The service was conducted by Rev. Josephine Lobb, the subsequent family crematorium service by Father Simon Chinery.

Monica made her last journey in a white hearse pulled by two plumed white horses, while wearing the Elizabethan dress in which

she will be best remembered while Brian was also arrayed in his own Elizabethan costume, in period dress together for the last time.

Conundrum Corner

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

- 1 What is fermented to make the Japanese drink Sake? (4)
- 2 Which is Britain's most northerly City? (8)
- 3 Which musical is set on the banks of the Mississippi where "things just keep rollin' along"? (8)
- 4 Which bird lays the largest egg? (7)
- 5 What type of creature is Aslam in C. S. Lewis's "Narnia" Books? (4)
- 6 What is the name of the Italian city which is the largest seaport on the Adriatic? (7)
- 7 In which Battle did William III defeat James II in 1690? (5)
- 8 What name is given to a song or piece of music sung or played by a lover outside his sweetheart's window? (8)
- 9 Which word, much used in the New Testament, literally means "Those sent out"? (7)

Answers on page 7



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Food and Music that Helped Win the War were Shared Seventy Years On

The joy and jubilation, which marked the end of World War II in Europe, were recalled seventy years on, as were the days of privation and personal loss that marked the previous six years. A number of Saltash shops marked the anniversary with displays of bunting, union flags and war time memorabilia.

A VE Day Celebration menu was enjoyed by customers of The Bookshelf Tearooms, surrounded by flags and to the background of the music that helped win the war. On the menu was allotment parsnip soup followed by a choice of Churchill's Casserole, Prefab Pie and the famous Lord Woolton Pie, all accompanied by 'dig for victory vegetables'.

The music that will forever be associated with lightening the dark days of wartime was also the theme of a commemorative celebration

evening at the St. Nicholas Church Rooms. The 'Dame Vera Lynn Evening' opened with an interesting talk by James Lynes who has met Dame Vera on a number of occasions and fully researched her life story from her first public performance aged 7, When war broke out she commented 'that is the end of my singing career' subsequently being proved wrong by proceeding to be acclaimed by Britain as 'The Forces Sweetheart'. James has developed a close friendship

with Dame Vera and family while becoming an ambassador for her charity for children with cerebral palsy. The evening was in support of this charity as well as church funds.

A sumptuous VE Day party feast was enjoyed by a packed crowd who entered fully into the immediate post war euphoria spirit with a communal singing of songs by Dame Vera and others concluding with a lively Hokey Cokey after, of course, the never forgotten 'We'll meet again'.

Flo Bonner

Saltash young woman 18 year old Flo Bonner was delighted when she received news that she had been awarded a place in the National Youth Music Theatre to appear in their brand new production of, "Not the End of the World" at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival (New Town Hall, Edinburgh), the largest arts Festival in the world.

Flo was assessed with over 1,200 young people across UK and Ireland on her acting, improvisation, singing technique and dance and movement. She was one of just 20% accepted.

Charlotte Conquest, a director for YMT said on her offer letter: "Flo displayed a great attitude, passion and ability, and I am therefore thrilled to be able to offer you a place in the Company performance of "Not the End of the World", an award-winning novel by acclaimed author Geraldine McCaughrean (who has written over 160 books and won the Whitbread Medal, the Carnegie Prize and the Guardian Children's fiction Prize). She is best known for writing the sequel to Peter Pan, Peter Pan in Scarlet, for the great Ormond Street Children's Hospital".

Flo attended workshops at the end of May in Birmingham. Rehearsals start in July and August at Edinburgh.

The whole project will cost Flo over £2,000, and she is currently fund raising with members of her family.

The National Youth Music Theatre have granted Flo £875 bursary towards her costs.

The Saltash Youth Council have donated £150 with Saltash Rotary Club inviting Flo to perform at their Cheese and



Wine evening to raise more funds.

Flo has written to various local businesses, and is hopeful to pack bags at local chain stores.

Flo plans to organise and feature in a concert where funds will support her NYT project.

Flo is a pupil at Saltash.net Community School and one of her A level subjects is drama. She has also been offered a conditional place at Chichester University studying Music and Musical Theatre, as a result of her many years of hard work studying singing and drama; with numerous cups and trophies won at local Music Speech and Drama Festivals over the past eleven years.

Flo herself has performed at many charity events over several years helping to raise thousands of pounds for local and worthy charities.

Conundrum Answers

The letters form Albatross.
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No Beacon Lit for VE Day

While around two hundred beacons across the country were lit to commemorate the seventieth anniversary of Victory in Europe Day that on Saltash Waterside remained dark.

Erected to mark the Millennium it was lit to see in the year 2000, re-lit a year later and it is believed has not been used since.

'Observer' reporter Martin Lister, having had the matter raised to him by several concerned citizens, asked the Town Council whether the beacon might be examined to see whether it might light up to mark VJ Day this August and the seventy years of comparative peace that have followed.

Newly elected Mayor Councillor Bill Phillip's

Thank you

On Friday May 1st at Ashtorre Rock Community Centre it was an evening of locally made films by Saltash Video Club.

The event was well attended; of which the now passed Mayor and her consort Mr. and Mrs. Jean Dent were in attendance.

A raffle was held in the interval, of which £40 was collected. It was decided £20 should go to The Saltash Fire Cadets

and £20 to go to The Saltash Mariner Cadets

At the close of the evening Alan Barrett (Chairman) thanked everyone for coming.

believed that it had been examined and found to have deteriorated over the years of disuse. Councillor David Yates confirmed this, and that it would be unsafe in its current condition. The Town crest attached to it is also now faded.

Councillors did agree to carry out a survey and seek a quotation for repair so that Saltash may once again light up the night to mark special occasions.

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Litter Picks Are Picking Up

A request that Cornwall Council provide added litter and dog bin provision for the town has met with the response that the county does not have the

budget as it does not have the resources to empty them.

However County Councillor Hilary Frank, who made the request, was told that it was possible to increase the

frequency with which existing bins are emptied. This has already been implemented with two dog bins at Pillmere.

Any overflowing bin can be reported on 0300 1234

141, online on the Cornwall Council website, or via email to: refuseandrecycling@cornwall.gov.uk

All bins are being labelled with a number which can be given to ensure a non-scheduled emptying if urgently required.

The dog waste bins on Warfeton Green are being replaced by dual use litter and dog waste bins. Dog waste bins for Fore Street were considered but local traders were not happy at the prospect and did not consider them necessary. However existing bins are being labelled, as well as numbered, to show that they may be used for dog waste as well as general litter.

Councillor Frank also reported that she is now organising regular monthly litter picks hitting at various points around the town together with Saltash Environmental Action Group. The Town Council's services committee agreed to consider co-ordinating any other clean up opportunities as they became available with the Saltash Environmental Action initiative.

Observer Helps Aussie to Find Saltash Pal

It was only when floodwater inundated his Brisbane, Australian, home that in the general clearout Eric ('Ampy') Hampshire re-discovered a letter from an old service pal. As it dated back over forty-five years ago he saw little chance of regaining contact with Tony ('Mav') Garner, who in 1969 had been suffering steam burns acquired, Eric believed, on HMS Ark Royal and was then living in Naval married quarters at St. Budeaux, Plymouth.

However since the old letter indicated an intention of moving to Saltash, Eric now long retired, practiced his emailing skills in contacting the local community paper your 'Saltash Observer'.

We are delighted to report that as a result of our keen local readership 'Mav' Garner has made contact and the two former shipmates hope to meet up again when Eric pays a nostalgic visit to England and to Cornwall next summer.

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"I love the Flower Seat"



Landulph Under Fives, a recently 'Good' Ofsted inspected pre-school has been lucky enough to receive some generous sums of money from 'Awards For All' (Lottery Funded) and Cornwall Community Foundation to support their children's outdoor learning. With the dedication of committee member Ele Braund supporting the project over several months, the pre-school now have a

transformed outdoor area within the grounds of Landulph Memorial Hall. "The children now have a much larger learning environment with a rubber bonded floor and under cover shelter, allowing the outdoors to be used in all weathers, with additional equipment being purchased to support the children's physical development and mark making skills" reports Amy, the Pre-School Leader. "The

children have been enjoying their new sandpit, we couldn't get them out of it during our first session back after the Easter Break".

When asked to describe their new outdoor environment to staff, the children from Landulph Under Fives reported, "I love the flower seat, it's so pretty", with another child adding that he also liked the mushroom seat, "I really like the blue one".

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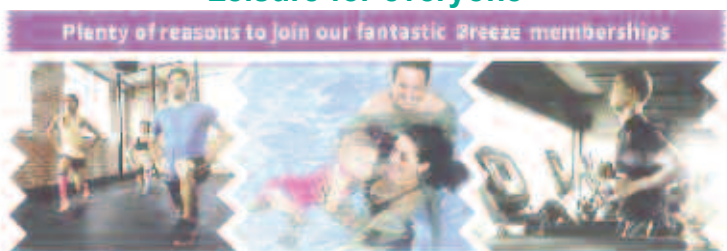
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Spiffing Tunes
+ catwalk & dancing

Join in the first Vintage Celebration Weekend at the stunning Cotehele. The weekend includes music from 'Just Misbehavin' (Sat) Spiffing Tunes, (Sun) dancing, catwalk, (Sun) workshops including knitting for the troops & get your Vintage look, beauty parlour, vehicles and lots more.

There will be an abundance of quirky stands for all you lovers of Vintage - including clothes, jewellery, crockery and kitchenalia. Lots of talented, local craftspeople will be showcasing their amazing creations. Entry is £3.00 per day (under 12's free) and this includes entry to Cotehele House and Mill. The entry fee does apply to National Trust Members also.

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