

# SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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

June 2018 - Issue 315

Established 25 years

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## New Mayor Seeks to See Saltash Take Back Control of Town

Over the past year Saltash Town Council has been taking back control of the town and during his forthcoming year of office Saltash will continue to move back towards its former 'borough' status, pronounced Mayor Councillor John Brady at the formal Mayor Making Ceremony in the Guildhall.

This was the first such ceremony since changes in the mayoral electoral system mean that the more formal mayor choosing ceremony of past years is no longer appropriate. The result was a briefer, more informal ceremony, at which however the new Mayor retained the ancient tradition of tossing warm pennies and fruit from the upper window to children gathered below.

The council makes the decisions, Mayor Brady emphasised, while the Mayor has two roles, one as a chair of

council, the other ceremonial.

As examples of the town's increasing powers he referred to the purchase last year of the station building and the appointing of town and waterside wardens, moving away from outside contracts. The town is taking control of local toilets and had the previous week agreed to acquire the freehold of the library.

Over his year of office he looked forward to working as a team with fellow councillors,

all of whom are volunteers who work hard in the community.

In particular he hoped to acquire a fifty year lease of Victoria Gardens and the Maurice Huggins Room within the gardens, making them the centrepiece of Saltash. 'I also hope to invest in staff and staff training, and make them the best', he added.

The new mayor paid tribute to his predecessor as Mayor, Councillor Jean Dent, who had the difficult task of working

with a newly elected council but had 'worked tirelessly' to support them. He also thanked the Town Council staff who were 'absolute bricks' in supporting the council, and the councillors themselves who 'argue as expected but reach consensus'. Lastly he thanked all mayors' consorts, male and female who 'take all the stick when we get home but always support us'.

'I am deeply honoured to be elected as mayor', Councillor Brady concluded.



## Saltash Born Deputy Mayor is 'Passionate About the Town'



'It is a huge honour and gives me immense pride to serve as your Deputy Mayor', Councillor Gloria Challen told Councillors and invited guests at the Mayor Making Ceremony, 'I would like to thank fellow councillors for their confidence in my ability to take on the role'.

As a Saltash born councillor she had always felt passionate about the town in which she has built up successful local businesses and was thrilled to have the opportunity to play a greater role in the community.

She spoke of her predecessor as Deputy Mayor,

Councillor David Yates and consort Stephanie and the 'fantastic job' that they had done. Councillor Challen concluded with special thanks to Town Freeman and former Mayor Mrs Sue Hooper M.B.E. with her husband John, for all of their help and support.

## Mayor's Consort, Cadet and Chaplain Chosen

One of the first acts of incoming Mayor John Brady was to invest, with the chain of Mayor's Consort, his wife Jackie, our new Mayoress, sealed with a kiss.

Deputy Mayor's consort and husband Neil Challen was similarly invested with chain of office.

This year's Mayor's Cadet is sixteen year old Isaac Carroll, a member of Saltash Rugby Club Colts team.

The Chaplain is Father Ian Hellyer of Saltash Roman Catholic Church.

The Mayor's charity this year is 'Heart 'n' Soul', a new project within Saltash's Livewire Youth Project. It is a designated mental health project for young people and children aiming to provide them with access to quality mental health services.

## Band Benefits from Mayoral Gift

Our popular and flourishing town band, with its enthusiastic junior band, received a boost at its annual meeting when retiring Mayor Councillor Mrs Jean Dent presented a cheque for £362. The town band was one of her chosen charities during her year of office and both senior and junior sections had played to great applause at her fundraising fun evening, as reported in your May 'Observer', Councillor Dent spoke warmly of the pleasure that the band gives and the support that it offers at local events. The band is currently raising funds for the purchase of new jackets.

The band already has a packed programme for the next year both in the town and around Devon and Cornwall. New members for senior and junior sections are welcome, instruments can be provided, tuition given and, especially for junior band members, a lifetime of musical pleasure can be opened up together with new friendships and increased confidence.

For more information e:mail donnatownson@hotmail.co.uk

## Calls for Improved Safety Measures on A38

After yet another fatality on the A38, calls are mounting for improved safety measures on this dangerous stretch of the trunk road. Chair of the Saltash Area Road Safety Committee, Cornwall Councillor Derek Holley said: "We were extremely saddened to hear of another fatal accident on the A38, this time at Tideford. The Saltash Area Road Safety Committee has long expressed its concerns to Highways England about the dangers of this road."

For the last six months, a group of committed parties led by MP Sheryll Murray and financed by Cornwall Council have produced a Case for Action report, which will be taken to the Minister for Transport later this month.

The Case for Action will help inform the Department for Transport's decisions on the allocation of funding for the second part of their Road Investment Strategy (RIS2), covering the period from 2020 to 2025.

An action group called

Safe 38 has recently been set up to campaign for short-term safety improvements as well as long-term investment in the A38.

Visit their Facebook page or website ([www.safe38.org](http://www.safe38.org)) to lend them your voice and support.

*Spotlight on Cornwall Council in SE Cornwall...*

## A State-of-the-Art Learning Centre To Celebrate our Engineering Heritage

The Heritage Lottery Fund has just announced they will be awarding over £270,000 towards the creation of an exciting new Learning Centre in the old Tamar Bridge office building, overlooking the iconic road and rail bridges connecting Saltash and Plymouth.

The Tamar Bridge is jointly owned and operated by Cornwall Council and Plymouth City Council, and was the first long-span suspension bridge built after the Second World War. It was the longest in the UK when it opened to traffic in 1961, and was widened and strengthened at the end of the last century. In a world first, this work was achieved while the Bridge remained fully open to live traffic - an astounding engineering feat that was recognised in 2002 with the presentation of the prestigious British Construction Industry Award. The new Centre will celebrate the history and

engineering of the Tamar Bridge and Brunel's iconic 19th century Royal Albert Bridge, with internal and external displays as well as interactive features.

The Centre, which will open early 2019, will also become home to a Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics (STEAM) hub. A full-time Community, Learning and Volunteering Officer will be employed to work with partners including local schools and community organisations and deliver a year-round programme of events and learning activities. Geoff Brown, the councillor with responsibility for transport within Cornwall

Council, said: "These two bridges are well known, nationally and internationally. I am thrilled that we are able to create a Learning Centre that will celebrate the achievements of engineers of the past and inspire engineers of the future. We hope the Learning Centre will help both locals and tourists develop a deeper appreciation of our rich engineering heritage."

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# Town Messenger

Working for the People of Saltash

## News from Saltash Town Council Konsel an dre Essa



### Town Wardens’ Increased Roles

Over the next few weeks you may observe two men in white overalls spraying the weeds growing around our roads. Weed spraying is just one of the many roles being added to the duties of our town and waterfront wardens.

Since the town has taken on these employees and been able to carry out more work ‘in house’, considerable budgetary savings for the town’s council tax payers have been implemented. Just the cleaning contract carried out by Cormac cost the town £30,000 per year, now it is done directly at a cost of £15,000.

The town now also employs its own lavatory cleaners and is increasing its cemetery staff to two, while the move into its acquired Longstone Park depot will enable the council to have its own maintenance depot there. Wardens will also maintain and water our hanging baskets, work previously contracted out.

The overall aim of the council in taking on direct control of this work is to provide not only a service that is value for money but one whereby the town is more accountable and in control. A business plan being built up will enable council staff to be more instantly able to react to any issue in a proactive manner. The council can also now

plan and look ahead in terms of staffing budget, and can consider purchasing equipment when it will save over renting. Indeed the council is already starting to earn income for the town by tendering out to do work for Cornwall Council and the intention is to build on this and become increasingly professional in its work base.

### Town Taking Over Library

Saltash Library should soon belong to Saltash as the Town Council continues to take over local facilities devolved from Cornwall Council. The Town Council has agreed to accept the terms offered by Cornwall , which include a provision for the library to be retained for the town for the next twenty-five years. Legal officers are now processing transfer of the freehold which should be completed by August.

Now that the decision has been taken the council is especially keen, as mentioned last month, to obtain public opinion as to how the library service to the town might be improved and in particular what opening hours would suit most users. Ideas are welcome as to how book lending and other services might best be adapted to the benefit of most users.

An on line questionnaire is planned as well as one in paper format available within the library.

### Work Starts at Carkeel Shops Site

Those who pass by Carkeel roundabout will have noticed that work is already underway on the site to the South East, formally a car showroom. Long intended for a Tesco store, work is now underway on environmental work in preparation for the stores and fast food outlets for which planning permission has been agreed.

After opposing the initial plan, the Town Council agreed to recommend a variation upon it on the assurance that stores would not be directly competing with those in town. There is also an agreement that the town centre will be promoted on notice boards within the site and the town Chamber of Commerce and Industry is liaising with the developers on this.

Once the first unit on the site is occupied, anticipated as early as next year, Saltash will start receiving the total sum of £258,000 negotiated as Section 106 money. This will be put in its entirety to the enhancement of Saltash’s shopping centre based around Fore Street and the Town Council will shortly be debating how it can best be used for this purpose.

#### Your Cornwall Councillors

*Saltash North*  
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*Saltash West*  
Sam Tamlin  
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#### Cornwall Councillors – Cover such services as:

Housing - Education –  
Social Services  
Highways –  
Waste and Recycling –  
Tamar Bridge

### Town Centre Park is Sought for Town

The Victoria Gardens at the top of Fore Street are the next target for acquisition by the Town Council on behalf of the townspeople. The building that was formerly the Maurice Huggins Rest Room already belongs to the Town Council which has now registered an interest with Cornwall Council in acquiring the town centre gardens surrounding it.

Discussions are under way and there are various ideas as to how the gardens could further benefit the town as and when it owns them.

### Remember Councillors Are Volunteers

Saltash is fortunate to have sixteen citizens who love their town and are willing to put in long hours, at all times of day, by serving as Town Councillors. They are all, it should be remembered volunteers, all unpaid for attending various full council, committee and other meetings, and attempting to sort out issues raised and problems put to them by their ward’s residents. They often have differing views, sometimes disagree, but all are united in their interest in their town and their enthusiasm to work together as a team to improve the quality of life for their fellow citizens.

### Town Traffic Improvements Targeted for Priority

Various suggested road improvement schemes in and around Saltash are among those featured in a local Community Network Highways Scheme, which is intended to progress each Community Network Panels’ priorities for local highway improvement schemes.

Cornwall Gateway Community Network Panel, which covers the area around Saltash, will be working through prioritising highway improvement needs, which may be covered within the dedicated budget of £50,000 per area.

A ‘Historic list’ of proposed local schemes is to be examined to see which are now outdated and which need to be further considered and prioritised. The list includes widening of Church Road junction to allow improved bus access, modification to the speed cushion in St.

#### Your Town Council

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David Yates  
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**Mayor:**  
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**Deputy Mayor:**  
Gloria Challen

**Town Clerk:**  
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E: [enquiries@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@saltash.gov.uk)

**Councillors telephone numbers can be obtained at the guildhall.**

**Saltash Town Council, The Guildhall, 12 Lower Fore Street, Saltash PL12 6JX  
Tel.: 01752 844846 Email: [enquiries@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@saltash.gov.uk) Website: [www.saltash.gov.uk](http://www.saltash.gov.uk)**

### More Time to Name That Ward

Saltash’s three new wards, reduced from the current four, still need naming and the Town Council, which has to select the names, is still keen to have suggestions from the public for any or all. An extra two months has now been granted to reach a decision.

As previously mentioned in your ‘Messenger’ the new wards based on the current North and South wards will expand to share the East Ward, while a new ward will take in the west of the town as well as surrounding villages out to Botus Fleming, Landrake and Cargreen. Suggestions for naming the wards may be submitted via the Guildhall.

Stephens Road, and traffic management measures on Broad Walk near Saltash.net.school to control parking and improve safety. Traffic orders relating to parking both in the town centre and on the Carkeel industrial estate are included as is pedestrian and cycleway provision at Hatt to link the roundabout and the Cardinal’s Hatt Inn.

### Chamber Plan Parking for Shoppers as Refund Scheme is Withdrawn

A fresh scheme to attract shoppers into the town’s car parks is a priority target for the Saltash Chamber of Commerce and Industry as the current refund scheme comes to a close.

This scheme had depended upon drivers handing in a part of their parking ticket to participating shopkeepers when they made a purchase. The shopkeeper would then refund their two hour parking fee and would be refunded in turn by the Chamber of Commerce who operated the scheme using ‘Section 106’ money paid in by developers. However as this funding is running out the Chamber has decided to drop the scheme and consider other means of attracting drivers in to discover the pleasures of shopping in Saltash’s friendly local shops.

A previous scheme had included free parking on Saturdays. However it was found that many drivers were clogging the car parks by parking in Saltash for nothing and then taking buses into Plymouth to shop there.

Local traders are being consulted and their ideas sought for an alternative parking plan.

### Plan Will Fix the Future of Our Town

A plan of vital importance to the future of Saltash and which will form the blueprint for its future development has now been released in draft form so that residents may comment upon it before it is finalised and becomes a legally binding document.

The Saltash Neighbourhood Development Plan, made under the 2011 Localism Act, gives the town the ability to plan the future development of Saltash until 2030 under the direction of national policies and the requirements of the Cornwall Local Plan. It has been produced over the last five years by a team of community volunteers under direction of the Town Council to meet the needs of future generations while as far as possible keeping the most valued current aspects of Saltash.

The vision of the plan is that ‘by 2030 Saltash will be an envied riverside town, being more sustainable and greener in all respects with a reinvigorated town centre and waterfront, award winning new housing, a prosperous and diverse economy, with an excellent quality of life and

lifestyle for all ages’.

This vision and objectives followed public consultation including a community questionnaire. This showed public priorities for Saltash to be seen as safe, friendly, attractive riverside, prosperous, tranquil, green and eco-friendly while the last on the list was as a commuter town.

The identification and management of required housing development, town centre regeneration and projects to protect and enhance the natural environment and improve biodiversity are just three of the issues for the town’s future included in the draft plan.

Paper copies of the plan and questionnaires concerning it are being made available in the library and Guildhall. It can also be viewed on the neighbourhood plan website <http://plan4saltash.co.uk/>

### Tell Us About Trash!

Saltash should be a litter free zone, an environment in which its citizens of all ages can take a pride. To this end residents are asked to call in about any accumulation of rubbish in a public area. Any fly tipping or just a build up of trash may be reported to the Guildhall where staff will seek to check it out and get it cleared as soon as is possible.

Town Messenger news is supplied by the Town Council

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

In the last couple of months, I have done a lot of networking which has resulted in me learning a lot about Saltash and its environs. Until 3 months ago, for instance, I was not aware that there was a Gin Distiller in Saltash producing 3 different Gins. Trevehan Gin is one of 12 Gin Distillers in Cornwall and its Gin Dates back to a recipe produced in the 1920's using local produce.

I also attended an event at Pentillie Castle, a place that, despite having lived in and around Plymouth and S. E. Cornwall for 50+ years, I had never visited previously. What a spectacular location only a few miles from Saltash. My visit there was to attend a meeting about Mayflower 400 with a view to ensuring that S. E. Cornwall and Saltash is included in the promotion of the event in 2020 to potential visitors, especially from the United States. As visitors will be coming to the area to see part of their heritage, there is a great opportunity for businesses in S. E. Cornwall to benefit and for Saltash to promote its heritage of Brunel and the civil war in particular at the same time.

Previously, I had not been a fan of networking events but can now see the benefit for businesses who have the opportunity to meet with other businesses to establish a potential mutual benefit and promote their field of activity within a forum where all parties are interested in expanding their business. In all events there was the exchange of business cards

and many conversations that would lead to get-togethers to discuss opportunities in more detail. Well done to all organisers.

Some may say, therefore, in their role for the Chamber, indeed there is because not only are our meetings a venue for businesses to meet (network) but also we provide a feeling of goodwill between businesses and provide a forum to protect their interests and liaise with local authorities and other bodies to promote PL12 businesses and be proactive in the business community.

In addition to membership of the Chamber only costing £25 per annum there is also the advantage that this gives members access to Cornwall Chamber to which we are an affiliate. This gives access to advice on issues that evolve out of running businesses and financing thereof. With approximately 90% of businesses in Cornwall being micro-businesses there is a need for support and through Saltash and Cornwall Chambers this can be forthcoming.

## Saltash Citizens Among 30 Heroes Honoured with a Civic Award



Cornwall has a proud tradition of community spirit, and at a ceremony at County Hall in Truro last month, thirty community heroes from across Cornwall were presented with a Civic Award recognising their contribution to strengthening the fabric of our county. From fundraisers dedicating their time to raising money for causes like the Poppy Appeal and the St. Petroc's Charity for the Homeless, to volunteers who went to the aid of Coverack residents after last year's storm, this inspiring group of people give and keep on giving.

Two well-known people from Saltash were among those presented with a Civic Award: Joyce Mepsted and David Newman. Joyce, who spent many years as a councillor both with Saltash Town Council and Cornwall County Council, served as Mayor of Saltash in the year 2002-2003. Drawing on her experience as a teacher at Burraton Primary School, Joyce published a book about encouraging the development of children with Down's Syndrome. She cares so deeply about community that even after 'retirement' from council life in 2009, and despite ill health, Joyce has continued to serve Saltash as Chair of the League of Friends of St Barnabas Hospital, organising a wide range of events and working closely with health professionals to try and secure a stable future for our much-loved community hospital.

David Newman is better known by hundreds and hundreds of children in Saltash as 'The Music Man'. He has been volunteering his services to Saltash Library for over a decade, where he runs

a weekly music session for preschool children. Not only has David's life-long passion for making music connect with children aided the development of a generation of Saltash children, it has also helped them develop a love of the library and of books.

His music sessions also provide a great opportunity for parents and grandparents of toddlers to meet up – there are many Tuesdays when it is a struggle to even get in to the library because of all the prams, scooters and happy people.

The Award ceremony was led by the Chair and Vice Chair of Cornwall Council, Councillor Mary May and Councillor Hilary Frank, who were both recently re-elected to continue in these roles for one more year. Hilary said: "There are many local heroes throughout Cornwall, and it's been an honour to pay tribute to some of them this evening. This whole ceremony has been a humbling and inspirational occasion, and it's been a particular joy presenting awards to two exceptional people from Saltash – I have great respect for both Joyce and David."

### Can You Help Saltash RBL say "Thank You"?

As part of The Royal British Legion's national "Thank You" Campaign, the Saltash & District branch are having a "WW1 Centenary Grand Prize Draw". Tickets will be sold throughout Saltash during the next few months with the draw taking place on Sunday 22nd July 2018 during the WW1 Centenary Commemorative RWindband Concert at Saltash Social Club.

Tickets are available on the RBL table at the monthly Table Top Sales in Wesley Church as well as other places.

Some prizes already donated include a Family Ticket for Bodmin & Wenford Railway, St Mellion Resort, a Food hamper to name but a few, if local businesses and residents would like to help and supply a prize, then they can contact Carolann Pabst, Saltash RBL on 07494 478239.

Please Saltash... help us to say 'Thank You' to the First World War generation who helped to shape our world, as we know it today.

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Sat 23rd **Toby Graham** (Bar)

Sat 30th **Banana Thieves** (Bar)

**July 2018**

Sat 7th **Jaded Angel** (Bar)

Sat 14th **Stolen Agenda** (Bar)

Sat 21st **Rockaholics** (Bar)

Sat 28th **The Frame** (Bar)

**August 2018**

Sat 4th **Gone South** (Another Newby) (Bar)

Sat 11th **Whisky Falls** (Bar)

Sat 18th **Three's Company** (Bar)

**Bank Holiday Weekend**

Sat 25th **Firëbird** (1st Time @ Club)

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## Mary May Full of Praise

The Saltash May Fair this year was opened by someone with a very appropriate surname: Mary May. Councillor May is Chair of Cornwall Council and was full of praise for the atmosphere and for the volunteers who had worked so hard to stage the event. Councillor May was welcomed at the Saltash Heritage Museum and shown the exhibition by Lizzy Sharpe-Asprey, Honorary Secretary of Saltash Heritage. "Thanks to the volunteers in the Saltash Museum for making me so welcome, especially Lizzy. I will certainly recommend your May Fair to anyone and everyone", said Councillor May.



Mary May presented the trophy to Girlguiding Saltash for best turned out Youth Group

## Tudor Garden Gains Grant

The Tudor style garden behind the town's oldest domestic residence, the medieval Mary Newman's Cottage, is to be further enhanced by means of a grant.

The raised flower and vegetable beds in their wood surrounds are in need of restoration and Cornwall Community Fund has awarded the Tamar Protection Society, who maintain the house and garden, £858 for this purpose.

The house and garden are open to the public at weekends free of charge, though donations are appreciated, and teas are available on the terrace with its garden and river views.

## Saltash Guides Achieve First Ever Badges for Tomorrow's Technology

The girls of Saltash Brownies and Guides have kept up with the latest in 21st century technology and have been recognised for their initiative by being the first in the world to achieve a prestigious award.

The University of Birmingham's Human Interface Technologies (HIT) team attended at the headquarters of the Saltash District Brownies and Guides for a second time in order to present the world's very first Virtual Reality Technology badges to the girls. This was in appreciation of their imaginative poster efforts following an exciting evening of exploring the opportunities that virtual reality has to offer held for the girls last September.

Leader of the 'HIT' team Director Professor Bob Stone said 'The original event in September was a huge success and allowed girls of all ages not only to experience technologies they may never have seen in their lives but to show them how they might contribute as scientists and technologists of the future'. They were then challenged to think about what their ideal future virtual reality world

would look like and to design a poster showing their vision of a virtual world that they would like to explore in the future.

The Virtual Reality Technology badges, of which the Saltash girls were the first recipients, were personally designed by Professor Stone who added that a number of posters actually gave the team inspiration for an important new project on which they are currently working. He explained, 'It takes the form of a 'virtual garden' with quests and challenges to help distract children with chronic pain. Some of the current developments include colourful flowers. Cartoon insect characters and being able to climb into a minisub and dive into an ornamental lake with Koi Carp were definitely inspired by the girls' imaginations.'



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For Observer readers

Sam Tamlin

Cornwall Councillor for Saltash West

E: [sam.tamlin@cornwallcouncillors.org.uk](mailto:sam.tamlin@cornwallcouncillors.org.uk).

There was an article in one of the local papers a few weeks ago that made me angry, you may have seen the headline, it read: "Cornish Town named among the Top 10 worst for air pollution in the UK".

I knew before I clicked on the headline that it was going to be a misleading "clickbait" headline designed to lure you in so the website can claim more advertising revenue. It had worked, I was already reading about how "a Cornish town had been listed among the 10 most badly hit by air pollution in a new league table from the World Health Organisation" and how "dozens of UK towns and cities suffer from unsafe levels of air pollution".

Whilst I read this I assumed the town to be named was going to be one of the bigger towns, either St. Austell or Falmouth, possibly Truro if the reporter had somehow forgotten that it's a city. I was shocked when I found out that the town that was being "named and shamed" as the reporter put it was Saltash.

### Unsafe Levels of Pollution

Two things made me angry, the first was that Saltash was being made out to be one of the dirtiest places in the UK. The second was a list at the bottom of the article which contained "the 32 places in the UK that have unsafe levels of pollution" and Saltash wasn't even on it!

Our town was on a different list even further down of places that have a good air quality, but admittedly only just. Yet still, it is clear Saltash is not one of the top 10 most polluted places in the UK, even the article with a spectacularly misleading headline admitted that but I still didn't like that Saltash was being considered almost polluted and wanted to find out exactly what this meant so I did some research.

The measurement used was fine particle emissions or PM2.5 so this is what I focused on. The UK government have a target of reducing this type of pollution to 25PM2.5 per square metre by 2020 and the WHO have another definition of pollution which is any measurement above an annual average of 10PM2.5. I think it's worth mentioning that according to the World Health Organisation 91% of the worlds population live in places where air quality is above their limit.

The value used in the article and the sole measurement ever reported by the WHO for Saltash was from 2015. This came from the only monitoring station of its type in Cornwall which is at the fire station on Callington Road (its the big green box next to the road). The monitoring station reports measurements every hour which are posted onto the DEFRA website.

The measurement in the news is the yearly average for 2015 of 10PM2.5, the maximum value considered safe by the WHO but well below the governments target for 2020. Using the DEFRA website I have worked out that the yearly averages are falling, when the measurements began in 2103 the average for the year was 11PM2.5, in 2014 and 2015 the value was 10PM2.5 and in both 2016 and 2017 the average was 8PM2.5.

### "Air Quality Improves in Cornish Town"

We are fortunate enough to live in a part of the world where according to the WHO we don't have this type of air pollution and only 9% of the world's population can say the same. I think the headline should have read, "Air Quality Improves in Cornish Town" but I don't think I would make a very good journalist!

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## Last Teas as the Castle Goes on Sale

Visitors flocked to enjoy the magnificent gardens at Ince Castle with its superb river views at what may well be the last public opening of this popular country estate.

Ince Castle is currently on the market as current owners Lord and Lady Boyd move to a smaller eco-friendly home at Trematon. A payment of £7 million will secure the castle built in 1642 in which, according to legend, wicked Henry Killigrew, 17th century MP for East Looe, kept four wives, one in each turret, each blissfully unaware of the other's existence.

More recently the late Alan Lennox-Boyd, 1st Viscount Boyd of Merton, and his wife purchased the property in 1960 and carried out considerable restoration. The departure of the family marks an end of an era for them.

It also marks the end of a long association with Trematon Womens' Institute who for twenty-four years have been providing teas for visitors on open days. Members have been invited, by way of thanks, by Lady Boyd to pay a final visit to the house.

For one's £7 million one will acquire a property with 13 bedrooms and extensive grounds that include a swimming pool, an orchard, boat moorings, and a unique

## Filming for Fun and for the Future Generations

The pleasures of past times around Saltash, our Cornish heritage, and the high spots of the last year, all recorded for posterity by our highly active Saltash Video Club, were once again shown to an appreciative audience at Ashtorre as a prelude to May Fair.

Familiar local folk, some sadly no longer with us, featured in 'Saltash Looking Back', as did archive film, some dating back to the Saltash ferry. More recent memories were recalled with the film of Elizabethan feasting and grand carnival at May Fair 1979.

As well as recording local events the club members enjoy days out creating art films such as one recording the beauty of Lopwell Dam. They also create documentaries, one shown featuring cider making at Botus Fleming.

After delving into the archives the club produced its 2017 newsreel, with cameo roles by members of the audience including your 'Observer' reporter. As well as the May Fair, Regatta and Christmas events we witnessed Heritage's Toc H commemoration, Carkeel roundabout improvement and a steam locomotive on the Royal Albert Bridge.

To conclude the show the

'Shell House', built in 1964 lined with shells collected by the late Lord Boyd and with an ostrich egg as a central feature of the ceiling.

audience enjoyed experiencing the beauty and heritage of Cornwall's historic castles from Norman, including Trematon, medieval Tintagel, Tudor Pendennis and the grandeur of Caerhays Castle.

This year's show was dedicated to one of the club's most active members Terry Aire who sadly died earlier this year. The club needs new members if it is to continue its vital role of recording for future generations the fun of local festivities and other events as well as experience the skill of creating local art films. Anyone with any interest in film making is invited to meet the friendly group and sample this fascinating pastime – no experience or equipment is necessary.

Just contact Alan or Sheila on 01752 212078 or email alanbarrett3@gmail.com

## A Royal Tea in Saltash Bookshelf

Royal wedding fever swept through Saltash and nowhere more so than at Saltash Bookshelf where guests were adorned in wedding finery to partake of a celebration tea. Elderflower and lemon cake was enjoyed, as it was at another celebration held in Windsor, and with a complimentary glass of Prosecco the royal couple were suitably toasted. The event proved popular both on the Friday and on the Saturday when guests could watch live coverage of the wedding.

New 'Bookshelf' proprietor Tracey is hoping for similar success when all are invited to share Royal Ascot celebrations on 22nd and 23rd June. Guests are invited to dress for the occasion for which a strawberry tea is planned, together again with a complimentary glass of Prosecco. The delicious range of homemade cakes on offer is also attracting an extended range of afternoon tea clientele on other days.

Tracey is meanwhile extending her range of books for all ages including adult and in particular has acquired new sets of wooden toys to go alongside the books for all children from early readers to young adult.

And with late Spring and Summer finally upon us we are pleased to report that sales of our own Saltash Observer local walking book 'A Quality of Life' are going well, together with others of walking and of local interest. Pick up your copy of 'A Quality of Life' – Local Book of Walks today!

To purchase A Local Book of Walks (See Advert Left)

## A Model World In Essa Club

Members of the recently formed Saltash Model Club have been hard at work on their first 'Group Build' preparing to show off their work at the club's first modelling competition.

Each member has been invited to present an imaginative display based on a basic Airfix Kit, aeroplane or military.

They will be judged by fellow members at the Essa Club on 27th June at around 8.30 pm when Mayor Councillor John Brady has promised to be present. A model prize is being presented by Mike Parker of 'Saltash DIY', himself a founder club member and who sells model kits among other stock in his premises by the Co-op Car Park.

Saltash club members are also exhibiting models of all descriptions at the annual Plymouth Modelling Club exhibition in the city's Guildhall this June.

More members are always welcome and those interested can just call in on club nights held in the Essa Club from 7.30 p.m. on the last Wednesday of each month. Membership is currently free.

Observer Telephone Numbers  
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## "Incredible Response" Keeps School's Regatta Plans Afloat



Children and staff at Brunel Primary Academy have been overwhelmed by the response to an appeal for art and craft materials to enable them to take part in the Saltash Regatta parade this month.

Parents and local organisations have rallied round to donate paper, pencils, glues, sequins and much more so that the children could join the colourful parade as planned, after losing the contents of their art cupboard during recent works at the school.

The children were very excited to receive the donations. Six-year-old Ted said: "Wow! We can make a

thousand things with this!"

"The response has been quite incredible," said Brunel's Acting Headteacher Suzanne Cooper. "We are so grateful for such a kind and speedy response to tide us over until we are able to replace what we've lost. Brunel has always been proud to be part of this community and really look forward to creating a wonderful contribution to the Regatta parade."

The Saltash Scrap Store has released its stock early to help. Founder member Rosie Waters said: "When we heard Brunel may not be able to take part in the town's parade we were happy to step in. The

Children from Brunel Primary Academy, acting Headteacher Suzanne Cooper (right) and Art co-ordinator teacher Charlotte Wood (centre) receive community donations from Scrap Store member Rosie Waters (l).

Scrap Store isn't due to open for a while but we have been gathering supplies. It's a unique situation we felt we could help out with."

Regatta Committee Chair Karen Lilley said: "I am so pleased that Brunel were able to take part again this year. As last year's children's Trophy winners we knew they would put on a great display!"

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## A Brave New Post War World Remembered at Museum

The ‘Great War to end all wars’ was over and the victors were looking forward to a new age of peace and prosperity. Just how Saltash and the surrounding villages, as well as the world beyond was affected during the years between 1918 and 1930 is displayed at the Saltash Heritage exhibition entitled ‘A New Dawn’, open until November in the museum in Lower Fore Street.

Following the loss of so many men in the horrors of the trenches women were now playing a greater role and the VAD nurses and suffragettes feature in particular in the display. Especially poignant is the cabinet commemorating those lost, including the keepsakes made by men in the trenches for those at home.

Saltash was a market town and changes in local agriculture feature in particular, as does a display of corn dollies. The brave new world of the 1920’s is also marked by an array of ‘art deco’ designs.

A prominent local citizen of Saltash between the wars was nationally renowned author and playwright Lt. Col. William Drury, whose Culver Road home forms part of the Heritage blue plaque trail. The Royal Marine barracks in Stonehouse has a ‘Drury Room’ and Saltash Heritage was fortunate to borrow some of its exhibits for this year’s display. One can learn how the discovery of a skeleton on the Saltash foreshore, by a local schoolboy, with ancient

military buttons became the basis of a plot for a locally based novel by Drury.

The exhibition also features a tribute to the late skilled model maker Dennis Rimmington, who left all of his models, including a range of Tamar sailing craft, to Heritage.

To mark the loan of the Drury exhibits, Colour Sergeant ‘Charlie’ Chapman of 30 Commando Royal Marines was invited to open the exhibition jointly with Mayor Councillor Mrs. Jean Dent. ‘As always the museum and heritage centre have done us proud’, said the Mayor. ‘A great deal of work has gone into preparing this. Sergeant Chapman, who had previously noted the fine display of Royal Navy plaques, presented a Royal Marine plaque to accompany them.

Heritage was especially proud of the plaque recently awarded by Cornwall Museum Partnership as its ‘Innovation Award’ together with £500, for work done on the transcription of the ‘Nepean Papers’ giving a

fascinating insight into a local family during Georgian and Victorian times.

The exhibition will now be open on Wednesday afternoons from 2–4 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. with additional opening in the Summer. Entry is free though donations are welcome towards the running of this totally volunteer run museum and local history centre.

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## Conundrum Corner

Taking the initial letter to the following nine questions can you re-arrange them to make a Cornish place name?

- 1 Who composed the Operas Rigoletto, Il Travatore and La Traviata? (5)
- 2 Middlesbrough is located on the banks of which River? (4)
- 3 The Galapagos Islands are located in which Ocean? (6)
- 4 What colour is the Kumquat Fruit? (6)
- 5 In which Country was Lego invented? (7)
- 6 In Charles Dickens’s David Copperfield what is Mr. Micawber’s first name? (7)
- 7 The Warthog is native to which Continent? (6)
- 8 How many Tolpuddle Martyrs were there? (3)
- 9 The perfume ingredient Musk is traditionally derived from which animal? (4)

*Answers on Page 8*

## SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...



I also back the campaign for a plastic free parliament. Groups and schoolchildren from Cornwall were in Parliament to support the Waves All Party Parliamentary Group. They gave an update on activities to reduce single use plastic. I am doing my best to do the same. I was pleased to hear the news this week that every major supermarket in Britain has pledged to eradicate unnecessary single-use plastics by 2025, under a new “UK Plastics Pact”. This also included many of the major food producers.

Last month I chaired two meetings of the A38 group which brings together local Councillors, Highways England, Cornwall Council and Plymouth City Council. As well as discussing concerns around air pollution which I raised in Parliament we have also commissioned a study to make the case for much needed improvements to this road. We will be presenting the final document to the Secretary of State in the near future. I would like to thank everyone again for the cross party support for this project and the officers of the relevant authorities.

I was pleased to support the Saltash May Fair celebrations. There was a fantastic array of stalls once again and I would like to thank all the organisers for putting together such a fun filled day for everyone. I was particularly pleased to see so many local charities and groups which were manned by volunteers. These local people give up so much of their time for the benefit of others and it is always so good to see the community spirit the people of South East Cornwall have. Thank you.

I joined the Saltash Rotary Club for their Race Night which raised a substantial amount for local charities. Saltash Rotary Club is part of Rotary International, a worldwide organisation of men and women who work together to give service to others locally, nationally and internationally. I am proud to be an honorary member.

In Parliament I asked the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Michael Gove MP, to confirm that new primary legislation announced will give authorities such as Cornwall Council the power they need to protect communities such as Tideford and Gunnislake in my constituency from air pollution? He replied “Absolutely” and explained that “we want to work in partnership, and local authorities such as Cornwall Council can make sure that the communities in her constituency—in particular the children who attend primary schools in those communities—can be protected from the impact of air pollution. I am grateful to her for championing much of the work in this consultation throughout her time in this House.”

I also attended the Callington Mayfest. At the police stall I signed up for the Devon and Cornwall Alert messaging system which allows the police to communicate directly with local residents to alert them to crime, search for witnesses, help with missing persons and even give local good news like community events.

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## Saltash Based Women Are World Rowing Champions

**A** Saltash based ladies team upheld the town's proud tradition of lady rowers as they successfully defended their title to become World Pilot Gig Champions for the third year in succession.

Teams from all over Britain and beyond gathered on the Isles of Scilly over the May Bank Holiday weekend and the islands were packed with spectators as the gig boats flashed through the azure waters between the islands.

In their gig 'Ann Glanville', named after the renowned 19th century Saltash rowing champion, the ladies 'A' crew were closely challenged by Falmouth in the final race on the Sunday afternoon. However the team, consisting of Kate Bourn, Naomi Philpot, Bea Holman, Stacey Best, Madeleine Steer, Leanne Woodward and Steve Kent

(cox) sped to bring the victor's trophy back to Saltash once more.

The men's team also achieved success, with their 'A' team just being pipped into second and silver medal position after a tight head to head race with Looe. The men's veterans' crew also successfully defended their world title in the Men's Veterans race on the Friday evening, while the Ladies Veterans 'A' crew finished a very credible third in their race.

The Caradon club yielded a total of twelve crews in the world championships together with a further two crews from their sister club Help for Heroes.

## Waterfront Weeds Sprayed for Regatta Weekend

**T**he clean up and preparation of Saltash Waterfront, ready for the regatta weekend on 9th and 10th June, included spraying the weeds within the waterside area of the town.

It was agreed by the Town Council to prioritise the area before the spraying, which is carried out in house by the town's own Waterfront and Town Wardens, is extended to other areas of the town.

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## Essa Files

**T**his last week has been half-term so in between marking, prepping, and catching up on domestic tasks (apparently the sofa was still where I'd left it, under a huge pile of 'paperwork to be sorted later'), I managed to get away for a couple of days. Our itinerary took in Birmingham for the food, drink and museums, and Stratford for 'King Lear', but we started with a rather different sort of cultural experience by visiting Coopers' Hill on Bank Holiday Monday.

For those of you who missed the usual news item on this event, Coopers' Hill is the location of the annual Gloucester Cheese Rolling event. The essential idea of this most British of festivals is that a large Gloucester Cheese is rolled down a VERY steep hill, and a bunch of people of varying degrees of silliness and sobriety charge down the hill after it with the aims of a. being first to the bottom b. grabbing the cheese c. not breaking anything on the way. The event's future was in doubt for a while on account of insurance and such, but these issues have now been resolved in a very British way: essentially the event appears to get organised without any official organisers, and everyone agrees not to sue anybody.

Which includes me, because yes against all common sense and wiser counsel I joined the throng at the top ready to leap into infinity and beyond, whilst incidentally stone cold sober. I

also managed to make it safely to the bottom with no injuries worse than a couple of minor scrapes on the arm and some very muddy shorts.

Now you might very reasonably ask 'why?', and I can only respond 'why not?': I am very much a subscriber to the idea of trying more or less anything once – in this spirit I have climbed Sydney harbour bridge, jumped out of an aeroplane, walked off Auckland Sky Tower and run down a live volcano (albeit not actually erupting at the time).

Beyond that though I also feel that traditions like the cheese rolling – as bizarre, illogical and possibly dangerous as they are - are part of the glue that binds us together as communities. Just as the cheese rolling is part of what makes Gloucestershire Gloucestershire, so the Regatta and Mayfair are part of what makes Saltash Saltash. True those traditions seem rather less outlandish and potentially lethal, but I will leave you with the recollection that eight years ago I spent a morning walking around the boundaries of Saltash along with the Mayor Sue Hooper, the Observer's own Martin Lister, and a goodly group of others, pausing at each boundary stone to bump the Mayor against the marker lest she forget the boundaries of her domain. The 'beating the bounds' ceremony is not just a part of our history, but also provides its own small contribution to making our community what it is.

Adam Killeya

## No More Hopper Bus to Hospital

**A**fter eighteen months of seeking to make a direct bus service between Saltash and Derriford Hospital viable, Community Enterprise PL12 has accepted that the service must be withdrawn.

The service was set up, at the request of the Town Council, subsequent to a regular service by a commercial bus company being withdrawn. There appeared to be a demand from both hospital patients attending appointments and those visiting patients. However take up during the day proved minimal with buses running empty or near empty. The only services attracting reasonable passenger numbers were early morning and evening buses used by hospital staff but these were the most expensive to operate as paid drivers were used.

'We have put major efforts

into promotion of the service and have tried to vary the way it operates,' reported Chairman Peter Thistlethwaite. 'We have given it a great try - running it for nearly eighteen months, led by Mike Finch, our Lead Director for Transport, without whose selfless drive and attention to detail we would never have started'.

Other community transport services provided by the Saltash Hopper are in demand, well rated and financially stable. With the summer holiday period approaching they are especially keen to attract more volunteers generally, and especially drivers for the Hopper. Anyone interested should call into 4 Fore Street for more information. There are also two Vacancies for Directors and anyone interested in contributing to the team is invited to make contact.

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# Civic Reception Marks Ashes' Stellar Season

A civic reception for Saltash Rugby Club added 'further lustre to a stellar season', said club President Bill Ryan. He joined club officials and team members in the Guildhall to celebrate the club winning its way to Twickenham this season as well as gaining promotion to the Western League. The visit to 'the hallowed ground' of Twickenham had greatly boosted the general interest in the town for the rugby club, an interest on which the town intended to build as the club entered its fiftieth year, added Bill Ryan who was one of the club's founders half a century ago. 'Sport, particularly rugby, builds and cements communities', he believes.

He was presented with a framed certificate of congratulations for the club by Mayor John Brady who hosted the reception in the Guildhall and who reminded those present that he had been the first to buy a coach ticket to the Twickenham final against Yorkshire team Wath upon Dearne.

'Never say never', the Mayor reminded club members, 'proven after fifty years of hard work when you got to Twickenham where you did a tremendous job on a very hot day.'

The team had put Saltash on the map and made the town and the Town Council proud, acclaimed the Mayor. To which Bill Ryan agreed. 'We made large swathes of the country know where Saltash is. We are the Ashes!'

## Honourable Defeat After Taking The Lead

The estimated five hundred Saltash folk who travelled in five full coaches as well as their own transport to Twickenham all seemed agreed that they had a great day out watching excellent rugby even if the end result was a disappointment.

Just to hear the roar as the Ashes appeared on that sacred Twickenham turf and to see the Ashes flag flying there was triumph enough for many and the speakers carried the roar of the crowd to sound as if the ground was packed out for an international game.

The game started well for the Ashes who were 8 - 3 ahead a quarter way through the game. However, the physical bulk of the Yorkshire lads and their simple but effective offensive game plan saw them pull ahead in the heat



Mayor John Brady awards the framed certificate of Congratulations to Ashes President Bill Ryan and Captain Ryan Rayner.

of the May afternoon.

Saltash continued to score and a push from the Ashes in the closing minutes of the game saw Will Morton take a second try. Sadly they were unable to build on this and the game ended an honourable 22 - 18 in favour of the Yorkshire team.

Yet the excitement of reaching the London final of the RFU Senior Vase clearly outweighed the disappointment and the mood was one of elation among supporters and also, we are told, the team as they faced the long journey back to Cornwall. They were also comforted by the knowledge that the team would enter its fiftieth year promoted to the Western League offering fresh challenges ahead.

## Saltash Old Cornwall Society

Six miles or so from Saltash, two miles south of the teeming A38, the tiny 13th century church of St. Erney lies in peaceful countryside with just a cluster of farms and cottages surrounding it. It was probably once a place of pilgrimage for those en route to the Priory of St. Germans, reachable across the river Lynher on low tides. It was once again a place of pilgrimage when Saltash Old Cornwall Society made St. Erney their destination for the first of their Summer visits.

Members were welcomed to the church by Mr. Ken Crocker, an octogenarian whose association with the church began as a seven year old choirboy. He fascinated his visitors with tales of the families who had lived and worked in the parish over countless generations.

From here members moved on to the ancient riverside farmstead of Poldrissick. Here hosts Stewart and Penny welcomed them and showed them, in a former barn, a mysterious mural believed to be of the 16th or early

17th century. Including a human face, a fragment of a classical altar and some wording interpreted as '... shall ring loud' experts attribute the work to an accomplished artist, not a provincial. Otherwise its provenance is unknown.

Members could wander to the farm quay, once a calling point for the Devonport market boat, before enjoying a superb supper prepared by their hosts, and eventually driving the flower banked lanes back to Saltash in the late evening Spring sunshine.

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## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

### The Ashes: A Tribute

Many congratulations to our Saltash Rugby Team on a superb season: Promotion to the prestigious Western League and reaching the final of the RFU Senior Vase at Twickenham. With a little luck they could have won, but lost narrowly.

However, success on the field is not the only quality of the Club. While they are like gladiators on the field the players are a really impressive group of young men, off the field and the club contributes significantly to our community by offering rugby coaching skills to all ages and supporting town events and charity fund raising.

They do all this from their home ground, an open and shared recreation field, and a clubhouse which is a renovated WW2 Naval Accommodation Building.

We should be very proud and inspired by what they do both on and off the field. May their success continue.

Yours faithfully,  
Barry Brooking  
Saltash

Dear Mary

### Re: Derriford Bus

Myself and the many other regular commuters who have travelled to and from work for over a year are at a loss to understand why this drastic about face has occurred.

We are also now wondering how we will get to work without having to travel almost 45 minutes longer per trip on two buses at considerable extra cost. We have been told that the service is running at a loss which raises two questions:

Does this Government funded Community Service really need to make a profit?

If it is required to just break even, why have we not been given the option to pay a little more for the service?

We would very much appreciate your help in highlighting our plight in the next issue of the Observer.

Many thanks and  
kind regards  
Sharon Davies  
Saltash



## In Reply to your Letter of Concern... Relating to the Axing of the Derriford Service

The Saltash Community Enterprises PL12 is just as disappointed as our customers are and we do value the support of our regular users. We have tried very hard over the past 18 months to maintain this service to Derriford 6 times a day 5 days per week and unfortunately we have had to discontinue it as it has made a continual loss and our funds could not sustain the service any longer.

Just to inform you we are not a government run organisation we are a Community Interest Company which depends on our services being self-sustaining.

Over the last six months we have been advertising the fact that this service has not been supported enough to keep it going, so I am afraid it is the case of 'use it or lose it' but I am fully aware that this does not help our regulars that work in the hospital. If you or anyone reading the Observer can come up with any ideas on how to make the service work we would certainly be interested in trying a new approach. However, it must be viable and sustainable and we would even be happy that it could work as a 'break even' project.

Regards  
Bob Austin/Director  
Community Enterprises PL12

## Conundrum Answers:

spell Davidstow  
Deer Re-arranged the letters  
Wilkins 7 Africa 8 Six 9  
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I Verdi 2 Tees 3 Indian 4

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