

# SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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

June 2022 - Issue 363

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## Fairs, Fetes & Fun 2022

Photo Mike Pitches Photography



## The Tamar Toll - T'isn't Right T'isn't Fair



**"I** read the email telling me that Tag discounts to cross the Tamar were going to be reduced from 1st May, and I felt it was so unfair on Tag holders that we shouldn't just be muttering about the tolls. It was time for us to express our anger loud and clear," says Mel Preston, Chair of the newly formed Tamar Toll Action Group.

Her feelings are clearly shared by many as the group she started after reading that email has grown steadily towards a membership of 2,000 in a matter of weeks. People from both Cornwall and Devon are joining and offering comments on how to organise peaceful protests about the tolls. Mel is clear, though, that her group is separate to the fuel protesters blocking the Bridge. "We aim to work alongside Cornwall Council and Plymouth City Council", she says, "to campaign for long-overdue funding from central Government to ensure a fair deal for residents, businesses and other regular users of the Tamar Crossings."

An inaugural committee of

11 people has been formed, each with differing expertise but united by the same vision of a toll-free Tamar. The presentation delivered at their first public meeting shone a spotlight on the disparity of the increase for drivers paying by cash compared to the increase in the amount Tag holders are being charged: the Group's figures suggest that since 1982, even without factoring in the monthly 80p charge for Tag holders, the toll for drivers paying by cash to cross the Tamar Bridge has increased by 400% compared to a 550% increase in Tag rates.

Other data presented at the public meeting compared bridge tolls across the UK, and looked at campaigns for crossings such as the Skye Bridge and the Humber Bridge. "We recognise that those campaigns took many years to deliver successful

outcomes, but we are ready for a long fight," said Scott Slavin, Deputy Chair. Mel agreed, saying: "Cornish residents cross the Tamar to access medical or dental care at places like Derriford Hospital, and the Cumberland Centre, and families use the crossings to support relatives on opposite banks of the river. Businesses have spoken to us about the detrimental impact the tolls are having on the economy of South East Cornwall, too. We are determined to make sure all these voices are heard."

Anyone wishing to add their voice to the group, or purchase a car sticker featuring the TTAG logo, is invited to contact the group through their Facebook Group:

Tamar Toll Action Group. Or for non Facebook users, directly by email at [tamartollactiongroup@gmail.com](mailto:tamartollactiongroup@gmail.com)

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# Town Messenger

Working for the People of Saltash

News from Saltash Town Council  
Konsel an dre Essa



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[educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk)

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## Cornwall Councillors/ Wards

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

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

**Saltash Trematon & Landrake ED**  
Cllr Martin Worth  
[cldr.martin.worth@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.martin.worth@cornwall.gov.uk)

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Tamar Bridge

## From the Mayor of Saltash

*Well, What a  
First Month,  
Thank You Saltash*

May is always a busy month for Mayors, where we visit each other's town to meet and celebrate with the new mayoral incumbents. I was also privileged to welcome a number of guests from our twin town of Plougastel to a civic reception at Isambard House, it was their first visit since 2018 due to the pandemic, and a weekend of events was organised for them by the Saltash-Plougastel



Twinning Association.  
This month however has been firmly topped off with

## Deputy Mayor 2022/23

Cllr. Julia Peggs

The three years since I became a Councillor have gone so fast, I'd like to thank the many residents who have supported and engaged with me over that time.

Becoming Deputy Mayor is an honour and a privilege, but also quite daunting!

Three and a half years ago I decided to retire from 30 years in business management, and running my own business, also mentoring, training, presenting at seminars etc.

I wanted to do something that I could use my skills for the benefit of others, especially in my home town of Saltash.

When the opportunity to become a Councillor became vacant I went for it, and got it!

I have sat on many committees in Town Council to try and gain as much experience and understanding of all the protocols and procedures required, but of course I have the support of the long standing experienced councillors, and our wonderful Town Clerk, Sinead Burrows.

Working with our new Mayor Cllr Richard Bickford is something I'm really looking forward to. We have very similar values, aims, and ambitions for the future of Saltash.

I hope to bring a sense of "can do" to the many projects in line for the Town Council to achieve, making Saltash a land mark where residents and visitors want to shop in our Fore Street, use our library, swimming pool, Waterside, Railway Station and use the many community organisations in Saltash, also to enjoy our lovely surrounding environment.

Some of my personal aims are to see Saltash gain its single use "Plastic Free Award", to use more environmentally friendly ways to manage the land owned by Saltash Town Council.



Work with the youth in Saltash via Saltash Town Council Team for Youth Project.

To engage more with our residents and listen to their issues and ideas.

Lastly a year of getting things done!

## New Mayor will work for a Greener way for Saltash

Saltash's newly selected first citizen fulfils all the requirements of a Mayor. "He is someone who we can trust, is honest and we know will do what is right," stated Councillor David Yates in formally proposing Councillor Richard Bickford.

The Mayor Making ceremony in the Guildhall was attended by visiting dignitaries including the mayors of neighbouring towns and the Lord Mayor of Plymouth. Councillor Bickford emphasised the individuality of Cornwall, but stated that he hoped to build stronger relations with Plymouth. "What is good for South East Cornwall is good for us, and vice versa," he said.

The new Mayor went on to say that Saltash is a town in which it is a pleasure to live and work, a town where

some amazing celebrations for the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

It was an honour to be Mayor during this unique and very special four days of celebration, which saw many events across the town, with street parties taking place, as well as larger organised events.

On Thursday 2nd June, Brian Whipp, a former Town Crier 'cried' a proclamation, which was then repeated by 8 year old Nelima Hunt, a young resident of Saltash. Later in the day hundreds of people joined the parade to Saltash Waterside. It was a

real pleasure to feel the town walking alongside us on our route to Jubilee Green where several thousand people amassed to watch the formalities leading up to a beacon lighting and magnificent firework display over the River Tamar. On such an evening, there is no better place than by the Tamar, the celebrations capped it off.

On the Saturday, sadly the Saltash Lions Jubilee event was beaten by the weather, but always determined to carry on, the bouncy castle event was quickly rescheduled for the Sunday, where many had a great time.

Festivities were drawn to a close on Sunday afternoon, when the whole town centre was closed to traffic for what must be the biggest street party ever held in Saltash, possibly Cornwall. Over 100 tables were dressed and surrounded by so many people it was hard to take it all in. We were pleased to welcome James Kitson, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant who represented the Queen on this special occasion. James led a toast which was followed by a very special rendition of the national anthem by local singer Roxie Grew.

Many thanks to the Mayfair

team, with some financial help from the Town Council, who put the event on, it's always hard work with such a small team, but everyone I spoke to had such a good time, so thank you, from everyone who was able to attend.

I'll just finish with a thanks to our Town Council staff who have worked their socks off over the last month, with more events and activities to support, alongside the many normal tasks they have to keep going. A big thank you to our small but excellent team.

*Councillor Richard Bickford  
Mayor of Saltash 2022-23*

## Your Town Council & Wards

### Saltash Essa:

1. Cllr Richard Bickford  
[r.bickford@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:r.bickford@saltash.gov.uk)
2. Cllr Rachel Bullock  
[r.bullock@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:r.bullock@saltash.gov.uk)
3. Cllr Gloria Challen  
[g.challen@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:g.challen@saltash.gov.uk)
4. Cllr Matt Griffiths  
[m.griffiths@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:m.griffiths@saltash.gov.uk)
5. Cllr Jon Foster  
[jon.foster@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:jon.foster@saltash.gov.uk)
6. Cllr Sheila Lennox-Boyd  
[s.lennox-boyd@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:s.lennox-boyd@saltash.gov.uk)

### Saltash Tamar:

1. Cllr Lewis Challen  
[l.challen@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:l.challen@saltash.gov.uk)
2. Cllr Sarah Gillies  
[s.gillies@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:s.gillies@saltash.gov.uk)
3. Cllr Sarah Martin  
[s.martin@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:s.martin@saltash.gov.uk)
4. Cllr Julia Peggs  
[j.peggs@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:j.peggs@saltash.gov.uk)
5. Cllr Pete Samuels  
[p.samuels@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:p.samuels@saltash.gov.uk)
6. Cllr Jean Dent  
[j.dent@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:j.dent@saltash.gov.uk)

### Saltash Trematon:

1. Cllr Steve Miller  
[s.miller@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:s.miller@saltash.gov.uk)
2. Cllr Brenda Samuels  
[b.samuels@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:b.samuels@saltash.gov.uk)
3. Cllr Brian Stoyel  
[b.stoyel@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:b.stoyel@saltash.gov.uk)
4. Cllr Yates  
[d.yates@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:d.yates@saltash.gov.uk)

### Mayor:

Cllr Richard Bickford

### Deputy Mayor:

Cllr Julia Peggs

### Town Clerk:

Sinead Burrows  
T: 844846  
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  
E: [enquiries@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@saltash.gov.uk) W: [www.saltash.gov.uk](http://www.saltash.gov.uk)  
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the people are friendly and there are numerous organisations run by countless volunteers.

Having been the driving force for the acquisition and restoration of the station building, now known as Isambard House, the Mayor anticipated that his top priority for his mayoral year would be to see Saltash Town Council move towards a greener way of doing business

and make sustainable efforts to support the planet.

Councillor Julia Peggs was nominated as Deputy Mayor by Councillor Jean Dent, who remarked upon her family history at Saltash Waterside and her busy activities as an active member of the council. In reply, the Deputy Mayor spoke emotionally of the great privilege in accepting the role, and said she looked forward to supporting the

newly appointed Mayor, working for the town that she loves.

In accordance with ancient tradition, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor with their consorts then tossed pennies and fruit from the window to children gathered below, including members of Saltash

Brownies, fresh from a litter pick in Coombe Woods.

The civic party and guests then adjourned for refreshments to Isambard House, a fitting venue following the work done by the new Mayor in transforming the building into a valuable community asset.

**[maryecrawford@hotmail.com](mailto:maryecrawford@hotmail.com)  
[www.saltash-observer.co.uk](http://www.saltash-observer.co.uk)**



## Where is the Funding for SE Cornwall?

So here we are the other side of the Jubilee celebrations and yet again the Saltash community did us proud. Saltash Town Council fireworks and beacon lighting in line with the Queen's wishes were a fantastic way to initiate her 70th year on Thursday evening, and the Sunday afternoon Big Jubilee Lunch street party on Fore Street made a fitting finale. Over 1,000 people including town centre traders, local organisations and community groups set up tables on Fore Street to celebrate and it was a wonderful way to round off the events. So thanks to Chamber members like Hilary Frank and Jo Baskott and other volunteers for all their hard work in setting the stage for the Big Jubilee Lunch - it was appreciated by all who were there.

### Public Consultation

Now it's back to business as usual and I want to use this column to raise the National Highways A38 public consultation with you. The consultation started on 10th June and is on a set of proposals to improve safety on the road between Carkeel and Trerulefoot, a stretch that is riddled with cluster hot spots for collisions and sees far too many fatalities. National Highways are asking for us to feedback on how we feel about the set of improvements they

have proposed, including average speed cameras. I attended a Consultation Launch meeting, and was disappointed to see the complete lack of economic reasoning for improving the road. This is quite the opposite, in fact, to the Case for Action which local campaigners presented to the Department for Transport back in 2018, which was based entirely on the economic benefits of improving this vital part of the strategic road network in this corner of Cornwall.

The scope of the proposals being presented now are limited to a remit outlined by the Department for Transport. Alongside some safety measures, they include piecemeal measures to enhance journey times and save wear and tear on vehicles, but not much else. Neither the economic fallout of closing such a vital road due to accidents nor the impact on individual businesses when they lose hours out of their business day trying to circumnavigate road closures around narrow country lanes seems to be a factor in improving the road. In fact, the economic impact of having a substandard road servicing the South East of Cornwall seems irrelevant to the Department for Transport! This is at a time when Plymouth is achieving Freeport status, and you would think as a close neighbour we

## Summer Youth Activities Need Further Funding

Summer activities for young people at The Core Youth Centre are already fully booked. The waiting list is leaving youth leaders looking for further funding to extend the three weeks of activities they have planned to engage and inspire young people over the summer holidays. Livewire, the town's other main youth centre, is also busy to near capacity with a need for extra support for its team helping young people living with mental health issues.

These were two of the items addressed in the report on Safer Saltash given by Councillor Sheila Lennox-Boyd to Saltash Town Council. Safer

Saltash is a network of partners including the police and Cornwall Council working together to develop sustainable solutions to improving community safety and reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.

Concern was expressed regarding the new pedestrian crossing on Callington Road, near Brunel School, and it was reported that children had been advised not to use it following several near misses. It was also reported that police had recently issued two warnings regarding anti-social behaviour, although the situation in Saltash has been quiet in the main.

should be benefitting from the investment and improvements this will generate. Instead in Cornwall, £75m is being spent to link St Austell to the A30 via an improved trunk road, and SE Cornwall misses out yet again.

I know this sorry state of affairs will have an impact on the livelihood of our local businesses, so if you, like me, would like to respond to the Public Consultation and tell them it's just not good enough then make sure you do before 22nd July at: <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/a38-trerulefoot-to-carkeel>

## Leisure Centre's Future

Good news about the future of Saltash Leisure Centre, which last year was threatened with closure, was passed to Saltash Town Council by Cornwall Councillor Sheila Lennox-Boyd, who said that the building is being enhanced and its regular users growing in number.

There were 608 paid up members at the end of April, moving towards the target of 1,000. Refugees, including those from Ukraine, who can prove their legal status are being offered three months free membership. There are now 500 swimming school members, almost up to the 550 pre-Covid level.

Meanwhile, work on maintaining the building continues, with poolside showers being replaced and the tiles upgraded, new air conditioning installed in the dance studio and the gym, steel structures remedied and plans for solar panels to enhance energy savings.

## Oksana Says Thank You Saltash

The Observer spoke with Oksana Pelaheieva, who has moved from Ukraine with her friend Dariia Khomych to live with sponsors in Saltash.

**Observer:** Welcome to Saltash, Oksana, your British home. Where is your home in Ukraine?

**Oksana:** I'm from Kyiv and my friend, Dariia, is from the city of Nizhyn in the Chernyiv region. We are glad to be in a safe place here in Saltash, but every day on the news we see that Russia is bombing our homes, and we are worried about our families. Our hearts are always in Ukraine.

**Observer:** You arrived here a few weeks ago. What has surprised you most?

**Oksana:** We have been surprised and moved by the Ukrainian flags in windows and flying proudly on buildings. They are everywhere! Knowing that you support us gladdens our hearts, even though it makes us cry a little, too.

**Observer:** So you have felt welcomed here in Saltash?

**Oksana:** Oh. Certainly. Our hosts are truly kind, and we are glad to be here. Nature is unbelievably beautiful, too.

**Observer:** What would you like to achieve while you are here?

**Oksana:** We want to find jobs so we can support our relatives. But also, we would like to organise the Ukrainian community to help support Ukrainians living here. And we have big plans about setting up cultural exchange events to strengthen connections, like showing Ukrainian films with English subtitles or cooking food. We have already cooked *varenyky* for our hosts. It's our Ukrainian national dish, a bit like dumplings with different fillings.

**Observer:** What do you think of the food here?

**Oksana:** Cornish pasties are delicious, but we are not so keen on Marmite!

**Observer:** And do you have a message for people in Saltash?

**Oksana:** We are incredibly grateful to our hosts Stephanie and Carol, to Saltash people in particular and to British people in general. And we want to ask you to remember Ukraine. Articles about the invasion may take up just a short space of time on the news, but for us we have lived in the shadow of Russia all our lives. So we need you to know the truth about the situation, and to understand what is really happening.

**Observer:** Thank you, Oksana. These are harrowing times for you and your country, but we hope we can help ease the pain.

**Oksana:** Thank you.

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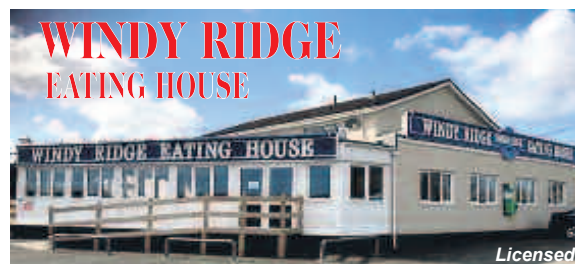
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# Sky Lights up at Town's Jubilee Celebrations



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The late sunshine of an early summer's evening glowed in Victoria Gardens, bedecked in red, white and blue, as the Saltash Town Band struck up and the town's official tributes to Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee got underway.

A buzz of excitement had been growing as crowds converged on Victoria Gardens, which themselves commemorate the jubilee of another long-lived and well-loved monarch. Then the band led councillors, dignitaries, including Sheryll Murray MP, and representatives of youth organisations down a Fore Street bedecked with bunting and adorned with red, white and blue flowers. Crowds lining the streets fell in line behind the procession as it weaved its way down to Waterside and its apt destination Jubilee Green, named after Her Majesty's first 25 years of reign.

Thousands appeared to have gathered as Mayor Richard Bickford welcomed all and thanked the busy team who had put the event together. There was time for people to socialise and enjoy the sight of the sun going down as the town band entertained with apt music such as 'The British Grenadiers' and 'Rule Britannia.'

The plaintive sound of the bagpipes played by Dave Parry introduced the official opening of the Jubilee celebrations.



Then, as members of local choirs joined to sing 'A Life Filled with Grace' for Her Majesty, the Mayor lit a beacon that flickered into flame simultaneously with 3,000 others across the kingdom. A flurry of flag-waving greeted the flames before the crowds moved across to Brunel Green for the finale of the evening when fireworks lit the River Tamar and the hills of Cornwall and Devon, heralding a long weekend of glorious celebrations fit for a Queen.

## Community Spirit in Town's Oldest Council Estate



A street on the first council estate in Saltash, built in 1938 and with the finest view of the River Tamar, came together as a vibrant community for the Platinum Jubilee weekend.

Lander Road is in what was formerly known as 'Lower Estate' but is now called Tamara. In the past, it has sometimes had a dubious reputation, explained party co-ordinator Marlene Earl, and residents were eager to celebrate all that is good about their neighbourhood. Almost every home was decorated with bunting and flags for the weekend. On the Sunday afternoon, games were prepared for young children, while food and drink were set out in open gardens for neighbours stroll along and enjoy together.

"The VE day celebration we held after lockdown was such a success that we decided to do it again on a larger scale," Marlene told us. "Many people had known each other for years but never really talked. That has changed now." Everybody was invited, including people who had grown up on the estate but moved away. Past memories were recalled with displays from the full Elizabethan era, including pre-decimal coins and bank notes, as well as souvenirs of the Falklands War and Channel Tunnel building. One lady proudly showed us the dress that her mother had worn on her wedding day in coronation year 1953 along with a picture of her daughter in the very same dress. "I can't get into it," she sighed.

There were also coronation mugs and fascinating pictures of local homes and residents from the 1940s and 50s, days when there had been a vibrant, tangible community spirit. "It has been a brilliant day. A revival of that community spirit!" concluded fellow co-ordinator Mike A Lee.

## Jubilee Tea at the Waterside

An afternoon tea, such as might be served at a royal Garden Party, was Ashtorre Rock Community Centre's contribution to the Jubilee celebrations. The building on Ashtorre Rock was established by Watersider and Ferryman Gerald Truscott to recreate the community spirit of the old Saltash Waterside, and his daughter, Chairman Lynn Marsh, welcomed One and All who packed the crowded and brightly decorated tables.

The old Waterside community was still flourishing when our Queen was crowned, and some who were born and raised there were exchanging memories over the teacups. From the panoramic windows they could see history sail by as the old Tamar barge 'Lynher' passed by in resplendent full sail, forging her watery path among the modern yachts.

Afternoon tea delicacies included cucumber sandwiches (crustless of course) and scones with cream above the jam, in Cornish style as her majesty reportedly prefers. There was Victoria Sponge, too, prompting tales of the Saltash celebrations for a different jubilee celebrated well over a century ago.



# Jubilee Togetherness Along the Length of Fore Street

More than a thousand people took their places at tables set out along the full length of Fore Street to join the Big Jubilee Lunch street party, organised by Saltash May Fair Committee on the Sunday of the Platinum Jubilee weekend. Guest of honour was Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall James Kitson, whose first duty was to unveil two magnificent mosaics marking the Jubilee. Made of 'dock dung china' collected by children and donated by members of the public, the pieces had been placed with great care by children of Brunel, Burraton, St. Stephens and Bishop Cornish schools, and will be put on permanent display in the town later this year. Children representing each school were at the unveiling, with Riley (10) of St Stephens School saying he had gathered pieces of china for the mosaics from the foreshore around Forder.

The Mayor and Mayoress mingled with guests, as did the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, who paused to cut the Saltash Brownies' Platinum Jubilee cake and sample a slice, which he pronounced as "delicious." More cake was cut later at the Community Kitchen, which was pronounced as "equally delicious."

While tables had all been pre-booked many people were walking around greeting friends, enjoying the atmosphere of togetherness, and sharing food. The lively buzz of conversation stopped at 1pm as all stood to toast Her Majesty's unprecedented 70 years of loyal service and sing the national anthem together, ably led by local talent Roxie Grew. Later, as the music being played through the loudspeakers changed to tunes like Space Man and Sweet Caroline there was merry dancing in the street.

In a message, the Queen said: I have been inspired by the kindness, joy and kinship that have been so evident in recent days, and I hope this renewed sense of togetherness will be felt for many years to come.

Events in Saltash to mark the Jubilee, from the official Beacon Lighting Ceremony through to neighbourly street parties in different corners of Saltash, the Big and Bounce event organised by Saltash Lions, and the communal effort of hundreds in making mosaics brought the strong Saltash spirit of community togetherness to the fore as well as to Fore Street, and will surely leaving lasting memories for all for generations.



## All the Fun of the Fete!

Reputed to be one of the longest established Town Bands in Cornwall, the Saltash Town Band was honoured once again to lead the Civic Procession onto the Forder Green for the historic Forder Village Fete, leading Saltash Deputy Mayor Councillor Julia Peggs and Councillor Rachel Bullock. Also in the Procession was Chair of the Forder Community and Conservation Association Bryan Baker, and their Patron Sue Hooper.

Councillor Peggs opened the Forder Fete, and thanked all concerned in the organisation of the event.

Due to the warm day of sunshine, hundreds of people once again attended the Fete, which boasted cream teas, barbeque, face painting, white elephant, book stall, splat the rat, garden plants and home baked produce, plus many other stalls to encourage the keen purchasers to snap up a bargain. The stunning Saltash Town Band was the major attraction of the afternoon, and the audience was not disappointed.

The Band played to an extremely appreciative audience, an array of well-known songs and marches. The Floral Dance made famous by the late Terry Wogan, received rapturous applause.

There were some most enjoyable highlights too especially when 9 year old Neythen Powell-Jones played a beautiful solo rendition of a piece called 'Rhiannon' - which was composed for his big sister of the same name when she was 10 years old, as a Christmas present. The Composer Craig Stevens was the principal comet of the Langley Band in the Midlands. Craig is a brass teacher, conductor and composer. It was the first performance of this piece for Neythen at the Forder Fete.

Ali Ellis, Mandy Winn and Andy Knight played most humorously a Trombone Trio 'Dem Bones', much to delight of admiring audience.

John Hooper, a regular at the Fete, was delighted when Neil Ellis the Band's MD invited him to play the Bass Drum for many of the musical numbers. John had played Bass Drum for the Band on numerous occasions in the past before his heart surgery.

Saltash Town Band boasts many loyal and longstanding players; the Townson family has four playing members - Martyn, Donna, Temujin and Marna (trainee).

Another group of Band member's total service adds up to 188 years, with the Saltash Town Band - Martyn Townson (43 years) Roger Fulcher (38 years), Tina Fulcher (37 years) and Demelza Axford (35 years).

The grand 'Finale' of the Forder Fete, was the wonderful and colourful display of Spinnakers adorning the small dinghies of the Saltash Sailing Cadets who had especially sailed up competitively from their base, the Saltash Sailing Club.

The Deputy Mayor Councillor Julia Peggs presented the winning Cadets with prizes and awards, at the same time she thanked all concerned for such an outstanding occasion.

Flowers and gifts were presented to Councillor Peggs at the end of the day.

## Forder Celebrate with Nigel's Jubilee Pudding

Saltash has truly celebrated lovingly the Queen's Platinum Jubilee! With sincere thanks to all the organisers, contributors and participants from every quarter! Forder village also put on an amazing Jubilee Tea for the villagers, neighbours and family and friends. It was a joyous occasion, and the speciality was Nigel's Jubilee Pudding! Happy and Glorious!

Thank you Forder folk for a wonderful Jubilee time.

God Save Our Gracious Queen!



## ADVANCE WARNING

### Roads closed for:

### Saltash Regatta 2022

Old Ferry Road (Pounds Park East TO Lower Fore Street) 06:00 - 20:30 SAT & SUN  
Lower Fore Street (Lower Fore Street TO Tamar Quay) 06:00 - 20:30 SAT & SUN  
Lower Fore Street (Old Ferry Road TO Old Ferry Road/Ferry Street) 06:00 - 20:30 SAT & SUN  
Fore Street (Chapel Lane) 10:30 - 10:45 SAT  
Lower Fore Street (Full Length) 10:30 - 10:45 SAT  
Old Ferry Road (Lander Green TO Antares Slipway) 10:00 - 21:00 THU

2ND - 4TH SEPTEMBER 2022

### Parking Restrictions for:

### Saltash Regatta 2022

Pounds Park (Old Ferry Road TO 65 Pounds Park) (External Side)  
Pounds Park (Old Ferry Road TO 7 Pounds Park) (External Side)  
Old Ferry Road (Pounds Park West TO Pounds Park East)  
Old Ferry Road (Home Park Road TO Waterfront Car Park)  
Lower Fore Street (05 Lower Fore Street TO 103 Lower Fore Street)  
Seven Street (Albert Road TO Albert Train Bridge)  
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### HOPPER TRIPS – JULY 2022

Monday 4th July

Totnes/River Dart Cruise to Dartmouth

Travel to Totnes by the Hopper board a Cruise

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A chance to explore Dartmouth & have Lunch

You will be met by the Hopper with a stop for

afternoon tea at China Blue & back to Saltash

Saltash - 09.15 return 17.00 - Hopper Travel £12

Sunday 10th July

Sunday Lunch at Fisherman's Cott, Bickleigh

4.5 star rating located in a beautiful setting

On the River Bank staff helpful food reported

to be absolutely delicious

Leave Saltash 10.30 - return 16.30 - Hopper

Travel £14

Monday 18th July

Tour of Carnglaze Cavern or

visit Trago Mills Liskeard

We are visiting both venues you can choose on

the day where you would like to spend your day.

Meet up with other travellers at the end of the day

Leave Saltash 10.30 - return 16.30 - Hopper

Travel £7

Sunday 24th July

Sunday lunch at Lifton Hall

5 star rating cosy homely lovely staff

Amazing food beautiful location

Return Journey via Tavistock

Leave Saltash 10.30 - return 16.30 - Hopper

Travel £7

Friday 29th July

South Devon Railway/Butterfly

Farm/Otter Sanctuary

A chance to choose from a number of activities

on one site at Buckfastleigh ride on a Steam Train

visit the Butterfly Farm or Otter Sanctuary

or just relax and have some lunch and go for a walk.

Leave Saltash - 10.30 - Return 16.30 - Hopper

Travel £9.

### HOPPER TRIPS - AUGUST 2022

Early warning! Trips being planned for August ...

Register your interest Now!

Tour of St Austell Brewery

Budleigh Salterton/Sidmouth Donkey Sanctuary

Sunday Lunch at Darbridge Inn, Buckfastleigh

Ashburton & Moretonhampstead via The Moor

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## Conundrum Corner

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

- 1 How was Erich Weiss better known? (7)
- 2 What is the Capital of Greenland? (4)
- 3 In the Bible stories what was the name of Cain and Abel's brother? (4)
- 4 What word describes the Japanese art of Flower Arrangement? (7)
- 5 On which River does the City of Rome stand? (5)
- 6 What name is given to a Hymn or Psalm at the beginning of a Church Service? (7)
- 7 Frogs, Toads, Newts and Salamanders belong to which class of Vertebrates? (10)
- 8 What term describes a long drink made from White Wine and Soda Water? (8)
- 9 Which is Scotland's longest River? (3)

Answers on page 7

## Four Free Ways to Connect With Our Local Community

This June, we enjoyed two consecutive bank holidays to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Whether or not you're a royalist, Elizabeth II is the first British monarch to achieve 70 years' reign and this is something we're unlikely to see again in our lifetime. A major focus of the celebrations has been to connect people and unite communities. Maybe you can now start to connect more with your community and make a difference too? Here are a few ideas...

### Plant a green legacy

The whole UK is being invited to take part in the Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) by planting a tree. Apart from the obvious environmental impact that more trees will make to our planet, spending time in nature has been widely recognised as having a positive effect on our wellbeing – reducing stress, lowering blood pressure and



Tim Squires Debt Centre Manager  
Christians Against Poverty Saltash  
Book an appointment with him by calling 0800 328 0006 or email [timsquires@capuk.org](mailto:timsquires@capuk.org)

improving mood. The QGC is giving away hundreds of thousands of trees to schools and communities this year, so that everyone in the UK has the chance to take part. Find out if you can order a tree by going to [queensgreencanopy.org/get-involved/communities-and-groups](http://queensgreencanopy.org/get-involved/communities-and-groups).

### Be a volunteer

One of the few positives people took from the COVID-19 lockdowns was the renewed sense of community it forged between neighbours. The Jubilee celebrations, amongst others, have enabled us to be out and about together again. Do make the most of all the community events that are organised in our great town – and maybe it's time for you to be a volunteer and offer to help too?

### Celebrate people giving back

June is also Volunteer Week, which recognises the huge impact that individuals make to their communities. This year's theme is 'a time to say

## Voice of Saltash Patients

Column written by Patient Participation Group members at the Health Centre and Port View Surgery

A big thank you to those patients who gave their views to us about local health care during the May Fair. We are feeding your views back to the Practices to secure improvements where needed.

The majority of patients are happy with the service and treatment they receive, and some are very complimentary, despite the restrictions which followed

thanks' – a moment to show gratitude to those who give their time, energy and service to local charities, organisations and people. Is there someone you know who you would appreciate a 'thank you'?

### Ask for help

Summer is often a time to connect, relax and have fun with others! Celebrations don't have to be expensive. If you or someone you know is struggling with finances, Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is on hand to offer practical, emotional and holistic support. Our free services are available to everyone. Visit [capuk.org](http://capuk.org) to find out more or call 0800 328 0006 to book a free debt help appointment.

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

Covid. One patient remarked "everyone is helpful and pleasant". The things that disappointed you most were: getting through on the phone and difficulties in getting appointments with doctors, especially face-to-face - but some of you did appreciate receiving a personal phone call from a GP instead.

Summing it up, we came to the view that Practices need to help patients understand how the appointment system is meant to work, and to improve 2-way communication. Problems seem to arise mainly because of the massive demands made on staff each day, especially when the Practice has absences for illness and staff vacancies.

Our next feature will be about the work of Patient Advisers/Coordinators.

To contact or join your PPG, we have a page on the websites of both Practices. Keep your comments coming!

**Contact the Observer**  
**01579 345699**  
**07971 484872**

## Whippy Ice Cream Fundraiser in Memory of Graham Horne



The Horne family would like to thank everyone who came along for a whippy ice cream in memory of Graham Horne and to raise money for the local Plymouth & District Bowel Cancer Support Group on Friday 27 May 2022.

Graham lived in Saltash for most of his life and was well known for his building and carpentry craftsmanship.

In August 2021, Graham passed away aged 57 from bowel cancer (8 months from diagnosis). Graham always had a love for whippy ice creams and as his legacy he bought his three grandchildren Anya, Ruben and Violet an industrial whippy ice cream to remember him by.

Graham's wife, Caroline and their two daughters, Susan and Judy as well as their grandchildren were blown away by the support and had a continuous queue for three hours and sold many ice creams. The event raised a staggering £900 which is more than the family ever expected.

Wendy Wilson, founder member of the local Plymouth & District Bowel Cancer Support Group was thrilled when the Horne family, also members of the group, organised the event to raise funds for the group. 'The funds will go towards supporting the group to reach more people affected by bowel cancer'.



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## Tamar Reflections

### Winkle Fair

For Tamar Reflections this month, I had already planned to write about one of Saltash's past and exclusive events for the town, which at that time was the only town that I am aware of that staged a Winkle Fair (more later on this event).

Interestingly and coincidentally, I recently attended a most interesting and informative lecture at Isambard House, given by our own local historian, Martin Lister who was representing Saltash Heritage.

Martin's lecture, headed, 'Saltash Celebrates' featured Saltash Fayres, Markets and Pageants over the past nine Centuries.

Martin most eloquently reflected upon the first Market, which was held at Trematon Castle in the 12th Century, before Saltash Town began.

As Saltash developed, other Markets followed and were principally held at Alexandra Square. These Markets were so popular, that they expanded into other nearby parts of the Borough.

Martin advised that the first Pageant recorded was the 'Black Prince Pageant' performed in July 1914 just prior to WW1 which was declared in August of the same year. The Pageants ceased during the War, and resumed again in 1920.

Eventually Colonel Drury, who subsequently became Mayor of Saltash, took over organising the Town Pageants during 1930 and 1931.

Martin's wonderful lecture stressed that Saltash Markets and Fayres (Fairs) continued on and off from the 12th to the 21st Centuries; he mentioned the 20th

Century Saltash Winkle Fair as a unique event, and this is where I will take over within Tamar Reflections, as part of my own detailed research.

#### Hailed the Revival

The Saltash Winkle Fair was conceived and arranged by K. A. Doney during 1951, co-founders were J. Dunsford, W. Henman, C.H.Smale, J.H. Soloman and G. Wilkinson; and was arranged as a special contribution to the Festival of Britain to embellish what was hailed as a revival of the original fair.

Winkle Fair and King Cockle solely belonged to Saltash which was always the original intention; however, its success very much depended on practical and financial support, and rested on the Courts of King Cockle to decide whether or not the Fair could continue in following years.



The Winkle Fairs of 1951 and 1952 were quite astonishing featuring local people as the acting principals.

Looking at the programme of 1952 which is amongst my historic collection, many of those taking part, became great friends of mine and my husband John over several years.

To name but a few; His Majesty King Cockle played by Trevor Soloman, Jester the diminutive Ivy Train who was one of Saltash's most engaging

characters, and so cheeky with it!

The Ambassador from Calstock was played by Stan Norsworthy; Big Chief Kokolad (of the little folks) was played by Bert Crapp.

The Royal Bargeman was played by A. Powell-Thomas and the King's protectors jointly by G.A. Nettleton and W.H. Parnell.

The Court Controller and Town Crier were J.H. Soloman and R.H. Bazly respectively; and the Chief Marshall was D.G. Channings.

The Fair also featured the Plymouth Silver Band, and the Plymouth Girls' Nautical Training Corps Drum and Bugle Band.

The Proclamation was read by His Majesty King Cockle, concerning his Coronation and Enthronement and subsequent celebrations at the Winkle Fair.

Further, be it known that for the purposes of maintenance and advancement of His Realm no adult person shall be considered a loyal subject or respected visitor ere sixpence shall have been paid to His Majesty's Tax Collectors and an immunity badge received as a receipt thereof and worn overtly.

At the Winkle Fair of 1952, the Opening Ceremony and Coronation of King Cockle was by the Mayor of Saltash, Councillor Miss W.M. Fearnside, MBE, J.P., B.A.

Others attending were, Mr D.Marshall, MP, and Mrs Marshall, The Deputy Mayor and Mayoress, Alderman & Mrs G.J. Deacon accompanied by the Aldermen and Councillors and Principal Officers of Saltash.

The Civic party left the Guildhall led by the Plymouth Silver Band and processed down to the Waterside, via Station Road and Culver Road.

#### Winkle Eating Competition

Following the Coronation, a wonderful time was had by all that attended. There was a 'Winkle eating competition' overseen by W.G. Bishop, with classes for ladies, girls, gentlemen and boys, and furthermore, the winkles and the pins were supplied!

There were 'Children's Sports' arranged by Messrs. G. Wilkinson, A.W. Bennett and W.G. Crapp. The races started for tiny tots (under 6 years) up to 15 years. Prizes were donated by local businesses: Foyles, E.R. Parker. S. Seccombe and Bismobes Ltd.

In addition, there were Pony Rides, All the Fun of the Fair, Ladies Pram Race, with good prizes presented by W.T. Glanville of the Star Hotel, the entry fee was 6d; and on Brunel Green there was a Band Concert.

The special attraction due to the cancellation of the 'Pet and Farm Animal Corner' was 'The Horse with its Head where its Tail should be'.

Refreshments were served at the Saltash Boys Club, and a Tug of War on Brunel Green. There was a costumed Carnival Parade from Longstone, featuring a walking procession, vehicles, bicycles and prams; prize monies ranged from one shilling to £3.

The Winkle Fair continued with Watersports led by King Neptune and his Court, and Mr. Gerald Truscott; also featuring Pillow Fights on Pole, Greasy Pole, Pub Crawl, Barrel Race

## A Successful Return for the Catt in the Hatt

The Catt in the Hatt Big Event took place on the Hatt Recreation Field, on Saturday 4th June 2022. An annual event but due to Covid it hasn't taken place since 2019.

The Big Event is a chance for the whole community to come together for families, neighbours and friends to enjoy the day. It's also an opportunity to raise funds for improvements to the Hatt Recreation Field. This year it was very special as we celebrated Her Majesty the Queen's 70th Platinum Jubilee.

The field was decorated with bunting galore, and many people got into the spirit by wearing red, white and blue. There was a



Ted and Rupert

and a Salmon Boat Race.

There were personal souvenirs of the Winkle Fair participants could have their photos taken with King Cockle, or in the Stocks or on the Ponies.

The whole event concluded with a grand fireworks display on the Foreshore.

The two recorded Winkle Fair events of 1951 and 1952 stated that continuance very much depended on practical and financial support, but sadly despite generous donations from many benefactors, the Fairs as we knew them then were unable to continue due to lack of finances.

In those days there were no local authority or other major funding streams like we have today, and the hard working committees and supporters had to raise all the funds themselves, which they managed to do for only two years.

The Saltash Lions made great efforts to revive the Saltash Winkle Fair a few years ago, but not on the massive scale of those held in 1951 and 1952.

Saltash however, can reflect most warmly on those wonderful two Winkle Fairs, now most affectionately recorded in our history books.

Sue Hooper MBE



licensed bar, stalls selling a variety of goods, tombola and a silent auction, bouncy castles, food outlets, a tea and cake stall and live music throughout the day. In the central arena there were a variety of games for children and adults including an egg throwing competition, ending with a very competitive tug of war competition.

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4 Ikebana 5 Tiber 6 Introit  
7 Amphibians 8 Spritzer 9  
Tay. Re-arranged the letters  
spell Stithians



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## Essa Voices

120,671 people, including two royals and one prime minister, visited the Royal Cornwall Show this year. With a history that stretches back to the founding of the Cornwall Agricultural Society in 1793, the Show has grown to become Cornwall's biggest annual event - a time and place to meet up with friends, network, conduct business and enjoy Cornwall in all its glory, whatever the weather. It's good for agriculture, good for tourism and good for the soul.

This year, it was also good for raising awareness of (and funds for) St Petrocs, a charity working to end homelessness in Cornwall. That's because each year the Royal Cornwall Show offers two charities the opportunity to raise funds across the whole of the site, and this year one of those charities was St Petrocs. The call went out for volunteers to make sure there would be yellow collection buckets in every nook and cranny of the site, so long-suffering hubby and I went over on the first day of the Show.

The people at St Petrocs believe, with a fierce passion, that no-one should be homeless in our society. They provide services including outreach, resettlement, emergency accommodation and supported accommodation. They also offer access to confidential advice and support, and have an in-house counselling service, called Freshfield. Last year alone, St Petrocs worked with 1,113 individuals, and 284 people got a roof over their heads in a St Petrocs house.

Although there was a drop in the numbers of people needing the support of St Petrocs in the years immediately before Covid, numbers have been creeping up inexorably over the last couple of years, with a 14% increase on last year so far this year. St Petrocs predicts the percentage increase will be much higher by the end of the year.

This echoes data presented at a Cornwall Council briefing I attended recently, when we were told that as many as 984 households were accepted as homeless in priority need in Cornwall in 2021/22. Notably, the percentage of people



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

citing 'Notice to Quit from a Private Sector Property' as the main reason for becoming homeless jumped from 8% in 2020/21 to 21.8% in 2021/22. A reflection, perhaps, of the increase in the number of Air BNBs in Cornwall, which has soared from 1,166 in June 2016 to 16,752 in May this year.

Recognising the acute need, and that prevention is better than cure, Cornwall Council plays an active role in Nos Da Kernow (Good Night Cornwall), working closely with stakeholders like St Petrocs and GP surgeries to respond to the early causes of homelessness. Nos Da Kernow works with people sleeping on a friend's or family member's sofa, with people who have lost their job or had benefit sanctions put in place affecting their ability to pay rent, and with single people or childless couples at risk of losing their home. The network's success rate at preventing homelessness is 96%, we were told. But we were also told that early intervention is absolutely key, so please don't wait until it is too late. Get in touch.

Tim Parkman, Minister at Saltash Baptist Church, is



concerned about an issue here in Saltash of 'transient rough sleepers' - people who have followed their dreams to Cornwall but have not been able to achieve them and are trying to head home. They reach Saltash and the Tamar Bridge becomes a 'bridge too far', both literally and metaphorically. Tim and his team have met enough transient rough sleepers in their church doorway to spur them into creating 'Saltash Hope' - a branch of the church that will galvanise social action and support people trying to cope with homelessness and debt.

Talking with St Petrocs at the Royal Cornwall Show it struck me that poverty is not only being hungry and homeless: being unloved and uncared for can often be the greatest poverty. Thank goodness for the caring people in St Petrocs, Nos Da Kernow and Saltash Baptist Church.



## Burraton Primary Pupils Celebrate The Platinum Jubilee



The pupils at Burraton School had a fantastic time celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee this week. They spent the day taking part in different activities that celebrate the life of Queen Elizabeth II such as making timelines, creating art based on the queen, singing, making games and puzzles. The younger children spent time playing traditional British games alongside the older pupils of the school. They ended the day with a whole school royal garden party with picnic food and blankets where they toasted the Queen, sang the national anthem and waved their flags. Even the school dog Bramble and Burraton Bear took part!

## BAPS Enjoy Jubilee Amongst Pomp & Splendour



Saltash Blind and Partially Sighted Club (BAPS) held their Queen's Platinum Jubilee Tea Party at Ashtorpe Rock recently to celebrate in style with all the pomp of red, white and blue hats, decorations and tableware to add to the splendour; the party was organised by their leader Shirley Evans and her dedicated team of supporters and volunteers.

Their special guests for the tea party were Sue and John Hooper, who have been long standing friends and supporters to the Club for over 30 years.

Sue delivered a very interesting talk about Queen Elizabeth II and of her 70 years Reign. Sue was very proud to have met Her Majesty the Queen face-to-face on two occasions.

Sue and John brought a large variety of colourful hats which the ladies and

gentlemen wore in the spirit of the occasion.

The afternoon rounded off most joyously with one and all singing with gusto the National Anthem.

A Glorious time was had by all!

**Observer Telephone Numbers 07971484872 or 01579 345699**



If you, or anyone you know, might be facing homelessness, call St Petrocs on 01872 264153 or Cornwall Housing on 0300 1234 161

If you are concerned about someone you have seen sleeping rough, call Streetlink on 0300 500 0914

If you have accommodation and would like to register with Cornwall Council's Dynamic Purchasing System (for accommodation on a nightly basis) or the Private Sector Lease Scheme (for accommodation on a weekly basis) send an email to [housingcommissioning@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:housingcommissioning@cornwall.gov.uk)

To contact Saltash Hope, check out their Facebook page or ring 01752 717650



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