



# SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

March 2011 - Issue 224

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## ITS COLIN FOR MAYOR, MARTIN FOR DEPUTY

A unanimous vote saw this year's Deputy Mayor Colin Oakes selected as Mayor elect of Saltash for 2011 - 2012. In proposing him current Mayor Adam Killeya described him as having done "sterling service as deputy mayor, especially in arranging the highly successful Christmas event. I am sure that he will make a splendid Mayor."

Also unanimous was the vote for Councillor Martin Gee as Deputy Mayor elect.

In proposing him the Mayor described his distinguished service over a number of years as Town and formerly District Councillor, including serving as Chairman of the critical Policy and Resources

Committee and acting as Finance Officer for some while.

Colin Oakes, who will be formally "chosen" in May, is a Plymouthian who has lived in Saltash since 1986. "I have lived in Saltash for 24 years and could not imagine living elsewhere," he proudly announced when chosen last year as Deputy Mayor. He and the Mayoress elect Marilyn have three adult sons and seven grandchildren. Having worked in the building trade he is now self employed with his own decorating business.

"I am absolutely delighted to be elected and look forward to giving something back to the town which I have enjoyed living in for so many years," he told the Observer following his election. "It will be a

challenging year for me but after serving as deputy with Adam for the last year I feel well prepared for what lies ahead."

From the Staffordshire town of Newcastle under Lyme Deputy Mayor elect Martin Gee went to university in Newcastle upon Tyne before commencing a career in accountancy broken by a short service commission in the army. It was while serving that he met with Maggie, our deputy mayoress elect, with whom he has an adult daughter, Melissa. They came to Cornwall in 1974 and settled in Saltash in 1987. Martin was elected to the Town Council in 2003 and also served as Caradon Councillor from 2003 to 2007. Now retired he feels able to take on the deputy mayoral role and told the Observer, "I am delighted and thrilled to be invited to serve the Town. I look forward to meeting even more of the people who make up the community of Saltash."

We are also delighted to confirm that as Mayor, Colin Oakes will continue the tradition, upheld by every Mayor during the nineteen years that the Observer has been brought to your door, of sharing his year with our readers through the exclusive Observer column "From the Mayor's Parlour."

## Public Square is not a priority for Town

Saltash residents would welcome a market in the town but are less than enthusiastic about a projected town square suggested for siting in Alexandra Square.

Improvements to the look of Fore Street are the most urgent need in regenerating the town centre according to a survey of local residents conducted through a questionnaire distributed with your 'Saltash Observer.' Around four hundred responses were received which was considered a reasonably good response given the length and complexity of the questions.

A massive 85% of those responding favoured improvement to the street with fronted canopies and improved pavements being among the preferred improvements. Better promotional signage was also favoured, with two thirds of respondents opting for a 'café culture' in the town centre.

Monthly markets was the favoured frequency of the 81% who voted for regular markets, with farmers' markets being the most popular type and a number expressing concern as to there being 'no tat.'

A key feature of the regeneration plan put

## TWENTY FIRST SUCCESS !!!



BCC Panto 32 a moment of love between Andy (Jess Ryan, left) and Greta (Charlotte Yellop)

Burraton Community Players' twenty-first pantomime, 'What a pantomime!' played to four enthusiastic houses at the Burraton Community Centre recently.

The original story written by Leigh Hughes, Christine Woolcock & Jill

Price told the tale of rival bakeries, kidnapped heroines, teenage gangs and rampaging senior ladies. A cast of 27 included no fewer than eight youngsters who were making their very first public performance on stage.

As with all their pantomimes and related dramatic productions, the players will soon be meeting again in order to decide which local charities will benefit from the proceeds of another successful pantomime.

Photos, taken by Martyn Cowling

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## PARKING REVENUE FALLS AS CHARGE RISES

A doubling of the charge for the first hour's parking in Saltash, from ten pence to twenty pence, has resulted in empty parking spaces and reduced revenue for Cornwall Council. Far from bringing in extra money to a cash-strapped council the hike has reduced the income to Cornwall as well as discouraged residents from shopping locally.

Any further increase is therefore likely to be adverse not only to local traders but to Cornwall's coffers, argues County Councillor Derek Holley. He has argued long and hard for parking rates in Saltash to be limited to thirty pence maximum for one hour to keep shoppers in town and

discourage them from travelling to nearby Plymouth. While his arguments appeared to meet with favour from fellow councillors it is feared that Cornwall's Cabinet, who have the final say may insist on a fifty pence minimum charge as standard across the County.

Now visit.... [www.saltash-observer.co.uk](http://www.saltash-observer.co.uk)

forward, a town square as a centre for community activities, was favoured by only a narrow majority, 55%, with 34% against and 24% having no preference.

The Alexandra Square site favoured by the recent regeneration study was also the preferred site of those who responded with Regal House the second favourite. As to the features of such a town square, seating, landscaping, an open multi-use area and a café were, in that order, the most supported. Those suggestions which were opposed by the majority and found little favour were a beer garden, a big screen (as in Plymouth's Armada Way) a covered car park and a new shopping area.

The Town Council will now give further consideration as to how to regenerate the Town Centre shopping area in the light of these opinions.

Money for such development has been made available by the Town's out-of-town supermarkets as a condition of planning permission being granted and more such money was anticipated in the event of Tesco receiving permission to build a store at Carkeel.

However, it has already

been agreed by the Town Council that a town square should not be a priority at the present in view of the low public interest in it at present. This was agreed by 8 votes to 4 with one abstention.

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## FROM THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR...

Firstly this month many congratulations to our new Mayor Elect Colin Oakes, and Deputy Mayor Elect Martin Gee, chosen unanimously by the town council to take office in May. I greatly appreciate the job that Colin and Marilyn have done as Deputy Mayor and Mayoress this year and know that they will do a splendidly next year, especially with the able support of Martin and Maggie as their own Deputies.

Unfortunately I was also very disappointed this last month that the House of Lords finally voted not to protect the Cornish border, and that therefore Cornwall will have to share at least one MP with Devon – this may well be in the Saltash but we will not know for sure until later. Many thanks to all of who supported the campaign to 'Keep Cornwall Whole' and we will be fighting to get this changed back in the future.

Meanwhile the council has agreed to make a statement about exactly where Saltash is, by displaying about 40 St Piran's flags along Fore St – a gesture, but one that emphasises how proud Saltash is to be in Cornwall. On that same subject please be aware that it is very important to Cornwall, particularly to how much government funding we get, to fill in your census form this month and make sure they know that you exist! Each person who fills in the form is worth about £330 per year in funding to Cornwall, which means that the 25,000 Cornish Residents who didn't fill their forms in last time costs us about £80 million over 10 years! If you wish you can also write in 'Cornish' for your national identity, ethnic identity or language and they will definitely still count it!

This month Merryn and I

attended the Gala Concert of the Saltash Music, Speech and Drama Festival, the Craffhole Table Tennis Club 25th Anniversary Cheese and Wine at Antony Village Hall, Liskeard Civic Service, and the St Austell Mayor's Ball. I also attended the Burraton Players Panto (on my own, as the Mayoress was in it!) and the 103rd Birthday Party of Mrs Burden at St Barnabas.

In addition I have attended several meetings on such diverse topics as Local Council in Cornwall, the Mayor's Ball, Town Council Staffing Structure, Cornish Identity and many more. I was particularly delighted to see that we got hundreds of very detailed responses to our consultation on improving the town centre, and with a very positive reaction to the ideas in it. The Town Council, CIC, traders and investors are now sitting down together and making sense of all the details to see what we can practically do within the next few months to turn this positive response into real action.

As we get closer to Spring I'm also looking forward, sort of, to my Parachute Jump with the Red Devils on 23rd March which will also raise money for my Mayor's Charity Fund, particularly the Saltash Community First Responders. Many thanks to those who are already sponsoring me – any other offers would be most welcome (n.b. to those who have been kind enough to ask – the Parachute is NOT negotiable no matter how much you sponsor me) Finally, last month I mentioned that the Saltash Royal British Legion are looking to set up a Saltash Women's Section, for which they need 15 founder members – anyone interested should contact Geraldine Gardner – 840633 or gedandtony@blueyonder.co.uk

Councillor Adam Killeya  
Town Mayor

## IT IS ALL HAPPENING FOR LADIES CHOIR

The Saltash Ladies enjoyed a lovely lunch at Heskyn Mill on 22nd January.

### REFUSE COLLECTION CHANGES CONSIDERED

Saltash homes may be limited to fortnightly collections of general refuse if Cornwall follows other authorities in seeking to cut collection costs and promote recycling.

Cornwall Council is currently considering two alternatives. One is to retain the current weekly rubbish collection but with weekly recycling collection not fortnightly as at present.

The alternative option considered is fortnightly waste collection and weekly recycling.

This would help Cornwall in boosting its recycling, which is already rising highly in comparison with other local authorities, towards the 90% target set by Europe.

"All precedents show that when there is an enhanced recycling regime the weekly amount of general waste to be collected goes down, at vast saving to the tax-payer," County Councillor Colin Riches told the Town Council. "Not only does this reduce the cost of landfill and the tax paid on it, it could avoid the need to build a waste incinerator in Mid-Cornwall at great public expense." He reassured the Town Council that a weekly food waste collection would continue.

The recycling centre at Carkeel, used by many local residents, is not threatened with closure, we have been reassured.

### CONUNDRUM CORNER

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

- 1 Specifically, with which type of films do you associate actor Bela Lugosi?
- 2 Which meat is most regularly cut into noisettes?
- 3 What is the name of the hooked stick used by anglers to land large fish?
- 4 Which town in Somerset is the legendary burial place of King Arthur?
- 5 What name is given to a narrow strip of land connecting two larger land areas?
- 6 Which Roman wall was built to separate England and Scotland?
- 7 What name is given to Kettle Drums in an orchestra?
- 8 Which animals were used as balls in the croquet game in Alice's Adventures in Wonderland?
- 9 What word is used to describe a creature that lacks a backbone?

Answers on Page 7

They have plans for a varied programme of concerts for the year ahead. On Saturday 5th March – St Pirans Day, Brixham Orpheus Choir and the Riviera Singing joined Saltash Ladies for a concert at St Nicholas and St Faith's in aid of Help for Heroes, this was a return visit for the Brixham Choirs as Saltash sang with them in Torquay last June.

Saltash Ladies now practice at St Nicholas and St Faith's every Wednesday at 7.30 pm. They will hold their AGM on 30th March at 7.45 pm

The choir will have their usual stall at Saltash May Fair on 30th April again raising funds for Help for Heroes. We always give a warm welcome to new members and supporters. Why not stop by and say hello.

Looking ahead to 21st May, we are having a concert in aid of Saltash Live at Home Scheme and will have the Essex Police Choir visiting us on June 3rd. We have also been invited to sing with Holman Climax Male Voice at Camborne on 11th June.

For further information regarding concert bookings or information of coming to join us please contact the Secretary Cicely Sharp on 01752 842686.

## GYM SLIP SOUGHT FOR SCHOOL DISPLAY

A brown gym slip as worn by generations of school girls is being sought to dress a mannequin at this year's exhibition in Saltash Museum.

The exhibition to be entitled 'Please Sir!' will portray the changing face of education through the ages. Other costumes including that of a teacher complete with gown and mortar board, have been located but a gym slip suitable for a child of around eight is urgently needed as a donation or on loan until the end of the year.

Other items still being sought are a school bell, a school clock, and a blackboard rubber – which some might recall being used as an alarming weapon against an inattentive student. Any cups or other awards are also welcomed on loan or as donations.

Anyone with a suitable item to help enhance the exhibition is asked to telephone or call into the Local History Centre, above the Museum at the bottom of Fore Street, on Wednesday afternoon, Friday evening or Saturday morning, telephone 01752 848466. Otherwise the Secretary can be contacted at other times on 01752 847800.

The exhibition will be open in April and run through until the Autumn.

## TOWN COUNCIL 'VERY DISAPPOINTED' AT LIBRARY CUTS

Saltash Town Council has expressed its dismay at the news that the town's library is to lose 9.5 hours per week – equivalent to more than a day. The library is one of the best used in Cornwall, and is also home to the towns 'one-stop shop' for Cornwall Council services

The council has also called on residents to 'use or lose' the library, as Cornwall Council cuts may continue in future years, and libraries with falling user-numbers may lose further opening hours.

Town Mayor, Cllr Adam Killeya, said "We understand that Cornwall Council has tried to be fair in equalising the opening hours in towns of roughly equal size and library use. However, that doesn't change the fact that they are changing hours down not up. This will reduce a vital and cherished service to residents, as well as cutting jobs or hours for our excellent and helpful library staff"

He added "It is very disappointing that it also slashes the opening hours of our 'one-stop shop': these access points to Cornwall Council were at one time heralded as the bastions of localism"

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## LIBRARY REMAINS BUT HOURS REDUCED

The good news for local readers is that Saltash Library's future is secure. Cornwall Council is seeking to save £1 million in Library services and closure of some lesser used branches has been considered.

The amount of visits, enquiries, and borrowing, from Saltash Library puts it in the middle of "Group Two", that is of libraries serving medium sized towns in Cornwall, County Councillors have advised the Town Council. The usage is eighth overall in Cornwall, which is acceptable for the seventh largest settlement in Cornwall.

The less good news is that as part of the Cornwall Library economies opening hours will be reduced by nine and a half hours a week. It is presently open all day each weekday and on Saturday mornings. The decision is yet to be announced as to whether it will close for

one full day or open reduced hours on each day.

The more the Library is used and enjoyed, the less risk there is of future consideration for closure, Town Councillors agreed, urging local residents to "use your local Library or lose it." They also expressed their appreciation of the friendly and professional team of librarians who manage it.

The likelihood is, we are informed, that the library will be closed on Wednesdays. This would mean reverting to a five day a week opening, as was the practice until a few years ago.

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## MAYOR FOR THE HIGH JUMP

The Mayor of Saltash is to take part in a tandem parachute jump with the Red Devils on 23rd March, to raise money for his Mayor's Charity Fund.

The jump will take place in Dunkerswell, and the main beneficiary will be the Saltash First Responders who provide emergency support to patients before the ambulance can get there. They are hoping to buy some more defibrillators to enable them to provide 24 hour cover in Saltash.

The mayor has a sponsor form on the Guildhall notice board, but people can also email adam\_killea@yahoo.co.uk if they would like to sponsor him. The Mayor said "I was delighted to buy this great opportunity as part of Cllr Mrs Sue Hoopers auction for help for heroes when I was Deputy Mayor last year. I now want to use it to raise money for my own charity, Saltash First Responders. I am really looking forward to the jump and to a safe landing!"

### COMMON CENSUS

In late March every household in Saltash will receive a census form which they legally have to fill in. What they may not be aware of is every person identified in the census is worth about £330 per year

in funding, so that the 25,000 Cornish Residents who didn't fill their forms in last time cost Cornwall £80 million over 10 years! People may also not be aware that they can now write-in 'Cornish', if they also tick the 'other box' to the questions on National Identity, Ethnicity and Main Language (Q15, Q16 and Q18), and they will definitely be counted. This may also help Saltash to cross the point about not crossing the border for MPs in future, and of course there are many ways of being Cornish - by birth, residence, adoption, marriage or inclination!

## Call for water price review after over inflation increase in South West

Following an email from South West Water Sheryll Murray MP has called on South West Water to look at what savings could be made to reduce water prices in the South West.

The email states that "From April 1, the average annual household bill for water and sewerage services in the region is expected to increase by 5.1% to £517. Charges paid by customers will vary according to the services they receive, their tariff and water usage in the case of metered customers."

In a statement Sheryll said, "I am very aware of the important work that South West Water undertake especially in light of the flooding problems that happened last year. However I do feel that there are also savings which can be made and I am asking South West Water to look at this again and try to reduce or preferably eliminate this increase.

"I am writing to both the water company and the Minister Richard Benyon MP to see what steps can be taken immediately to reduce this burden on hard pressed families in the South West. I want them to take a close look at the accounts to see if these savings can be found and particularly at the top end of remunerations and at the levels of profits and dividends.

"I have already had assurances that the Government is committed to reforming the water industry to deliver affordable and sustainable water for all households and businesses in the future - and will be coming forward with proposals. They have

promised to consult on proposals to provide more help to vulnerable and low income households who qualify for the WaterSure 'safety net' tariff. In the South West, this means qualifying households could see reductions in their bills from £486 a year to about £305 a year. In the SW, this would apply to 8,500 qualifying households based on current levels of metering and take-up. It would be paid for by raising the average charge on households across England from around 35p a year to 48p

### STALL BOOKINGS

"Saltash May Fair Committee reported a very successful Stall Booking evening on February 1st, with nearly 50% of the available stalls being booked on the night.

It is expected that the Street Fair will be as successful as ever and any local schools, businesses, clubs, charities or societies wishing to book a space are urged to download the booking details from [www.saltashmayfair.co.uk](http://www.saltashmayfair.co.uk) as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

The annual event, supported by Saltash Town Council, will be held on Saturday April 30th, with stalls and events throughout the town centre and local green spaces. The ever-popular half marathon and fun run take place on Sunday 1st May."

## POLICE MEETING ON ESTATE BEHAVIOUR AND LITTER ISSUES

Issues concerning anti-social behaviour were discussed when police officers joined with the Anti-Social Behaviour Officers and Cornwall Housing Officers to meet with Tamara Estate residents

Discussions were friendly and appeared helpful to local residents, Sergeant Andy Dunstan reported.

Other issues concerned included littering and gardens. Local Town Councillors had been expressing concern that a minority of residents were allowing their gardens to deteriorate to an extent that detracted from the image that the estate, built between the two World Wars, presents.

Local police had also been seeking to boost neighbourhood and community spirit in the Wentworth Road area of the Town following the closure of a house whose residents had reportedly caused long term disturbance to neighbours. A residents coffee morning held in the nearby K3 Youth Club had sought to bring back the neighbourly spirit to the Wentworth Road community.

Meanwhile, local crime figures continue to fall with a second low-crime January, 52 offences being reported as against 54 last year. There was one burglary from a dwelling through an insecure porch, two garage burglaries, five thefts from motor vehicles and a number of damage to motor vehicle offences.

On the down side the front office of Saltash Police Station is likely to close to the public this May as part of the Police cost-cutting programme.

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## Saltash Citizen and Young Citizen Award

Each year Saltash Town Council, in conjunction with the Rotary Club, select a Saltash resident to receive the Saltash Citizen Award.

This is a prestigious award which goes to a man or woman who has served his or her community in some special way. It could be an outstanding one-off contribution to the well-being of the Town or consideration will be given also to a person who has given a period of service to the Town, not just in the prior year, however the person must still be active.

There is also a similar award for the Young Citizen, who should be under the age of 21 and living in Saltash.

Nominations for this year's awards are now being requested. Each nomination should be accompanied by a note specifying the reasons for the nomination.

Nominations should be sent to the Town Clerk, Mr. Ray Lane, The Guildhall, 12 Lower Fore Street, Saltash, PL12 6JX or by e-mail to [reception@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:reception@saltash.gov.uk) by Thursday 31st March, 2011.

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## Fashion to Suit all Tastes

It is two years since Jenny took over the long established fashion boutique at 'Intrigue' in Saltash's Fore Street and she still claims to be 'loving every minute of it.'

Fashion has always been her passion since being accepted as junior window dresser when aged 15. After a career in the retail fashion business, she was excited to learn of the opportunity to take on a popular and well established business in a lively small town centre, and has never looked back.

Over those two years Jenny has had her own input into style and has turned the choice of fashion to suit every taste. She enjoys attending all shows in order to select the finest of all the coming seasons styles for her discerning clientèle. Many clients enjoy calling in to admire these new additions

to the Intrigue seasonal range, from exciting and innovative designers, though Jenny is also keen to maintain the familiar designs enjoyed by her established clientèle.

She was delighted at the welcome that she received to Saltash, at the support that has been forthcoming during the two years of bringing the finest of design to Fore Street.

Jenny wishes, through the Observer, to say thank you to those who have supported her over these two years and looks forward to showing off her new Spring and Summer collections to friends old and new over the coming months.

*Jenny is celebrating her second year  
 With the long established*

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## Look Out for Colourfully Clad "Bold Buccaneers"

When not working hard to develop and expand The Hearing Room as a centre of excellence for aiding the hard of hearing, the eager staff are equally keen to play hard, especially if fund raising for charity.

Previous years have seen them welcoming Saltash residents to pyjama party coffee mornings and a more recent 'sporting wear' fancy dress event for Children in Need.

This year's Comic Relief celebrations therefore, came as a challenge to come up with a fresh theme and The Hearing Room have decided upon 'Pirates'

On Friday 18th March look out for colourfully clad "bold buccaneers in and out of The Hearing Room and the new Saltash NHS premises opposite. They will be as eager as pirates of old to acquire gold doubloons and pieces of eight or, more practically any available loose change to put towards the Saltash contribution for the national

Children in Need campaign So can other Saltash Businesses similarly lighten up the street, and help the very worthy cause of needy children at home and away? The Hearing Room girls who are organising the event hope that the fun spirit may spread and that customers as well as other shops and businesses may don fancy dress and see how much they can collect for charity.

Whether dressed as Pirates, in any other costume, or simply mufti, please feel free if in Fore Street on Friday March 18th to call in for a coffee or glass or sherry and share the fun with the lively and busily fund-raising Hearing Room team.

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# The Hearing Room Celebrate Six Years in Saltash



Andrew and Marlise Carmichael at Nerve Centre of National business at the Gateway to Cornwall

Before the test commences Paul or one of his fully qualified colleagues will take down a full case history.

Then it is time to enter the "sound proof booth" (familiar to many from television quiz programmes) and to sit back and relax as the latest technology is employed to carry out a full audiometry test on each ear in turn over the full frequency range. Only when the client is fully satisfied that technology has enabled full hearing power to be restored, perhaps with the aid of a friend's voice, will the audiologist set to work to ensure that the enhanced hearing is restored on a permanent basis. A moulding of the ear is taken to ensure that the individually prepared hearing aid should be a perfect and a comfortable fit.

Presuming that a hearing aid is recommended a further appointment is booked for a mutually convenient time usually two or three weeks ahead.

On this second visit the aid, programmed to the individual client's degree of hearing loss and manufactured to the latest of technological specifications, will be fitted.

Three weeks later a follow up appointment is arranged. This is an opportunity for the audiologist to confirm that the client is wearing and using the aid correctly, and for the client to raise any queries which might have resulted from the first few weeks of use.

Thereafter the NHS Centre



Front of House in the NHS Centre a well known face Alison ably assisted by Karon and fully qualified Audiologist Paul

will continue with the fine degree of after service that clients of the Hearing Room have come to expect. Batteries are provided free of charge for NHS patients for personal collection or by mail if preferred. Any problems or faults will be promptly attended to, immediately if possible, to ensure that the Saltash NHS Centre client continues to enjoy the restored hearing, and renewed quality of life that accompanies it, on a permanent basis.

## Meet the team...

Here are but a few of the many faces now employed at one of Saltash's largest businesses.



Regional Hearing Services

54 Fore Street Saltash Cornwall

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# Fore Street Premises Extended and Refurbished to Form Nerve Centre of National Business

In opening its new premises specifically to cater for NHS patients, the Hearing Room has also extended and refurbished the Fore Street premises to accommodate many of the staff who now form the nerve centre of what has become a Saltash based national business. Indeed with around thirty staff currently helping to expand upon the reputation for which the Hearing Room is renowned, and more being currently recruited, this is fast becoming one of the town's major employers.

With so many new figures among the staff longstanding clients will be pleased to be welcomed to the NHS Centre by a welcoming face. Alison joined The Hearing Room when Andrew Carmichael set up the family firm in his home town of Saltash six years ago and is now at the heart of the new premises, welcoming clients and helping them feel at ease while also being at the nerve centre of the expanding enterprise.

Paul Carmichael, the audiologist specialising in NHS clients, has been with the business for just over a year but as the brother of the founder and himself highly trained and experienced in what has become 'the family business' he is already very much a part of the friendly team.



Kirsty ...Heads teleappointing team in grand new offices

member of staff and appointed customer services supervisor, based in the newly expanded Saltash suite of offices.

Working equally hard behind the scenes is the marketing department under the supervision of John and Charlotte.

Close by the teleappointing team is managed by Kirsty Morrod, a longstanding associate of the Carmichael family.

Cheryl Phillips, who has been with the firm since 2004 manages the sales processing department while Trish Pelley, who has been with the business for a similar length of time and is a well known face in Saltash, manages the stock department.

The accounts department is managed by James Goudie, financial director, while Bob Hall is charged with IT management and ensuring that all of the hi-tech computers in the various offices and Hearing Rooms continue to 'talk to' each other.

With Currently twenty two branches throughout Britain and continuing to expand, in addition to numerous other dispensers, management of the Hearing Room from its Saltash base is becoming an increasingly complex operation. The firm's founder Andrew Carmichael, who still bases himself in Saltash, believes that by carefully selecting each new member of staff by their degree of commitment and care, his business can continue to grow from its Saltash home while losing nothing of its family-run roots and maintaining its reputation of care and commitment to each individual client, in Saltash and throughout its growing network.

Marlise oversees customer services and in this she is assisted at the Saltash head office by Kelly Yardley, Kelly was formerly the Hearing Room's Exmouth branch co-ordinator before moving to Canada. On her return she was welcomed back as a valued



Chris Trish & Cheryl head accounts stock and sales



Responsible for branch development Marlise Carmichael ably assisted by Bonny and daughter Jodie

## Saltash NHS Centre recognised as centre of excellence

Already the Saltash NHS Centre has been recognised as a centre of excellence for aiding the hard of hearing, it having been accepted into a new and prestigious system of offering patients a choice of care providers.

While those who believe that they are suffering problems from hearing loss can continue to refer themselves for an immediate free hearing test at The Hearing Room, a new option has now opened for referral through the NHS system to the Saltash NHS Centre, operated by the same locally based family business, on the opposite side of Fore Street.

For such a referral to be made anyone concerned about possible hearing loss may simply make an appointment to see their normal general practitioner. The GP will check the ears and carry out a general aural examination.

If their doctor confirms a potential hearing problem this would, in the past, for patients in South East Cornwall have resulted in a visit to Plymouth's Derriford Hospital. Many have looked upon such a visit with trepidation, concerned over lengthy journeys, traffic or limited public transport, parking issues and a potentially long wait in a vast and busy general hospital.

Since the recent opening of the Saltash NHS Centre this need no longer be the case. The newly opened centre has been selected to feature as a quality care service on a newly established 'choose and book' system run by an independent specialist

# An Official Opening Ceremony for the NHS Hearing Centre...

Planned for Tuesday 29th March

Expansion of what has now become a nationwide business managed from it's Saltash Head Office resulted in The Hearing Room's Fore Street premises reaching capacity. Ongoing recruitment of staff to administer the expanding business had led to The Hearing Room becoming one of the Town's leading employers but also led to a chronic shortage of office space.

Anxious to ensure that the business remains a family-based concern local to Saltash, founder Andrew Carmichael sought suitable premises in which to expand. He was delighted when a suitable retail unit with office space became available almost opposite the well established 'Hearing Room'. The lower floor was ideal for conversion into a comfortable reception area and consulting rooms for NHS clients, an area of care in which he had intended to expand. The rear and the first floor could be the base for extended office area. However, to ensure a comfortable and tastefully furnished working environment, fitted with the latest in technological aids, for an ever increasing personnel planning permission was sought and obtained for a substantial extension to the rear of the premises. The whole building has been redeveloped to ensure the best working conditions for the valued staff who help The Hearing Room to maintain its enviable reputation in its field. In particular for the ever expanding teleappointer unit a need was realised to create the very best in the industry. The Hearing Room is continuously recruiting in this field with increasing expansion and investment and specialist training to ensure the

highest quality of service. Now that Andrew and Marlise, their family and their staff, are comfortably settled into their new premises in Saltash NHS Centre, on the north side of Fore Street, they are anxious to show off their premises and the facilities offered to all who may be interested. An official opening ceremony and open day has been organised for Tuesday 29th

March, from 2pm, at 3.15pm, the Mayor and Mayoress has been invited to perform the official opening ceremony. All of those involved in local healthcare, local business, or simply interested in what The Hearing Room has to offer are warmly invited to call by and look around the extended premises behind the friendly and welcoming Fore Street frontage.



Finally...Andrew and Marlise extend a warm invitation to you to join them at the NHS centre for the official opening of these wonderful new offices.

Elaine and Sadie well know to many, both qualified audiologists



Elaine and Sadie well know to many, both qualified audiologists

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 Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive further information

Post or take form into the address above

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# When Fascists forgathered in a Saltash Square

Saltash in the aftermath of World War 1, unlike Rome or Munich would hardly be expected to be a hot-bed of right-wing revolutionary activism. Yet, largely under the influence of one local resident, a retired Rear Admiral, fascist rallies in Alexandra Square attracted growing audiences, and a discord that led to Borough Councillors seeking to curtail freedom of assembly.

The 1920's were troubled times as disillusioned ex-servicemen returned from war to face unemployment and worldwide financial depression. In continental Europe this led to an upsurge of the two political extremisms of communism and fascism.

## Violent Clashes

In Britain Sir Oswald Mosley's British Union of Fascists had running battles with socialists and communists. In Plymouth Mosley and William Joyce (later to become the Nazi radio propaganda speaker 'Lord Haw Haw') addressed mass rallies and here too there were violent clashes with the left. Some still recall stiff Blackshirts standing guard over Fascist Headquarters in Lockyer Street.

Even rural parts of Devon and Cornwall had their fascist uprisings with farmers in particular keen party supporters. They still had to pay to the Church of England

a proportion of their income in cash or kind and during agricultural depression. This was bitterly resented especially by the many Methodist or other free church farmers. The fascists adopted the 'tithes wars' as part of their policy and aided farmers fight the tithe and the bailiffs and others seeking to enforce it. The Western Independent in February 1934 reported a meeting of the National Union of Farmers at Liskeard under the headline "Cornish Farmers go Fascist."

## Lived in Saltash

The Fascist County Commander for Cornwall lived in Saltash and like many fellow party members was a retired officer. Rear Admiral William Ernest Russell Martin was born in Stoke, Devonport in 1867 but had been educated at College House School, Saltash. Born of a Cawsand family of 'yeomen and mariners, well known from the time of Drake' he served a distinguished career in the Royal Navy during which he also served as special West Indies correspondent for the Daily Mail. He married, his only son sadly perished at Ypres in 1917.

On retirement like so many naval officers before and since, Rear Admiral Martin settled in Saltash. From his Essa Road home he was to seek to inspire the Town with his own enthusiasm for Mussolini's brand of Italian fascism. He had visited Italy where he attended an Anglo-Italian symposium on fascism and attempted to present Mussolini with a copy of his

autobiography 'The Adventures of a Naval Paymaster.'

Back home he spoke in support of Mussolini at a public meeting in Saltash in 1928. Unlike Mosley to sought to use democracy to infiltrate parliament, Martin believed fascism would come in fore through revolution rather than democratic vote. "I have no faith whatever in fascists of the Mosley type," he wrote. He also sought to influence youth through a newspaper competition for children with a prize for the best essay on British fascism.

A member of Saltash British Legion he caused the branch to be strongly criticised by other Legion branches for allowing Martin to use the Legion for advancing his right-wing political policies. When he proclaimed these policies while opening the Legion's Fair at Callington he found himself forced to resign from the Legion.

## Fascists from Plymouth

The 1930's saw fascist rallies held increasingly in Europe and Martin was determined that these should be reflected in Saltash. The first such meeting was reported by the Saltash Gazette in June 1934.

"Fascists from Plymouth visited Saltash and eventually attracted a small number of hearers in Alexandra Square. There were no interruptions and at the close the meeting one of the audience told the Blackshirts that, whatever the views of the listeners were, they had been deeply interested in the manner that their policy had been explained." "Company Officer Moran had spoken on fascism being in its infancy but making great progress and not believing in war, considering the enemy within the gate to be more dangerous than those without.

Rear Admiral Martin announced that in Saltash they were proud of their heritage and venerated their ancestors. He spoke of having met Sir Oswald Mosley whom he

found to be courageous, full of knowledge and keen to help all classes.

Interest in fascism was clearly generated since at the next Saltash meeting several weeks later "a large number gathered in Alexandra Square where they listened with much attention to the Blackshirts who came from Plymouth to expound their policy." The speaker, a Mr Rodgers, urged youth to come forward and young men tell how to better the country. "Even in Saltash men are waiting at the Labour Exchange" and fascism would bring about full employment. Another meeting followed in August.

## Public meetings

By the time of the next reported meeting in Alexandra Square, in September that year, the disturbance was sufficient to cause concern to the Saltash Corporation.

The Town Clerk, Mr McDonald had previously been sent to ask Rear Admiral Martin not to hold such a meeting on corporation property but Martin refused to comply unless so ordered by a superintendent of police.

The Council eventually agreed to let the meeting proceed, public meetings of all kinds having previously been held in the square with no attempt to stop them.

As the meeting proceeded however, the commotion was such as to disturb a borough works committee meeting being held in the adjacent Church House.

## Reduce the noise

The fascist speaker, Mr Mason was twice urged to reduce the noise. He responded by loudly adversely comparing the local government 'democracy' with its meetings 'in camera' to public open-air fascist rallies.

When he stated Sir Oswald Mosley to be the only politician to put the interest of the country before his own interest this was too much for the Saltash audience and some heckling began. Undaunted, Mr Mason proclaimed Sir Oswald Mosley as a coming man and the fascists as patriots who would enable England to regain her past prestige.

This was too much for Town councillors who put forward a resolution that "no

public meeting be held in Alexandra Square or other corporation property without the consent of the Town Council." Alderman Webber opposed this, noting the concern of the interrupted works committee but speaking for democracy "to take this attitude after all the years when the square was looked upon as a place for all 'isms' and religious meeting would cut against freedom of speech." He was however, in a minority and the motion was passed.

The council's concern, it seems, was unnecessary. Fascism flourished on the continent as war inevitably approached but there appear to have been no further public rallies in Saltash.

## Drakes wife

Rear Admiral Martin addressed his concerns to the more parochial burning issue of whether Drake's wife Mary Newman had lived in the Saltash house popularly ascribed to her. Here too Rear Admiral Martin took the staunchly Saltash patriotic view belabouring in the local press, "to those whose ancestors lived here centuries with a familiar tradition all their lives, this attempt to rob Saltash seems to be a nasty bit of work without any foundation whatever."

In his views on Mary Newman's Cottage, as on fascist supremacy, Martin appears to have been in a subsequently discredited minority. There appear to be no further records of him publishing his views on any issue, national or local, over the following years during which the full implications of the political views that he espoused were exposed in the horror of war.

MARTIN LISTER

# Town seeks Presentation on Tamarside Incinerator

Local pressure from Saltash and across the river may have seen off the proposed Ernesettle incinerator but one currently proposed will be equally close to many Saltash homes.

The currently projected site for a major waste incinerator, with a chimney dominating the Tamar, is at the northern end of Devonport Dockyard adjacent to Barne Barton at St Budeaux. This will be clearly visible to residents in the south of Saltash and there is already concern over toxic gasses wafting up the Tamar.

Saltash Town Councillors, concerned at its proximity to the Town, decided to seek a presentation in Saltash on the current project.

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# Home Library Service – a lifeline

“The Home Library Service is highly valuable - each new book delivery is the highlight of the month! My life is so much richer now that I have books to read through the long lonely days.” This was just one of almost three hundred positive comments from a recent survey of Home Library Service customers conducted in thirty libraries across Cornwall recently.

Alison Gunderson, Library Service Outreach Officer, said “We have been very encouraged by the number of responses to the survey and the extremely positive comments we received.”

Most people responded that this is their only source of books, and that reading helps them fill their leisure time. Many also felt it improves their health by reducing stress and loneliness, and helping them relax, while others use it to study. One gentleman said the Home Library Service “taught me to fry an egg!”

Almost all the respondents also wrote a comment, suggesting that the service is something they feel very strongly about and many described it as meaning “everything” to them. “It is an essential part of my well-being. Nothing else would fill the void,” writes one customer, while another says, “I would just get so depressed, and would be more withdrawn. I am in another world with joy when reading. It gives me hope and encouragement to help myself.”

“It is great to know that the service is so helpful in providing our readers with their choice of books, and how much they enjoy the volunteers’ visits. We knew it was important, but have been touched by just how much it matters to so many people,” continues Alison.

“We know there are a lot more people in Cornwall who could make use of this service and we would really like to encourage them to get

in touch with us.”

Joan Symons, Cornwall Council’s Cabinet Member for Customer First and Culture, added “We are extremely fortunate in Cornwall to be able to provide this service which many of our customers have described as a lifeline.”

The Home Library Service is open to anyone who is unable to get to a library in person because they have a disability, long-term illness or caring responsibilities which make it difficult for them to get out, as it is able to take the library to them – FREE of charge.

Customers can tell the library the type of books they are interested in or which specific titles they would like and staff will do their best to get them. Customers who have access to the internet are also able to reserve books themselves through the online catalogue. As well as books, which are available in ordinary print or large print, customers are also able to request audio-books on CD or cassette, DVDs or music CDs.

Working in partnership with the WRVS, the Home Library Service arranges for WRVS volunteers to deliver the books to readers at their own homes.

Anyone who is interested in using this service, or would like to become a volunteer, is asked to contact their local library on 0300 1234 111 or email:

agunderson@cornwall.gov.uk

*The final word should go to the lady who described this as “a miracle service*

# SALTASH U3A

Ninety seven people attended the February meeting in the Guildhall, including eleven guests. With the nine people who joined our membership now totals one hundred and sixty.

Our Chairman thanked the group leaders for the displays at last months Show Case meeting, and asked for volunteers to man the display at the Town Show Case on March 5th. He also pointed out that among the notices on the display boards was information on U3A Summer Schools, details of the Launceston Study Day, and leaflets warning about Carbon Monoxide Poisoning.

The needlecraft group has been restarted and a Scrabble group formed.

Due to our growing membership Astronomy and Family History have both started second groups.

The Garden Groups’ trip to Highgrove in April is limited to twenty two places, and these have almost all been taken.

For the first time the tea and coffee were served in disposable cups in holders, which were well received. This is being tried as a way of ensuring that the servers do not miss the speakers address, and so that the rattle of washing up does not disturb the speaker. The used cups will be recycled as plant pots by the Garden Group.

After refreshments Howard Curnow gave the talk on ‘Cousin Jack in Australia’ illustrated by some colourful slides.

# SHIRLEY’S FAMOUS FULL ENGLISH BREAKFAST ...

are served at the B&B



A traditional inn in the heart of Saltash is fast growing a reputation as a venue for family and business functions. ‘The Railway Hotel’ at the foot of Fore Street has been completely refurbished since being re-opened at the end of last year by well known local landlords and caterers Shirley and Tony. Shirley has already turned the ‘Two Bridges Inn’ into a popular and busy venue for those who enjoy good food at value for money prices and the ‘Railway’ is gaining a similar name for those who wish to hold a gathering of any sort in convivial surroundings and with an excellent buffet to suit any budget.

The complete makeover which emphasises the traditional features of this historic coaching house (originally named the ‘Lord Rodney’ before the coming of the railway to Saltash) also includes the well-appointed accommodation to the rear of the Inn. For those with family or friends visiting, as well as business travellers, there are four attractive and well furnished bedrooms together with luxury suite, with full en suite bathroom and ideal for

couples or full families. Shirley’s famous full English breakfasts are served to those enjoying overnight stays at the ‘Railway’.

Groups of any number from around a dozen up to a hundred can be catered for in the separate bar area which may be reserved for functions. Any family gathering from weddings, Christenings, birthdays and anniversaries can be celebrated here, as well as funeral family gatherings. Shirley is always delighted to

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discuss arrangements and to offer a wide selection of buffet choices from finger buffet savouries to full meals.

Local businesses too are coming to discover the ‘Railway’ as an excellent town centre venue for corporate gathering.

Others, who want to enjoy a drink in good company while enjoying wide-screen sports viewing, can be assured that all major sporting activities are screened in the front bar. On Friday evenings a variety of live entertainment may be enjoyed, while Sunday nights are famous for fun Karaoke sessions.

As a traditional Cornish Inn the ‘Railway’ is pleased to offer a full range of pub games including pool, darts and euchre, all with teams in local leagues.

Open daily from 11am to midnight (midday to midnight on Sundays) the Railway welcomes one and all to call in for a tea or coffee or any of

*The new delightfully refurbished lounge, just as we have come to expect from Shirley.*

a wide range of drinks at any time. Real ale fans can usually enjoy a selection of hand pumped beers such as St Austell’s famous ‘Tribute,’ while others can opt for a Guinness or Strongbow extra cold if preferred, or Fosters super-chilled. There is also of course a wide range of wines by the glass as well as bottled beers and spirits to suit every taste.

Shirley and Tony have already been delighted to welcome many friends old and new to their newly refurbished ‘Railway Inn.’ With their enhanced function facilities and comfortable letting accommodation they look forward to enhancing on the already enviable reputation which they have built up over many years of catering within Saltash.

# NICK IS TOP TRAVEL WRITER

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# HEEP WERE IN FOR A POUND

An ancient village pound restored three years ago has been used again for its original purpose.

Villagers in Trematon were concerned to discover thirteen sheep straying in a local lane. Concerned that they might wander on to the nearby A38 and cause a serious accident they rounded them up, then had to decide what to do with them.

They then remembered the village pound, originally used by the Manor of Trematon for keeping stray animals which were released on payment of a fine. The pound fell into disrepair in the early 19th Century but was restored by Saltash Old Cornwall Society and the Town Council in 2006.

It still serves its purpose, the sheep were kept overnight while the villagers and Mr and Mrs Roger Legg of the nearby Manor Farm made enquiries as to ownership. The next morning they were loaded into a trailer and taken home.

Unlike in the original days of the pound there was no fee paid.

# Sheryll Murray MP Welcomes Money for Pothole Repair

Sheryll Murray MP has welcomed the Government’s announcement that it will give over £100 million to councils for pothole repair.

This is especially valuable after the terrible weather this winter caused terrible damage to a lot of our roads.

The Government’s move has been welcomed by the AA who estimate that, if the £100 million is used entirely for roads, it will repair 1.5 million potholes.

The money is in addition to the £831 million already provided to councils for road maintenance this year and the £30 billion of transport infrastructure spending the Government has committed to over the next four years.

Sheryll said, “This money should make a real difference in South East Cornwall to the huge number of drivers and cyclists who are fed up with having to continually battle against dangerous potholes, giving them safer and smoother journeys.”

# BURIAL COSTS TO RISE... AMENDED

May we take this opportunity to thank the many of you who kindly pointed out our typing error in the February issue; we have now corrected our information as below. The cost of dying is to increase to bring Saltash in line with surrounding towns.

The Town Council has endorsed a recommendation of its Burial Board that Burial fees be increased from £550 to £600 and cremated remains from £167 to £180.

Answers to Conundrum:

*The word is HIGHLIGHT*  
9-Invertebrate  
7-Timpani  
8-Hedgehogs  
5-Isthmus  
6-Hadrians  
3-Gulf  
4-Glastonbury  
Answers: 1-Horror 2-Lamb

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**DASTARDLY DEEDS  
IN ANCIENT  
SALTASH !!!**

Following the success of their most recent Pantomime, Burraton Community Players are offering a very different dramatic experience

On April 15th they will present

**MURDER AT THE  
VILLA D'ESSA**

a murder mystery evening conceived by Jill Price.

The discovery of the dead body of the Roman governor of Essa provokes shocking and sordid revelations as each of the guests at the villa has both the motive and the opportunity to have killed their host: lust, jealousy, revenge bubble and boil over and who can solve the mystery?

This dramatic extravaganza will be presented at the Burraton Community Centre for one night only

**Ticket price of £5 including a pasty supper. Tickets will be available from Piglets, Fore Street, Saltash and further details can be obtained from Leigh Hughes on 01752 842109**

**FLY THE FLAG  
FOR ST PIRAN**

Forty flags should proudly fly for the Cornish Patron Saint in Cornwall's gateway town, Town Councillors agreed. They gave the go-ahead to purchase the flags and poles to be flown the length of Fore Street on flagpole holders already lining the street. The property owners are being consulted and almost all have already given permission.

This in addition to the flag which now flies the white cross on black ground of St Piran each day on the Guildhall. It was hoped that the flags would be purchased and erected in order to celebrate Saltash's Celtic pride on St Piran's Day, March 5th.

**Cornwall's Ramblers  
React to Budget Cuts**

**R**AMBLERS across Cornwall have responded to council budget cuts by launching a self-help programme called REACT—Ramblers' Environmental Action Clearance Team.

With Cornwall Council's footpaths maintenance budget seen as an easy target for cuts, the county's ramblers decided to give a hand in a practical way. Last Saturday (January 29) 22 ramblers descended on St Ervan parish to clear Footpath No 8, which has been overgrown and impassable for decades.

Using spades, forks, secateurs, loppers and brushcutters, the volunteers removed a massive amount of growth to reveal most of the path. A second visit has been programmed for later this month to finish the job.

The ramblers were led and supervised by two Cornwall Council officers, Linda Holloway (senior enforcement officer) and Sophie Hamilton of the public rights of way enforcement team. The landowner had also assisted by previously reinstating the field headland, providing drainage channels, and installing a culvert at the blocked entrance to an ancient walled garden.

Mr Graham Ronan, chairman of Cornwall Ramblers, commented: "I am totally convinced that the way ahead in these times of extremely restricted budgets, is cooperation and partnership. The volunteers moved in to show Cornwall Council (and the world!) that we don't just complain about the years of neglect in maintaining footpaths in Cornwall but that we are also ready to get our hands dirty to improve the county's footpaths network for the benefit of local residents and visitors alike."

Mr Tom Flanagan,

Cornwall Council's corporate director for environment, planning, and economy, added, "I fully support the comments on partnership and would like to explore further how we might improve joint working in Cornwall."

Another example of the new REACT campaign came from a couple of Ramblers from Falmouth who cleared up debris (including 751 strong cider cans plus wrappers and plastic) after the council had stripped back overgrowth on a local town path.

Cornwall Ramblers plan to make REACT events a monthly item conducted under the guidance of council officers.

**CHEMIST  
SEEKS TO  
OPEN ALL  
HOURS**

A late night chemist has been seeking permission to open in Saltash's Regal Court, between Fore Street and Belle Vue car park.

In order to open for at least a hundred hours a week during which to provide pharmaceutical services, permission is required of the local Primary Care Trust. The Cornwall Trust has sought opinions from the Town Council and The Chamber of Commerce. The pharmacy seeks to open until 11 pm on weekdays, until 10 pm on Saturdays and 11 am to 5 pm on Sundays.

Members of the Town's Chamber of Commerce agreed to confirm that the Chamber had no objection. The Town Council agreed to support the application.

**Crafty ideas for  
Mother's Day  
and Easter**

With Mother's Day in mind, (3rd April) and Easter soon behind it a grand Craft Fair is aimed to show off some of the finest of local arts and crafts as well as provide original ideas for presents.

On Saturday 19th March the Sports Hall of Saltash Wesley Church will be full of stalls stocked with hand crafted objects of many materials as well as pictures including local scenes.

This year the fair is in aid of the League of Friends of St Barnabas Hospital, and all profits will go towards providing enhanced facilities for patients at our local cottage hospital.

The Fair will be open from 10am until 4 pm.

**BURRATON PLAYERS CREATED  
THEIR OWN PANTOMIME PLOT**



(LEFT TO RIGHT); Abbey Willcocks, Rebecca Horne, Jess Ryan and Sophie Bickford (aka NIGELLA'S NUTTERS), Leigh Hughes (Nigella), Steve Blake (Jamie) and Charlotte Yellop, Jack Willcocks & Amelia Horne (aka JAMIE'S JOKERS)

**I**n their production of 'What a Pantomime!' the cast of Burraton Community Players cast aside the tradition of following a familiar fairy story, though sweethearts Andy and Greta followed some elements of Hansel and Gretel.

Instead the tale took three world-weary Saltash computer whiz-kids and whizzed them into a magical world of manipulative mayors, bombastic bakers, kidnapping crooks and of course, star-crossed lovers.

Mayor Kulper (geddit?) played with his customary villainy by David Yates presided over a town with two highly competitive bakers, Nigella (Leigh Hughes in his umpteenth role as dame) and Jamie, played by Steve Blake. Each had his lively and vociferous team of juvenile supporters, Nigella's Nutters and Jamie's Jokers, to which the Saltash "Newbies" quickly attached in order to back the bakers, pursue the principal girl and help re-unite principal boy and girl Jess Ryan and Charlotte Yellop. In this they were aided by weird and wonderful Ziggy, a role in which Sam Hughes, accompanied by loveable duck Abby Collicott, shone while showing that life's apparent losers can prove winners.

By way of Greek Chorus the five Golden Girls (last year's Ladies who Lunch) brought additional drama, music and comedy led by Christine Woolcock as a Saltash journalist yea claiming to write for your 'Observer.'

Following song and dance, slapstick and drama, and an exciting chase scene the villainous Mayor and his cack-handed kidnapper Flash Harry, well played by Ben Doney as well as pernicious property developer Goldman (Les Williams) all met their just deserts and the lovers are joined in matrimony. Well, as Ziggy points out, "What do you expect? It is a pantomime!"

The Saltash kids were returned to their computers and to their mother, played by Merryn Killea, before audience and cast came together in music in the traditional grand transformation scene.

The script and production of this all new production for 2011 were a combined effort from Leigh Hughes, Jill Price, Christine Woolcock and Les Williams.

While there was no familiar background tale the traditional elements of pantomime were present in this original local

production. The Burraton Community Players are to be congratulated in particular in bringing on a large number of youngsters who all clearly relished the chance to shine and to bring pleasure to an audience, giving hope for many future years of lively and fun entertainment from this well established troupe of talented Thespians.



Ben Doney as the decidedly dodgy Flash Harry

Photos taken by Martyn Cowling

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