

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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March 2016 - Issue 284

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Hilary for Mayor - Mayor's Casting Vote in Draw for Deputy

A tight fought vote for the next deputy mayor of Saltash followed a unanimous vote for the forthcoming Mayor of the town. This year's deputy mayor Councillor Hilary Frank, was proposed by Councillor Sue Hooper MBE as next year's mayor. She described Councillor Frank as one who had been very active in the town and supportive of local endeavours, listing her numerous involvements in the community. "She has carried out her deputy mayoral duties admirably and supported the mayor loyally", Councillor Hooper concluded. Councillor Adam Killea seconded the nomination. There were no other candidates and Councillor Frank was unanimously chosen as mayor elect, to assume the mayoral chain this May.

For the role of deputy mayor Councillor Derek Holley then proposed Councillor Mrs Jean Dent, who had previously served as deputy, then as mayor in 2014-15. "She has good track record as supporting the office of Mayor, she is qualified to carry out the office effectively and efficiently and will be a great support to Hilary", he concluded.

The mayor elect Councillor Frank then seconded Councillor Dent for her deputy. "This will be the last year of the current council before elections and there will be much work to do. Councillor Dent has proven able in all

respects close quote," she believed.

Councillor Sue Hooper then proposed an alternative candidate as deputy mayor Councillor Gloria Challen. "Gloria has a proven track record of working for the Saltash community from long before she was a councillor" stated Councillor Hooper. After listing her many community involvements, Councillor Hooper concluded, "Gloria is Saltash born and bred, if she were cut open one would find Saltash written within her" Councillor Challen was seconded by Councillor Joe Ellison. The vote was then

taken for the proposal that Councillor Jean Dent be deputy Mayor of Saltash in 2013-17. The vote went against her six to seven. The vote was then to be taken for Councillor Challen to be the chosen Deputy Mayor.

Before this could occur it was pointed out by Councillor Derek Holley that the candidates were entitled to vote on their own nominations and asked Councillor Dent if she was aware of this. Councillor Challen had voted against her.

Councillor Dent then said that, bearing this in mind she would wish to vote. Despite an objection from Councillor John Brady that a vote had already been taken it was agreed to put the motion to the meeting again. This time there was a tie with seven votes for Councillor Dent and seven against. The current mayor, Councillor Bill Phillips then had the casting vote which he made in favour of Councillor Jean Dent who is accordingly Deputy Mayor elect 2016-17 by eight votes to seven.

Our Mayor elect, Hilary Frank is a Cornish maid born in Redruth and educated in Penzance and Truro before attending the London University of Oriental and African studies. Here she graduated in Japanese and music following which she worked in Japan with the Japanese Winter Olympic team. In 2002 she was in Japan during the FIFA World Cup tournament and met with the man who was to be her husband, and the father of her two daughters. Shojiro will now be the mayor's consort for the coming year.

We are delighted to confirm that Hilary will be continuing the long-standing tradition, carried on through the three decades of the Saltash Observers publication of writing a monthly mayor's column for your local community newspaper.

Vote of No Confidence Defeated

Following the election of Councillor Jean Dent as Deputy Mayor an extraordinary meeting of the Town Council was summoned to debate a motion that "this council has no confidence in the Mayor (Councillor Bill Phillips) managing Council business". The motion was put by Councillor John Brady and seconded by Councillor Gloria Challen, the unsuccessful candidate for Deputy Mayor. Councillor Challen had also submitted to the Town Council a letter of complaint regarding the election of Deputy Mayor 2016-17.

After a short debate, chaired by current Deputy Mayor Hilary Frank the motion of no confidence was defeated 10 votes to 2 with only the proposer and seconder supporting it. This was followed by a motion from Councillor Frank that a note of thanks from the council to the Mayor for his term of office to date be recorded and this was passed 10 votes to 2, Councillors Brady and Challen opposing it.

It was unanimously agreed to refer the letter of complaint to the Cornwall Association of Local Councils to investigate the procedural matters involved and make

recommendations for the future.

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Town Spending Increase of 80% in Two Years

The budget for Saltash Town Council over the year 2016/17 has been set with an increase of 39.16% in expenditure on that of this current year. Added to the increase of 41% approved for the current year this means a jump of over 80% in Town Council's expenditure over two years, with a commensurate increase in local council tax charges, A "Band D" property in the town is likely to see an increase from £82.71 p in 2015/16 to £114.45 p in 2016/17, it was calculated.

Virtually every medium and large sized town in Cornwall is putting through increases of similar magnitude, the town was advised.

Indeed even allowing for these increases Saltash is still among the lowest spending towns in Cornwall.

The increases in the element of council tax allocated to town councils such as Saltash it's largely due to Cornwall Council's increase being capped by the government. Cornwall is limited to seeking an increase of 3.97% of which

2% is earmarked for improvements in adult social care. Cornwall Council is accordingly seeking to devolve as many of its responsibilities as possible to towns such as Saltash, adding to the expenses of such towns. The total precept for the next financial year is therefore £599,108 as against this year's £430,510.

The precept includes £40,000, for the renovation and reopening of the long closed public conveniences in Alexander Square, currently used for storage by Saltash Heritage. Councillor John Brady who argued against such an increase in the towns precept, proposed that this work be postponed in order to help reduce the increase, but councillors confirmed that there was a demand in the town for the facility to reopen.

In view of the heated controversy over the setting of such an increased budget it was agreed that the votes of Councillors for and against be recorded. The precept was voted through 12 votes to 3 with just Councillor John Brady the lee Russell and Adam Killeya voting against it.

Essa Files

The next several months seem likely to be dominated by the referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union. You may feel that this has nothing to do with Saltash but I would disagree strongly – this is a vote that will, whichever way it goes, have a huge effect on Saltash, Cornwall, the UK, Europe and the World.

I'm not going to use this column to try to persuade you to agree with me (although, since you ask, I'm strongly for 'In') but I am going to try to persuade you to do three things.

Firstly to vote, no matter which way you lean. This is a once in a generation vote and I know that many of my 16 and 17 year old students are disappointed that they won't get a chance to have their say. Please don't sit it out: if you can't make up your mind then ask a 16 or 17 year old what they think!

Secondly to research – there are a lot of dodgy statistics and half-truths thrown around in any political debate and the EU is a topic that's worse than most for this. There are quite a few good, and relatively neutral, 'fact-checked' websites out there which can sort the genuine information from the '123% of our laws are made by the EU' sort.

Thirdly to, as far as possible, to ignore the hype. Decide based on the fact coupled with your personal views of what is right, not based on personalities or nifty slogans. Regardless of what Boris, or indeed I, think everyone has one vote and they all count the same.

By Adam Killeya

Compulsory Purchase of Station Building Proposed

The current owners of Saltash station building, the dilapidated state of which has been causing increasing concern in the town, should be warned that a compulsory purchase order will be sought in three months time if no agreement, satisfactory to all parties, is reached concerning the building in the meanwhile.

This decision was agreed unanimously by Saltash Town Council following an original proposal by Councillor John Brady that the owner be given just 28 days before such an order be sought. "The station building is a cause of embarrassment within the town and outside it. There is a great degree of concern in the town as to its appearance", he maintained. He suggested that if compulsorily purchased the ground floor could form a museum and heritage centre, with offices to be let out as a source of income on a floor above.

The councils approved station working group, which is negotiating with the developer owning the site and his architect, is making

progress Councillor Richard Bickford had previously advised. There had been fruitful meetings, regular communication and progress was being made in tricky negotiations. There are difficulties as the site is surrounded by land owned by Network Rail and leased to First Great Western.

The station working group had also already discussed enforcement action with Cornwall Council and since then some improvements have been made to the building.

If the Town Council does ask Cornwall Council to seek a compulsory purchase order it could take many months, possibly years, before it can be put into effect.

Carkeel Roundabout Work Delayed

Further work on the Carkeel roundabout including converting it to a "squareabout" adding traffic lights and duelling the Callington Road up to the Waitrose roundabout has been postponed.

It was due to commence at the beginning of this year. It is now likely to start in September 2016 and be concluded by Christmas 2017.

The delays have been caused by difficulties in buying some of the land needed and in co-ordinating with the six service providers as to organising the underground work required. Cornwall Highways and the main contractors are thus still at the contract and design stage.

There are no plans to extend the dual carriageway on the A38 Westward between Carkeel and the Stokeston cross, or to change the roundabout at Pillmere where an exit from a Tesco supermarket is still planned for the site.

The completed Carkeel roundabout is planned as being just turfed over. County Councillor Bob Austin advised that since this would be the most important

roundabout in Cornwall, giving visitors their first impressions of Cornwall, much more than this simple turfing was required. The town Council was, it was agreed, to consider this and prepare a suitable drawing of what they would like which could now include trees. It was suggested that the local schools or college might participate in this design scheme

The new traffic signals by the roundabout will be "smart lights" programmed only to operate when traffic volume requires.

Observer Telephone Numbers

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For Observer readers
Derek Holley
Cornwall Councillor, Saltash East.
dholley@cornwall.gov.uk

Much of February has been tied up with the budget, which has resulted, as I expect you now know, with a 4% rise - a 2% general rise, much of which will go towards paying the Living Wage to employees - and another 2% just for Adult Social Care. Part of the month has been involved with the general drift of the council towards a joint care venture with the NHS. So this month I have something different: one request for information, one piece of information for your comment and a sort of opinion on local government, again for your comment.

Last one first: I recently had a lambasting from a town councillor about the ineffectiveness and general uselessness of the Cornwall Council system compared with that of the national government. I am afraid the councillor had the idea that our national government was run by, and the important decisions (particularly financial) were made by our elected MPs. My view is that the state is basically run by a shadow government of unelected elites, bankers, lobbyists and bureaucrats with a good deal of influence exercised by EC officials and MEPs. Really it doesn't matter which party is in power because the shadow government rules. This of course is my (cynical) opinion and the truth is probably somewhere between the two systems.

On the other hand Cornwall Council is run in theory by the elected councillors, but is this so? In practice it is run for 95% of the time and 95% of the decisions are made by a small group of 10 councillors which form the Cabinet. They are advised by policy committees but do not have to follow their advice and may choose to follow the advice of paid officers. This is the famous Cabinet System of local government and I radically

disagree with it in principal and in practice. The alternative is the admittedly more unwieldy Committee System where all councillors sit on a variety of committees and each committee makes the decisions. This is a lot more work for councillors - and of course paid officers hate this system because they can influence or persuade one Cabinet member much more easily than they can a whole committee. I like it because it is more democratic, involves all councillors and is more likely to reflect what residents want. We do have some good Cabinet members and a lot of very good officers but that is not the point.

Why am I raising this now? Because at the end of each four year council cycle a different system can in theory be put in place. I would value your opinions.

Request for information: there is a rather unpleasant person or persons trying to make our town just a little bit worse by spraying big graffiti words around. The police are doing what they can but meanwhile please report any you see to the Guildhall. They will try and get it removed ...ring 844846 or email guildhall@saltash.gov.uk. Thanks - don't assume others will do it!

Lastly our Cornwall Council-owned highways company Cormac is going to work with Nottingham County Council on joint business ventures to tender for roadwork's across southern England and the Midlands. Profit share effectively remains with Cornwall, but what do you think? Is that what we should be doing? I think it is probably OK but your views interest me. Thanks.

Spring is here, got my spuds in despite the wet (never in 40 years have I had standing water along my strawberry rows), tomato seeds are up and I've got that tingling feeling only green fingers get. Best of the season to you!

Deputy Town Clerk Added to Town Hall

A new post of deputy or assistant Town Clerk is being added to the full-time positions appointed by Saltash Town Council.

Increased work for the Town Council and further anticipated increased work as the town takes over duties devolved from Cornwall Council was given as the reason for the new position.

The administration officer post was agreed to be made full-time as of February. The

new post would include responsibility for minute taking in full Council and Council committee meetings as well as for working groups and other associated official council meetings.

Training would be given for any enhanced responsibilities.

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Over £1,000 was raised during the second half of the Autumn Term for a range of charitable efforts thanks to generous and compassionate students and staff at saltash.net community school. Year 12 students, Amber Pritchard and Shannon Reed, organised a sponsored row in the 6th Form Day Room, enlisting the help of their peers to row continuously from 7.00am to 7.00pm. Cheered on by the school community, they raised a superb £419.19 for Cancer Research.

Students lower down the school also took the initiative to organise fundraising activities, including year 9 student, Jack Phelan, who took responsibility for the Christmas raffle, raising £123.83 for his effort to reach £3,000 needed to install an IPAD SP1 Defibrillator outside the Fire Station in Saltash.

Year 10 student, Megan Kelly, along with year 12 student, Gabriella Adams, worked hard to organise a lunchtime Christmas talent

show and this generated the grand total of £66.31 to go towards the Text Santa national campaign which supports a number of different charities.

In addition to these individual fundraisers, years 7-11 took part in a non-uniform day in December to help raise money for the Laura Crane Youth Cancer Trust and the Kambeng Trust which supports the education of children in West Africa. This day raised an additional £500, bringing the total for

the second half of the Autumn Term to £1,109.33. The overall amount raised for charity during the whole of the Autumn term was £3,484.27, an incredible outcome!

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Show starts 7.30pm £12 plus theatre ticket

Sunday 27th March**Easter Sunday lunch Hannaford Point**

11.30am - 4.30pm £4.50 plus lunch cost

Saturday 2nd April**Boconnoc Spring Flower show**

9am - 3pm £9.50 plus gate admission

Wednesday 13th April**David Walliams' Gangsta Granny - Hall for Cornwall & time in Truro**

(show starts 1.30pm)

11am - 5pm £12 plus theatre ticket

Monday 18th April**Tartendown & Kernow Mill (half day)**

2pm - 5pm £4

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Readers, we have had a quiet time for official functions but council business has kept us busy.

This time of the year we are focusing on our predicted budgets for the year ahead, with more demands being made upon us this is not a straightforward task.

You may have heard that we as a council have taken over all open spaces in Pilmere, which include some play parks and we are in the process of evaluating what is needed in association with the residents.

Coming up this month is clean for the Queen to celebrate her birthday, which is going to be litter picks.

It's a shame that in our town we should need to carry out litter picks and close toilets due to vandalism and I think we all need to be more vigilant to stop this anti social behaviour.

With the devolving of assets from Cornwall well under way, talks are ongoing with a list which includes more play parks, the waterfront and toilets which is a very emotive issue which most residents would like to see open and improved.

*Cllr Bill Phillips
Mayor of Saltash.*

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Entertainment Every Weekend**March 2016****Fri 18th March** the return of Motown Pirates (MH)**Ticket only****Sat 19th The line Up (Bar)****Easter Weekend****Sat 26th Low Profile (Bar)****Easter Sunday 27th Karaoke (Bar)****April 2016****Sat 2nd Silverback (Bar)****Sat 9th Opium (Bar)****Sun 10th Karaoke (Bar)****Sat 16 Black Diamonds (Bar)****Sat 23rd Kit Hill Billies (Bar)****Sun 24th Karaoke (Bar)**

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An Opportunity to Try, Say Saltash Bowling Club

Why not give bowls a try...

suggests our friendly local bowling club.

Saturday 16th April is an important day for Saltash Bowls Club. Because it is our Opening Day for the 2016 Outdoor season. It is also the day we invite people of all ages, young or older, to come along and have a try at playing outdoor bowls. There is no charge at all, and the club will provide bowls to suit the individual.

One of the myths about bowls is that it is an old person's game. True, there are a lot of older people playing bowls, but it is one of the few games you can physically play outdoors as you get older.

The level of bowls being played at the club is such that once you have mastered the mechanics of the game, including holding the bowl correctly and delivering the bowl up the green the distance you would like, you can play either a competition, or else mixed friendlies.

Our mixed friendly programme this season will include visits to Torquay,

Teignmouth, Holsworthy and Brixham St Marys. We will also play Bere Alston, Kingsbridge, Tavistock, and St Columb at home.

The games are generally on a Sunday afternoon with refreshments provided.

Our men's league programme is in the evening at 6.15 during which we will visit Torpoint, Liskeard, Lostwithiel, and Callington. The ladies leagues are in the afternoon.

Saturday 16th April at 10.a.m. is open for all to have a go at playing bowls. The club coaches will be on hand to guide anyone new to the game.

We are also planning to

open the Green and Pavilion for refreshments and trials on the Saturday of the May Fair 30th April. Should you wish to go further we will welcome you at our Club night every Friday night for 6 weeks at no extra cost? You will be given coaching and at the end of the 6 weeks you will be asked if you would like to join the club as a member.

Why not give it a try!

Should you not be able to attend on either of these Saturdays, but would still like to give it a try please contact the Club Secretary, **Mrs Chris Johnstone, on 01752 219051 or Mr. John Payne on 01752 845197.**

A Warm Drink and Warm Welcome by The Waterside

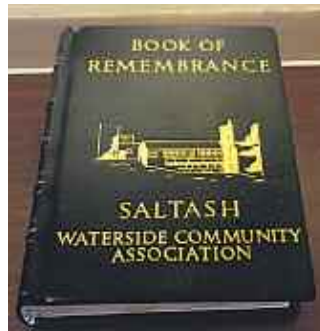
With its superb river views from panoramic windows and its terrace above the Tamar Ashtorre Rock opens every day offering refreshments and a friendly welcome to all.

This Waterside venue also always welcomes new volunteer kitchen helpers to serve the teas and coffees to visitors winter and summer. The volunteer organisers would love to hear from anyone who could spare a couple of hours and take a turn at opening up. Anyone interested is invited to call Lynn on 01752 844255 and she will give the details and explain how simple it is to help and how much enjoyment can be given and received just by a couple of hours volunteering.

Ashtorre Rock has a remembrance book listing those past supporters who have passed on. As time has gone by the organisers have not always been aware of the passing of loyal supporters. If anyone would like to enter names and details of a family member or friend who has enjoyed Ashtorre Rock please leave a note with a kitchen

helper or call Lynn on the above number.

When in the historic Waterside all are invited to call at Ashtorre Rock for tea or coffee or simply watch the river go by. It is also possible to become a Friend of Ashtorre Rock for just £3 per annum payable at the beginning of the year. Anyone over eighteen can join and can then attend the annual general meeting where they may raise and vote on any issues or suggestions for the more efficient running of this very comfortable meeting place.



Letter to the Editor...

May I consolidate a few items into one letter which maybe of interest to other readers of our much cared for, 'community paper'?

I would like to know what on earth is happening to the well read "From the Mayor's Parlour"? It seems to be getting smaller & smaller to the extent there wasn't anything at all in the last 'Observer' (Feb 16) edition. Forgive my cynicism but some might think the Mayor has nothing worth writing about.

On a much more serious note I would like to refer to Sheryll Murray's column on page 6 regarding the safety of Fishermen & the tragic loss of Neil, her dear late husband & a friend of mine. As an ex Seaman

myself & respectfully, I think she should have added the danger of going to sea alone. My view is NEVER go out to sea alone. It should be a golden rule for obvious reasons.

Finally, & if you care for the Saltash Waterside, have a walk down to see a once very popular, good looking Pub, known as the 'Wheatsheaf Inn' & re-named 'The Waterside.' I am afraid you will be horrified to see the dilapidated run down rack & ruin eyesore of a Pub once enjoyed by many. What is the Council doing about it? Time for action!!

*Baz Gregory
Saltash*

Letter to the Editor

I am writing to bring everyone's notice to the lack of buses servicing Maybrook Drive. We had a brilliant service by First Bus several years ago, and then they abandoned us! Suddenly we were over-served by Plymouth Citybus. Two every 15 minutes was a little generous! For my personal needs, one every half hour or even one every hour would suffice. But now AGAIN, we have NONE. There are several elderly people in this road and I should think, like myself, a service into Saltash at least, so that a connection could be caught there to go into Plymouth would be appreciated. Isn't it time the bus companies worked together for the benefit of the community and not for themselves?

*Mrs. M Tucker
Saltash*

Maurice Huggins Room Future Uncertain

The Maurice Huggins room, attractively set in Victoria Gardens at the top of Fore Street, will be available for hire to local organisations more often as of this month.

Saltash Creative Space, who have been using the facility in daytime, gave notice that they were moving on as of late February, freeing the building for other uses.

Saltash Community Enterprise whose agreement with the Town Council in respect of the building expires at the end of this March, has asked the Mayor, Mayor Elect and Town Clerk, to meet with them and set out a plan for the future of the building as a community asset. They suggest that it may need to be settled in the context of an all-round vision for Victoria Gardens.

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**Steps
Ahead**

Plymouth City Bus Sponsors Saltash Memorial Peace Garden



A new and innovative Saltash Town Council War Memorial and Peace Garden opened in Alexandra Square recently believed to be the first of its kind in the South West has been given a boost by Plymouth City Bus. The Memorial commemorates both First and Second World Wars and is also dedicated to all those from Saltash who have lost their lives in war and conflict.

The Garden situated on Alexandra Green, close to Saltash Guildhall and St. Nicholas & Faith Church, is going through a phased two project, with additional flower beds and another commemorative seat and other improvements under review such donors to the Memorial

Garden and will be presenting a generous cheque for £500 to the Mayor of Saltash, Councillor Bill Phillips at 3.00pm on Monday 8th February at the Gardens on Alexandra Green.

Plymouth City Bus assistant Commercial Manager James Church who will be presenting the cheque, said: "We are delighted to make this donation for the upkeep of such an important garden to Saltash. Working with local communities is such a big part of our ethos here at Citybus and we are proud that our contribution is going to have a long term affect and maintain the future of this wonderful garden".

Mr Barry Brooking as a representative of the families of Saltash who lost relatives

opened the Memorial in November. Barry served in the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Commando, and completed 3 operational tours of duty in Northern Ireland between 1969 and 1972. He is the grandson of Francis Brooking, one of six Saltash firemen killed in the blitz in Plymouth in 1941.

Councillor Mrs Sue Hooper, who initiated the project and leads the Working Party on behalf of the Saltash Town Council said: "We very much appreciate this most generous donation from Plymouth City Bus, such generous funding is very warmly welcomed to enable this very worthy project to develop and become a recognised area of reflection and tribute to all those who lost their lives in War and conflict."

Local Police Team Increased

A new member has been added to the Saltash police team as PC Mark Rothwell has filled the position vacant since last August. Sgt Angela Crowe at Saltash police station confirmed that they were delighted to have Mark on board and that he will be a new neighbourhood beat manager for Saltash and the surrounding area.

Having joined the force in 2009 as PC SO in Plymstock, he became a PC in 2013 and has spent the last two years as a response officer in Liskeard covering the Saltash area. He thus has a good working knowledge of the area.

Meanwhile the January crime figures showed 60 crimes as committed in Saltash and the rural surrounds. These include 11 thefts from shops, five from vehicles, four other

thefts, 10 criminal damage and 12 assaults. There was also one sexual offence, one burglary from a dwelling and one non-dwelling, and two harassment/public order offences. Also 28 incidents of anti-social behaviour were reported. These were largely nuisance neighbours or nuisance customers in business premises but also include a number of egg throwing incidents in various streets by day or night

More Help for Saltash Jobless

Since the closure of Saltash Jobcentre several years ago local support for the jobless has reduced considerably. Saltash has been invited to become involved with Inclusion Cornwall who are keen to coordinate the issues of being unemployed with local job availability and community volunteering.

Such a scheme has worked well in the Helston area and it is hoped to introduce it to south-east Cornwall. Councillors from Saltash joined with those from Callington and Torpoint and it was proposed that Saltash join with the other two towns in each pledging £1000 to inclusion Cornwall.

A recent economic profile showed the claimants of jobseekers allowance in Saltash to be 8%, less than Cornwall's average of 1.2%. There were 337 local residents aged 16 to 74 categorised as "unemployed" including 123 aged 16 to 24, 137 aged 25 to 49, and 114 categorised as "long-term unemployed"

Parents Proposed "Friends" Make Park Child Friendly

Parents of two young children who live close to Longstone Park has set up a petition seeking to make the park more attractive to families and children. She bought her concerns over the park to town councillors during the council's public question time.

Among the improvements she is seeking is a woodland area safe for children to play in, picnic benches, better security gates and a revamp of the toilets which her own children prefer not to visit. The petition, which was to be presented to the Cornwall Council as current owners of the land, has received good feedback from parents and other local residents, many of whom would support the setting up of a "Friends of Longstone Park" group.

Town Councillors proved supportive and pointed out that the council's precept already include £3000 to improve the local toilets, for which the town has recently assumed responsibility from Cornwall council. The neighbourhood

plan currently under preparation will include local views on open spaces and how they can best be utilised and enjoyed.

It was agreed that a group be set up to include local ward councillors and local residents which could help secure grant funding and perhaps set up events. Cornwall Council is already inviting interested parties to rent land at Longstone to set up a food stand.

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2011(11) Ford Focus 1.5 Edge petrol, 5dr hatch, 5 speed manual, in met black, 20k	£7295.00
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Children's Appeal Celebrates Two Decades of Funding Local Families

Saltash children and their families have, over the past 20 years, benefited from a little-known local charity that has assisted numerous such families by providing means to improve children's lives not offered by other official or charitable bodies.

Saltash Children's Appeal, which is currently marking 20 years of service to the town, was established in 1995 when it was recognised that many local families were unable to obtain help for relatively minor matters, in particular transport costs for medical visits to London or to other distant destinations. While travel costs to London might be paid for, the appeal

can assist with taxi fares, easing the stress of the journey at a difficult time for the family.

In general the appeal pays for whatever may improve life for the family and child. Some children have complex needs and parents no means to obtain equipment to improve their quality of life. The charity operates in the areas covered by the two Saltash surgeries and requests for assistance are made by healthcare professionals, usually the health visitor or the school nurse. There is complete confidentiality for the families involved and requests are not means tested, usually the referrer is aware of family financial circumstances. Each year around a dozen payments are made, usually each between £50 and £150. As a small local charity there are virtually no overheads to meet and almost all monies raised directly by the appeal organisers, such as through their Mayfair stall, go towards filling the family needs. The society was delighted to be chosen as the Mayor's charity by Councillor Mrs Jean Dent in 2014-15 and has as a result received substantial sums from several sources for which they are duly grateful.

Anyone wishing to make a donation or seeking further information is invited to contact the chairman on 846878 secretary on 516996 or treasurer 844993

Conundrum Corner

Taking the initial letter to the one-word answer to the following eight questions can you re-arrange them to make a local place name?

- 1 Which is the fastest animal on two legs? (7)
- 2 What is the National flower of Austria? (9)
- 3 Which Channel Port is the most Northerly Town in France? (7)
- 4 From which film does the song "My Heart Will Go On" come? (7)
- 5 In 1973 the Cod War broke out between Russia and which other Country? (7)
- 6 What name is given to the Dessert made from cooked, pureed fruit, strained, chilled and folded into whipped cream? (4)
- 7 Canterbury is one of two Cathedral Cities in Kent, which is the other? (9)
- 8 In J. M. Barrie's Peter Pan what was the surname of the children? (7)

Answers on page 8

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I am yet again disappointed but not surprised by the outcome of the EU negotiations. I applaud David Cameron for trying but am not surprised that he did not achieve the sort of deal that would protect the UK for the future.

Recently I said in Parliament "As David Cameron pushes for better terms for the British people in his renegotiation talks with the EU, we all have a unique opportunity to finally put fishing at the heart of discussions. Now is the time for the Prime Minister to rectify the dreadful mistakes of the past and include restoration of national control over the UK 200 mile median line limit so we can operate freely just like our neighbours in Iceland and Norway."

Unfortunately fishing was not even on the table even although it was a Conservative Party Manifesto commitment in 2005 to leave the Common Fisheries Policy. I have long said that if David did not secure at least something for the Fishermen I would vote out.

I would like to turn now to the poor deal he was given at the EU.

Immigration has always been an issue. I have always believed that immigration that we controlled to be a good thing as long as it does not over power us. Last year, in our manifesto, we said that we

SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...



aimed to "keep our ambition of delivering annual net migration in the tens of thousands, not the hundreds of thousands." I agreed and indeed fought an election on this. Nothing in this deal will deliver on this. The minor changes to in work benefits will not stop the vast majority of EU migration who come here to work. The few, and I do mean few, that it might deter could simply wait until the 'emergency brake' is released and then could all come here together in a few years time just lining up a bigger problem for the future.

Again, in last years manifesto we said, "If an EU migrant's child is living abroad then you should receive no child benefit, no longer how long they have worked in the UK and no matter how much they have paid." What was achieved could not have been further away. Child benefit will still be sent but that the amount will relate to average wages in their home country. This change will not effect current claimants until 2020 and I have not heard what will happen to the amount we send to

countries which have higher than our average income.

So what did he get for us. He did get an understanding that we do not want closer union and that we did not want to join the Euro currency. This is simply recognising what was the case anyway. There is no way Britain would have joined the Euro, especially not at the moment, so this was really no big win.

I am really disappointed by the deal but I want to look back to where we were in 1975 when we had our last vote. In 1975 I voted in. It was my first ever vote. I voted to join a free market area. Over 40 years later we certainly have a very different European Union to what I voted for. I worry what the situation will be in 40 years time after different governments have changed and amended. Will we indeed be part of a European Superstate.

This time I am definitely going to Vote Leave. I believe it is important that we stop paying many millions every day to prop up Europe and that we now make that break to be able to run our own country.

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Chronicle Project Outlined

What began as a hobby to while away off duty hours aboard ship for Andrew Tritton became, after he left the Royal Navy, a major project involving around two hundred Saltash residents and soon to result in a unique work of art to celebrate the town's rich history.

The Saltash Chronicle embroidery project began when Andrew decided to utilise his needlework skills in preparing a panel in the style of the Bayeux tapestry and using similar threads brought back from that town. He showed Saltash Old Cornwall Society, at their monthly meeting, examples of his work that has resulted since he planned three-year project involving a vast team including artists, embroiderers, web designers and reprographic workers. Even local children have become involved in adding "something important in their lives" to the borders.

Now the 160 foot long project which portrays Saltash its history from prehistory to the raising of the Cornish cross is nearing completion and due to be displayed in the Baptist Church from late April. But this is not the end, as the project is intended to be ongoing with new panels added to depict future events in Saltash history. And the ultimate aim is to have it in a visitor centre together with a town museum, local history and arts Centre.

This may appear ambitious but, as, society secretary Martin Lister noted in his vote of thanks Andrew Tritton is building a track record for achieving the ambitions of the seemingly impossible.



Sports Personality of the Year 2015-16

The Sports Personality of the Year for 2015-16 at saltash.net community school is Ryan Winfield. Now studying for his A Levels in the 6th Form, Ryan's outstanding contribution to PE and games at the school resulted in his nomination for the Pip Miller Memorial Award, donated by ex-governor, Ken Martin in memory of his wife.

Head of PE, Rob Hawkins, explained the reasons why Ryan had been selected, saying, "This young man has really impressed us over the last 5 years at saltash.net with his attitude, efforts and achievements. He has captained the school team in his year group for all five years winning 5 East Cornwall championships, 3 county championships and

reaching the last 32 of the national cup on two occasions.

As a captain and leader he is vocal and demands high standards. He is always positive and encourages his team mates. He leads by example, giving everything on the pitch, a superb role model of how a footballer should behave. He is brave as well; in the County final against Helston, a clash of heads whilst competing for a high ball, split his head open and required a visit to hospital which meant he missed all the team celebrations at the end of the game. Hopefully this award will make up for that in some way."

Police Station's Future Seems Safe

The future of the Police Station in Saltash seems assured with the news, passed to Saltash Town Council, that £100,000 is to be spent on its refurbishment.

This does not, however, mean that it will be re-opened to the public. Saltash residents wishing to communicate with the police other than in an emergency when they call still call 999, cannot visit a public police desk in the town. Instead they must continue to call the non-emergency number 101.

Town Councillors who needed to report a break-in to the grounds man's hut at Churchtown Farm cemetery did just this. After several abortive attempts when they were hanging on for twenty minutes, contact was finally made at the end of a forty-five minute call. After the wait no police officer attended the scene, they were just given a crime number for insurance claim purposes.

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Saltash to Celebrate Queen's Birthday

Saltash is to join in the nationwide celebration of Her Majesty's 90th birthday in late spring.

The Queen's Birthday actually falls on 21st April with her official birthday on 28th May.

The town's eager band of litter pickers which meets at some location in the town each month led by Mayor elect Councillor Hilary Frank had already agreed to

participate in the "Clean for the Queen" campaign. They were to amend the dates of the monthly cleanup to coincide with the nationwide cleanup campaign in early March, followed by a tea party.

It was agreed that the town should hang out bunting from mid-March and after discussion it was also agreed that this should not be in the Cornish black and gold but

the British red white and blue colours.

The Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, Edward Bolitho had advised against organising street parties, citing the considerable cost of street closure orders. However the regatta committee was reported as looking to link in the royal celebrations with their own event on the 25th and 26th June.

Anyone for Quidditch at Hogash.net?

On World Book Day, 2016, saltash.net found itself transformed into a Harry Potter themed Hogash.net, thanks to the impassioned efforts of English teacher and Literacy Coordinator, Jono Stirrup.

Mr Stirrup led assemblies for students in years 7-11 in the lead up to the big day, emphasising the importance of reading as much as possible, and promoting the school's excellent library provision as a 'treasure chest' of ideas.

Students and staff certainly got into the Hogash.net spirit on 3rd March, dressing up in a fabulous range of costumes which included Modern Languages teacher, Miss Yvinec as 'the lady in the painting'!

Across the school, departments offered all sorts of themed activities: Latin spells in Languages, Magic in Maths, incantations in English and robotic quidditch in Design Technology. In addition, year groups were split into appropriately Harry Potter themed Houses with year 7 as Gryffindor, year 8 as Hufflepuff, year 9 as Slytherin and year 10 as Ravenclaw. Year 11 were appropriately absorbed into the House of Dobby for the purposes of the day!



Speaking after a hugely successful day, Mr Stirrup said, "I've always been pestered by students about why I haven't read Harry Potter, 'after all you're an English teacher', they would say.

I took it upon myself to trawl through, what I always assumed were just books about magic and wizards, but I couldn't have been more wrong. Harry Potter is an absolute treasure chest. One year 7 pupil told the assembled year 7s and 8s, on

Tuesday morning, that it was about friendship and the resilience of friendship. I really couldn't have put it better myself and, as such, a wonderful theme to use for saltash.net where the ideals of resilience and comradeship are strong and explicit in our day to day lives. Students who took time to dress up became part of something very special. There were notable highlights and surprises: a dragon, two Hagrids, a dashing Professor Lockhart, a Dobby, Mrs

Norris the cat with Hermiones and Harrys galore! Thank you to all who dressed up, but also to all those teachers who created a lesson themed around Harry Potter. Children had an utterly wonderful time and I'm sure next year is already in their sights."

The students who dressed up were invited to make a donation towards 'Books to Africa', an organisation providing educational aid to areas of Africa in severe need.

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