

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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May 2014 - Issue 262

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Go Ahead Given for a Thousand New Homes

A massive development on the edge of Saltash with up to a thousand new homes, a school, a surgery, shops, a hotel and a residential home has been cautiously recommended for approval by Saltash Town Council.

Saltash Town Councillors discussed the application for outline permission for the Broadmoor homes at length. They accepted that the Cornwall Council's local plan includes a thousand new homes for Saltash and if they were not sited at Broadmoor they would have to go elsewhere, possibly on a less preferable site. They agreed that Broadmoor is the best site that the Council could see.

The main concern expressed by Councillors

over the number of new homes was as to whether there would be enough new local jobs for the influx of new residents. The developers had claimed that there would be. An 'employment area' of up to six hectares was part of the plan, though Councillors pointed out that 'up to' could include a much lesser area. The developers had indicated an estimated thousand new jobs, around 450 on the new employment land with the others related to the new

school, Shops, surgery and other commercial premises. In granting outline permission the Council sought to ensure that the provision of a thousand new jobs, one job per household, was a condition of allowing a thousand new homes.

Access roads to the new estate also concerned Town Councillors who were asked to grant detailed permission for access roads to the new estate. These would include two new roundabouts, one on the A38 at Stoketon Cross near the 'Crooked Inn' and Trematon turn-off, and one at Carkeel slightly north of the present Waitrose roundabout on the Callington Road.

Heavy traffic backing up along the Callington Road through Carkeel to the A38 roundabout was foreseen by Councillors, given a thousand new homes with an estimated 1.5 vehicles per home, plus other vehicles serving and visiting the new estate, Councillor Derek Holley urged a condition upon

granting permission, enforcing the developers to set aside money to pay for new part-time traffic lights on the new roundabout to aid rush hour traffic flow should they be needed. This was agreed and added as a planning condition. It was also felt that through traffic along the A388 to and from Callington should be encouraged to by-pass Carkeel and go west of the new Broadmoor estate to the new Stoketon Cross roundabout. To this end the junction at Roods Cross, just south of the 'Cardinal's Hat' inn should, it was agreed, be re-aligned as a T junction with the road to Carkeel being marked as a minor road off the Stoketon Cross - Hatt road.

Town Councillors agreed unanimously to recommend approval in respect of the Broadmoor Farm planning application subject to these conditions.

Kids and Adults go Up The Wall with Spiderman



See Story on page 5

A Stronger Voice for Chamber

Saltash Joins Local Chambers of Commerce To Create A Stronger Single Voice Intent on Inward Investment. Following a meeting in Torpoint on Monday 31st March, Saltash Chamber of Commerce and others from across South East Cornwall including Liskeard, Torpoint, Looe, Polperro and Rame have officially inaugurated a Collective Chamber to Commerce with one hugely important objective.... to attract inward investment to South East Cornwall.

The respective Chambers decided that in order to promote South East Cornwall, encourage investment and create jobs in this region, a stronger, single voice is essential. Even though the individual Chambers will continue with their own identities and commitments to their respective towns the desire to work collectively was too

good an opportunity to miss.

To businesses in the region, it has been apparent for some time that South East Cornwall has been somewhat by-passed. Literally in some instances with poor signage off the M5 and poor transport links from Plymouth but also with huge investment and development alongside the A30 in preference to the A38.

A further aim of the new collective will be to create a good working partnership with the South East Cornwall Councillors, all with the aim of increased development, improved infrastructure, tourism and sustainable growth that will secure the future of the region.

Commenting on the new collective Chamber, Jan Pascoe said: 'At the moment there is a huge gulf between East and West Cornwall, mainly due to connectivity problems and the business leaders in South East Cornwall intend to work together and campaign hard for improved road systems and rail links. Recent rail link damage at Dawlish highlighted the problems and the new single group is already determined to see a reliable rail link to the Westcountry put on the agenda ahead of the increasingly controversial plans for HS2'.

The first meeting will be hosted by Liskeard and held on Monday May 19th at the

Eliot House Hotel at 7.30 p.m. and all businesses will be welcome. The new collective will have interesting facilitators attending and are hoping to lobby the local MP and as many Cornwall Councillors as possible to attend, actively participate and enjoy discussions in an informal and friendly atmosphere.

Saltash Fuel Now Cheapest for Miles!

The Saltash Chamber of Commerce and Industry which has lobbied hard for lower petrol prices in Saltash to match those elsewhere in the area, was pleased to note a substantial reduction during their monthly meeting.

This was noted for all members and local businesses on the Chamber website - and a letter of appreciation would be, it was agreed, sent to the petrol company concerned.

Petrol is even cheaper for those who hold the 'Saltash Card' available from the 'For Saltash' premises at the foot of Fore Street and offering reductions in a number of local businesses in order to boost trade in the town.

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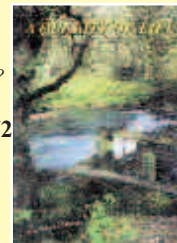
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The Essa Files

I am writing this column on May 4th, known to science-fiction fans as Star Wars Day ('May the Fourth be with you' - if you say it out loud and still don't get it then go watch some Star Wars). This hit home with me today because a friend from university posted a well-known Star Wars quote on Facebook "Fear is the path to the dark side. Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to hate. Hate leads to suffering."

This struck me because it seems that a message of fear is quite prevalent, and scarily effective, in the world at the moment. It has led to war in the Ukraine, it is the reason that victims of Max Clifford did not come forward earlier, and it is becoming a worryingly large part of our political life.

But it needn't be. It is possible to have sensible discussions about all sorts of issues - crime, immigration, Europe - without trying to scare people, or whip up hostility to others.

One of the things that has always impressed me about most local politics, at least in Saltash, is that most people are able to express their opinion without trying to frighten people into agreeing, and without trying to stir up dislike or hatred at those who disagree. It's perhaps a shame that this doesn't seem to hold true at a national level.

So with the European elections coming up I am not going to suggest here that you vote for a particular party, but I am going to suggest that a. you should vote b. you should vote for any party whose positive message you agree with, not a party who tried to get your vote by trying to make you feel afraid.

By Adam Killeya

Market Celebrates One Year



Pictured... Outgoing Saltash Mayor David Yates is pleased to find a fruit and vegetable stall is now a daily feature of the Community Market at the bottom of Fore Street. Also pictured the Birthday cake.

Mayor Cuts Birthday Cake

Saltash Mayor David Yates cuts a Birthday Cake to celebrate one year since the Community Market opened.

The Market was created in the former British Gas showroom at the bottom of Fore Street after it had lain empty for more than 20 years.

Several projects run from the Fore Street market were represented on the specially commissioned birthday cake: the Hopper Bus, Community Market, Saltash Card and Volunteer Service PL12.

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Belle Vue Building Could be Community Base

The building in Belle Vue Road currently used by the Citizens' Advice Bureau is owned by Cornwall Council who, in order to realise their assets and save money, are contemplating selling it for £238,000. The CAB meanwhile are looking to move to a former mortuary in the lane between Fore Street and Victoria Road, though they would reportedly prefer to remain in their present premises.

Before marketing the property Cornwall Council has invited Saltash Town Council and the Community Interest company to come up with a business case to lease the premises to them.

This could be an ideal Town Centre site for a community lead building, some Councillors and CIC members believe. If they were to lease it the CAB could remain, making a financial contribution

towards the costs of it. Others who have expressed interest in sharing use of the building are Saltash Food Bank and Saltash Live at Home Scheme, while other local organisations benefitting the town might also be approached. The adult social care team who currently have an office in the building and wish to remain could also do so and make a financial contribution.

The Town Council has asked the Gateway Community Interest company to investigate the business case for running the building which is reported as in good condition though requiring ongoing maintenance costs.

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New Saltash Smartphone App Launches

The Town Council has launched a new free app for Android and Apple Smartphones and tablets. The Saltash Town Guide can be found by searching in your phones 'App store'. It's free, and has been paid for using Section 106 funds from the Waitrose development, and is another STIG (Saltash Town Improvement Group) project.

Shops in the Town Centre all get a mention, along with many other places in and around the town. Each business can log in and update their own information, as well as posting Special Offers that get delivered straight to your phone. An interactive map will also show you how to find them, so should help visitors to the town.

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CORNWALL

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& our PL12 Community

For: August 2013 Observer readers

From: Councillor Bob Austin

West Ward, Saltash



May Fair

I would like to thank all those who were involved with the Mayfair committee for the hard work and dedication that it has taken to get to the standard we all enjoyed over the weekend.

Cornish Minority Status

The Government made a submission to the Council of Europe earlier this year to update the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities which is designed to protect and promote cultural diversity. Cornwall Council has been proactively engaging with the Government, including

working on a paper regarding the status of the Cornish as a national minority, to inform their submission prior to it being released for consultation. It is with surprise and delight that we understand the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Danny Alexander announced that the Government will fully recognise the Cornish as a national minority under the Framework Convention for Protection of National Minorities. Being recognised as a national minority will mean that the Cornish will be afforded the same protections as the Welsh, Scottish and the Irish. This means that Government departments and public bodies will be required to take our views into account when making decisions. Three previous attempts to include the Cornish in the Framework Convention were unsuccessful. Inclusion in the Convention will:

■ Recognise the distinctiveness of the Cornish and enhance the United Kingdom's reputation as a country that celebrates and supports the diversity of its inhabitants.

■ Further the economic interests, not just of Cornwall, but of the United Kingdom as a whole.

■ Help strengthen the confidence of our young people that they are encouraged to identify with their cultural identity, and that this is valued by the rest of the country.

■ Help strengthen the 'Cornish' brand and provide a mechanism whereby the Cornish can establish and strengthen links with other groups accorded similar status across Europe and around the world.

■ Create stronger links between communities and a greater understanding of shared values to help create more vibrant communities than can shape their own future.

National minority status will not initially bring any additional funding or powers to the Council or to Cornwall. We will need to work with partners to make this clear to people in Cornwall. However,

there are obviously significant benefits for Cornwall in being included within the Framework Convention which is worth celebrating.

Pot Holes

A plea to all residents if you have a problem with potholes in your area please report this to the Cornwall Council via our website <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk> this system is working extremely well and the more residents use it the higher priority your potholes will get. Remember of course that the A and B roads are taking up most of the budget.

Cornwall Councillors

Community Grants 2014-15 This scheme is continuing from May and Cornwall Councillors have been allocated £2,100 each to help Community Organisations. If any organisation wishes to apply, the first point of contact is the Cornwall Council member for the ward the organisation works from.

Housing

Cornwall Council has a statutory duty to set out in an Allocations Scheme the way in which social housing is prioritised and let. Social housing is in short supply in Cornwall and there are more people who need or would like help in getting a home than we can provide.

New legislation from Central Government means that Local Authorities can now make changes to their schemes such as who can qualify to join the Housing Register. These changes will help Cornwall Council and Cornwall Housing Ltd to better manage the housing waiting lists by making sure that the social houses that are available go to those families and individuals that are in the greatest need.

Cornwall Council Members have agreed to consult on some changes to the current scheme, and we are proposing changes to:

■ Who can join the Housing Register;

■ How applicants are banded;

■ How housing will be advertised and let; and

■ Applicant responsibilities. Further details and all the documentation you need can be found at:

<http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/allocations-scheme/>

To have your say please complete the online questionnaire.

This consultation will run from Monday the 28th April until Friday the 13th June 2014.

If you have any questions or queries regarding the Homechoice review please email:

haveyoursayhomechoice@cornwallhousing.org.uk

Councillor Bob Austin

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New Homes developments coming soon in Elburton, Derriford, and Lipson, Price guides: Flats from £125,000 and houses and bungalows to £495,000 for detached 4 bedroom homes. Completions from Spring 2015.

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From The Mayor's Parlour...

This is the last article I shall be writing for the Observer as Mayor. At the Mayor Choosing I said that the keys to a successful year would be communication, co-operation and community. I hope that I have done my part in achieving that over the last year.

What are the things that have stood out for me while I have been Mayor?

Without doubt the best part of being Mayor is the opportunity to meet people and take part in many of the town activities run by the groups and individuals who contribute so much to making Saltash the community that it is. There may be activities or hobbies not represented by a society or club in Saltash, but there can't be many!

Some of the things we have done have worked really well:

Saltash won two awards in the Cornwall in Bloom competition, "Full Bloom" and "Town Centre". The effectiveness of free parking on Saturdays and during the build-up to Christmas in bringing people into Saltash has been commented on by many people during our "meet your councillor events in Fore Street. The Christmas Event, May Fair and Regatta raised the profile of Saltash and brought people to the town. Refurbished seating, hanging baskets and planters have improved the "feeling" of the town centre.

The new "Town App" has been a huge success, try it!

Recent news programmes on the change in status of the Cornish language have included a significant amount of coverage of the Cornish Cross.

Nor everything has worked out as I expected. We spent a lot of time reviewing our grit bin effectiveness in the town and bought new bins to replace damaged ones and improve coverage in key locations. However the expected freezing weather didn't materialise (not that anyone I've met has complained about that!).

The Neighbourhood Plan has been a consistent workload throughout the year. In January Cornwall Council agreed that the housing target in Cornwall's Local Plan should be for an extra 47,500 homes to be built in the period up to 2030 with about 900-1000 houses needing to be built in Saltash by 2030.

I said in a previous article that a particular issue to be addressed is consideration of the infrastructure requirements of any significant development. Currently the subject being considered is the collective effect on traffic flows of the various proposed developments.

The Highways Agency has requested that approval of the Commercial Estates Group planning proposal for development at Broadmoor Farm be delayed until traffic issues resulting from such a large expansion have been considered.

Finally can I say that being Mayor of Saltash has been a huge pleasure and privilege and I hope that my successor will have the same enjoyable time that I have had.

Thank you and goodbye.

Cllr David Yates Town Mayor

Ofsted Report Confirms that saltash.net's Mission Statement 'Believe and Achieve' is Evident in Practice!



Saltash.net community school is delighted that its unwavering commitment to improving the life chances of all the young people in its care has been singled out for praise and recognition in its most recent Ofsted inspection report.

A team of five inspectors visited the school on the 19th and 20th March. Many aspects of the school's work, including one of its termly Theme Days, were observed, before the inspection team agreed that the Behaviour and Safety of the students and the Leadership and Management of the school all warranted the highest possible judgement of 'Outstanding'. Students' Achievement and the overall quality of teaching were both deemed to be 'Good' overall with many outstanding features highlighted in the final report.

The school was given high praise for ensuring that the proportion of students attaining five or more GCSE and equivalent qualifications, including English and Maths, at the end of Year 11 is well above average. Achievement in the 6th Form was also described as 'improving rapidly with an increasing proportion achieving the highest possible grades.'

Inspectors were in agreement that the school meets the needs of the full ability range: students with complex learning needs in the Trematon Unit were described as being 'supported effectively and, as a result, achieve well.' The inspection

team especially liked the fact that 'the school farm supports the social development of these students'. At the other end of the ability range, there was praise given for the fact that the most able students make good progress and the numbers attaining the highest grades in all subjects are increasing.

A description of 'conscientious' and 'highly committed' teachers, keen to share their expertise with each other, led on to the inspectors quoting from a member of staff's questionnaire which stated that, 'saltash.net is an incredible place to work; I

have never worked in a place where I feel so supported and inspired by people around me - students and staff.'

Commenting on the report, Headteacher, Isobel Bryce, said, 'It makes me very proud indeed to read so many positive things about our school. I am especially proud of our young people. We receive regular feedback about their excellent behaviour and attitudes from visitors to our school but it is particularly rewarding to have their 'exemplary' conduct recognised by the Ofsted team. I am certain parents and carers must feel as pleased as we all do that they have concluded, "Students feel safe and their behaviour is outstanding. Students are proud of their school. They are polite, courteous and keen

to achieve well.'"

In addition, I am thrilled that the excellent pastoral provision, positive relationships, and numerous enrichment opportunities that exist at our school featured in the report: I am not sure how many Ofsted reports give praise for 'Exceptional ICT practice' but the fact that saltash.net has achieved this in recognition of its specialism is wonderful.'

Chair of Governors, Kate Waghorn, added, 'We are all delighted with the outcomes of the inspection but are never complacent. We will continue to do all that we can to keep improving the school and ensure that the very small number of issues identified for further action are addressed systematically over the coming months.'

Forties Fun with No Food Rationing



The post war spirit with the joy of victory tea parties was revived in Saltash Guildhall as townsfolk came together for a 'Forties Tea Dance'

Food and drink were served by staff in full forties costume and uniform including our youngest Town Councillor Gina Donovan who had organised the event in support of local Liberal Democrats. Prospective parliamentary candidate Phil Huty was amongst those present enjoying victory cake and tea to the sound of big band music. A display of photographs recalled those lively days, showing Saltash with its bomb damage, its own 'Dads Army' and the joyous victory street parties that followed. The 2014 event fortunately was not hampered by food rationing and the home made produce was well appreciated by all present.

Sports Training Hub for Salt Mill

An indoor sports training centre to serve Saltash and the local rural isolated communities is part of a long-term sustainable vision for Salt Mill, Saltash. A £50,000 grant awarded through Sport England's Inspired Facilities Fund is intended to develop the capacity to deliver both volunteer and sports related opportunities at the site. The long term aim is to create a registered training centre with First for Sport and Sports Leaders UK.

Further funding has been secured through BS4S Sustainability Fund to recruit a training officer and volunteer officer for fifteen hours per week over the next two years.

This follows a thirty year lease having been negotiated with Cornwall Council for the whole Salt Mill site, enabling a programme of major redevelopment. Currently a lack of indoor space has limited the chances of complementing the wide range of sports opportunities available at Salt Mill.

Meanwhile an extension to the Skate Park, extremely popular with local youth, was expected to commence in April weather permitting, this being funded by Britvic's Transform Your Patch. Once this is completed work on the main park entrance is due to commence, with draining of the main route to the river, often subject to flooding.

Young footballers will be

well provided for at Salt Mill this summer. Four football tournaments are planned for June and July for those aged between 7 and 10, these to be run by Pro Direct and GWS.

Meanwhile Mini Stars football for four to seven year olds have already commenced and will run on Tuesdays until the end of September.

For more senior sportspersons a Charity Golf Day will be held at the China Fleet Club in July and involvement is being sought from Plymouth Argyle's first eleven team.

Fund raising car boot sales are also planning for the first three Saturdays of each month (not to clash with the Wesley Church Tabletop sale on the last Saturday) It is hoped, subject to final approval, that these sales will be held in the Salt Mill Car Park on Saturday mornings from eight until midday.

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Boy Band made Rhiannon Feel 'Most Wanted'



When Louise Percy purchased the only present that her daughter Rhiannon wanted for her sixteenth birthday, a ticket to see internationally acclaimed boy band 'The Wanted' at the Cardiff arena she had no idea Rhiannon would be viewing them from a wheelchair. Still less that the band would welcome Rhiannon literally with open arms, chatting to her with words of encouragement before the concert.

When the ticket was booked last October Rhiannon was a healthy teenager who had given up her interest in gymnastics in order to concentrate on studying for twelve GCSE's at Devonport High School for Girls.

It was over the following few months that a near continual series of coughs and colds alarmed mother Louise enough to seek medical advice. This eventually resulted in a visit to Derriford and on 10th March a diagnosis of Hodgkins Lymphoma, a form of cancer of the lymph gland. Six months of chemotherapy based treatment was prescribed,

though with a good prognosis at the end of this.

However it seemed unlikely she would be fit to travel from her Saltash home to Cardiff on 28th March. But spurred on by the dream of seeing her idols. Rhiannon grew stronger for the day, inspired further when her mother sprang the surprise that she had paid extra for Rhiannon to be one of about a hundred fans to 'meet and greet' the band before the concert.

At first this proved a disappointment, from her wheelchair Rhiannon could see little through the crowd. After a word from Louise Head of

Security 'Big Kev' placed her in front for a photo shot with the band. However she was omitted from the photograph.

Then came the news that something even better had been arranged. When the other fans left the five boys in the band all came forward to hug and chat to her. 'All were charming to her and myself and were genuinely interested,' recalled Louise. Rhiannon's especial heart-throb Nathan talked of how his step-sister had also suffered lymphoma, adding 'she still wears the wigs even though her hair has fully grown again'.

After the excitement of the

concert a visit to Derriford followed the next day 'but she still had a smile on her face', added Louise. 'It shows that the 'make a wish' type charities for seriously ill children really can spur them on and make a difference.

Now, despite weekly visits to Derriford for chemotherapy and for treatment through a tube Rhiannon is hoping to complete her GCSE's this summer and go on to Saltash.net academy and study for four A-levels.

Back home with Mum, dad Martin and sisters, Alisha (13) and Grace (8) she specially treasures the autographed poster that the band gave her. 'I just love their music, the words of their songs have helped me get through some hard times,' she told us.

Both Louise and Rhiannon have learnt from this how important it is to follow instinct if a number of apparently minor health issues give overall concern and to seek advice. 'The advertisement urging anyone with a persistent cough to see a doctor is more aimed at older people and relates to lung cancer - it should be aimed at everyone', say Rhiannon. 'Any mother who feels something is wrong should trust their instinct and act quickly', echoes Louise. 'She will pull through but if it were not for such speedy action the long term prognosis might not be so good.

And looking back on meeting her idols, who have asked her to keep in touch with them, Rhiannon concluded, 'It was the best day of my life - it really made a difference and kept me smiling. Mum could not believe how nice they were, though I already knew that!'

Library Opening Hours Reduced

Saltash Library will be open only three and a half days a week from 1st June with its hours reduced from thirty-four and a half to twenty five and a half per week.

'As part of the budget process and requirement to save £1.3 million from our 'customer access' services, members made the decision to save £400,000 from the library and one stop service by reducing opening hours', Cornwall Council Cabinet member Adam Paynter stated.

Following internal consultation on when Saltash Library is least used it has been decided to keep it open on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9.30a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10a.m. to 1 p.m. as at present. On Thursdays it will open at 9.30 a.m. and close at 5 p.m., not 6.30 p.m. as before. It will be closed on Wednesday, as before, but additionally close all day Friday.

'Of course it is not ideal that the Council has had to cut opening hours at libraries and one stop shops, but it has been necessary to meet our reducing budgets whilst allowing us to keep all sites open rather than closing some of them,' Councillor Paynter added.

More Allotments Available

The waiting list for allotments in the town is now reduced to around thirty as eighteen new allotments have been made available at Churchtown Farm to those heading the list. Plans are currently being drawn up for them to be released, the town's services committee was informed.

Mixed Sunflower seeds were also to be planted around the Churchtown Farm Allotments, provided by the Royal Horticultural Society's 'Growing for Gold' project. To mark Britain in Bloom's fiftieth anniversary it is hoped that as many groups as possible will turn Britain golden yellow with pollinator -friendly flowers this summer.

Another new allotment site in Grenfell Avenue will be made available and contractors are being asked to progress clearance work on the overgrown area.

Police Problem Solving Success on Estates

Residents on the Town's Tamara estate have commented on how quiet the area is now and how police presence has been noticeably higher of late. This follows a police problem solving plan, the intention of which was to build bridges with the community and encourage individuals to share information with the police. Patrols will continue to be maintained.

A similar problem solving plan has been built for Wentworth Way, the Town Council was told. This follows

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Dancing for Air Ambulance



YOUNG WRECKERS

Five year old twins Austin and Elliot joined the dance and may be future Wreckers'. They are frequent visitors to Saltash with their mother from their Plymouth home, all enjoying the town's ambience, bookshop, tea-rooms and crabbing on the foreshore.

Saturday morning shoppers in Fore Street had the added attraction of traditional morris dancing to entertain them. Wreckers Morris performed some of the intricate dances, complete with banging of sticks and the live sound of the squeezebox outside the Cornwall Air Ambulance Shop.

'Cornwall Air Ambulance is one of the charities that we

have decided to support this year,' the Observer was told. 'So we thought it would be good to encourage football and at the same time rattle a bucket and see how much might be collected for this life-saving local cause.'

Wrecker Morris are a Tamar Valley based side of dancers often seen performing at such local events as May Fair and Regatta.

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Kids and Adults go Up The Wall with Spiderman



Children and adults joined with Spiderman to celebrate the re-opening of the climbing wall at K3 Young Peoples Centre. Would be mountaineers and those just out for fun and adventure flocked to enjoy the free climb on offer, as this popular facility was re-launched. Rock climbing is considered by many to be the fastest growing sport in the world and Saltash Indoor Climbing now offers instruction for all levels of climbing, from beginners to experienced climbers who want to practice their skills.

'We have something for everyone. Industry leaders' said Lee Russell, Chairman of the management committee, expertly designed our climbing wall. 'Different sections of the extensive climbing wall are designed for different degrees of difficulty. The traverse walls are a hit with the younger kids who just love the freedom and space to try something different'.

Children of all ages enjoyed matching their skills with the two-costumed Spidermen at the opening, before running to refuel in the newly refurbished adjacent American Diner.

The wall will be open each Wednesday evening for 'Climb On Club', sessions for those aged 8 - 11 from 6.45 to 7.45 and Climb High Club' sessions for those aged eleven plus from 7.45p.m. The committee hope to extend these hours and welcome enquiries for parties or other group bookings.

'This is an exciting time for the Centre as we are looking to develop and increase the use of the climbing wall', concludes Lee. 'Climbing is a great sport for all, not only does it help for physical fitness; it also develops self-confidence and social skills. Once people begin climbing they can develop a strong positive attitude and a willingness to take on challenges both physical and mental'.

The Saltash Home Front and the Trench Experience in Museum Exhibition



In the golden summer of 1914 all was at peace. A spectacular pageant featuring the Black Prince had been celebrated at Trematon Castle and on Alexandra Rose day a procession of gaily decorated carts wound up Fore Street.

That peace and the Great War that was to shatter it forever form the theme of Saltash Heritage's 2014 exhibition in the town museum marking the war's centenary. It was officially opened by Sheryll Murray MP who noted in particular the display on the suffragettes, highly active in 1914, 'The suffragette movement is important to me and is gradually achieving recognition,' she noted. 'Women died to get the vote just as men died for freedom in World War 1'. She also commented that 'It is important for young people to know what happened in their hometown. I thank everyone who has been making sure that Saltash recognises such an important event.'

Sheryll Murray has been welcomed by Heritage Chairman Martin Gee who thanked all Heritage members who had worked hard in preparing the



exhibition she was introduced by Mayor David Yates who noted the importance of the exhibition in showing how Saltash played its part in world affairs.

A sensory display of a World War I trench is a main feature of the exhibition complete with sandbags, rats sound effects and smoke filling the passageway by the museum. Inside the building stories are told of Saltash men who went to war, some to return, and of the women and children who remained in the town. Poignant memories of war include 'sweetheart cushions' made by men in the trenches as well as toys and comics enjoyed by children whose fathers or brothers were at the front. Photographs mark

the golden age of peace in pre-war Saltash, as well as the troops who filled the camps springing up around Saltash and whom townsfolk waved off on the ferry en route to France. There are also memories of the peace celebrations with which the 'war to end all wars' concluded.

'It will be over by Christmas - Saltash Goes to War' is now open, alongside the museum's permanent display, until November each Wednesday from 2p.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday and Bank Holidays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. From July to September it will also be open on Fridays. Admission is free though a donation towards the funding of the volunteer - maintained museum is appreciated.

Scouts Battle the Storms



On the weekend of April 26/27th, Scouts from 2nd Saltash Tamar Troop Scouts took part in the 'Coast to Coast Challenge Hike', a 35 mile hike from Portreath on the north coast of Cornwall to Porthcurnick on the south

coast, camping en route overnight at Philleigh.

The two teams, some as young as 10 years old, endured at times appalling weather conditions, battling against hail storms, high winds and challenging terrain including thick mud well over

the ankles.

It was a fantastic achievement and they demonstrated great determination and good spirits throughout the entire weekend always managing to keep smiling, through all the ups and downs!

Community Help Sought for Roundabout

The Latchbrook roundabout on the Liskeard Road is in a poor condition and the Town Council's services committee has been considering a quotation for refurbishment and re-landscaping.

After discussion it was agreed that the cost was too high. Instead it was suggested that a community working party might be set up to do the work. The Latchbrook Neighbourhood Association and a local business were to be approached to gauge support for such a scheme.

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The Fireman's Prayer



Sue Hooper with Station Manager Paul Blakeston receiving the plaque

Saltash community fire station is presented with a plaque of the fireman's prayer Paul Blakeston – Station Manager of Saltash Community Fire Station, and his firefighting team, welcomed Sue and John Hooper to the Station recently to accept a plaque with the words of the Fireman's Prayer inscribed.

Sue and John, were browsing at Plymouth's Little Camden Market when they came across the lovely wrought iron plaque with the words of the prayer inscribed.

They had a word with the Market Manager Dawn Frogson and told her about the Saltash Community Fire Station and the outstanding work the officers and cadets undertake at the Station under the management team led by Paul Blakeston.

Dawn was very impressed with the work and commitment of service of all Firefighters and donated the plaque in honour and appreciation of their work, to the Saltash Station.

Paul was very pleased to receive the plaque from Sue and John on Dawn's behalf – which is inscribed with the potent words reputed to be written by W.A. "Smokey" Linn following him and his crew responding to a fire in Kansas in 1958 in which three children were trapped behind security bars and died in the fire. Smokey joined the Wichita Fire Department in 1947 after returning from World War 2. He retired in 1975 and died March 31st 2004.

The Poem reads
*When I am called to duty God,
 Where-ever flames may rage,
 Give me strength to save some life,
 Whatever be its age.
 Help me embrace a little child,
 Before it is too late,
 Or save an older person from
 The horror of that fate.
 Enable me to be alert and to hear
 the weakest shout,
 And quickly and efficiently,
 To put the fire out.
 I want to fill my calling and
 To give the best in me,
 To guard my every neighbour and
 Protect his property.
 And if according to my fate, I am
 to lose my life,
 Please bless with your protective
 hand,
 My children and my wife.*

Conundrum Corner

Taking the initial letter to the one-word answers to the following nine questions can you re-arrange them to make the name of a Town or Village in our locality?

- 1 Record Players use a Stylus, what do Compact Disc Players use? (5)
- 2 In which Country would you find Mount Ararat? (6)
- 3 Which Spirit is distilled from Molasses? (3)
- 4 Which U.S. State is named in honour of Queen Elizabeth I? (8)
- 5 In the scene in a Churchyard Hamlet handles the skull of a King's Jester, what was his name? (6)
- 6 In which County is the Royal residence of Sandringham found? (7)
- 7 What was the name of Sir Ernest Shackleton's ship which was stopped by Polar ice in 1915? (9)
- 8 By what name is Beethoven's Third Symphony known? (6)
- 9 What type of flower is a Twayblade? (6)

Answers on Page 7

SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...



I was delighted to join Mayor David Yates at the recent Civic Charity Ball before I returned Westminster.

The second reading of the HS2 Bill was the first item we debated upon our return.

I have been lobbying hard for a firm commitment from the Transport Secretary to provide finances for a second rail route through the South West to ensure constituents and South West Business does not suffer from the disruption caused by the storms this winter. It is vital that the importance of good infrastructure to the South West and in particular Devon and Cornwall is recognised.

There has been no firm commitment to date but in fairness the Network Rail study has not yet been published. Whilst I felt the Government must be given time to look at all of the options, I did feel that I could not support the investment of around £50 billion on a project that would not benefit my constituency in any way.

On the other hand I also felt that it would be unfair to expect an announcement until the report is published and for this reason I abstained from voting on Monday evening. I will continue to lobby for a fully funded alternative route into Devon and Cornwall. I will however keep my options open on the location of the route until I see all the details. I believe it is irresponsible to support a particular route without having all of the information at hand to make an informed decision.

I am grateful that at last we are seeing improvements along the A38 with the improvements using "pinch Point" funding to the Carkeel roundabout in Saltash and the long awaited pedestrian bridge across the A38 in this location.

During the recess I was particularly pleased to visit Saltash.net and answer questions about my role as the MP and also Government Policy. I am delighted that so many of the pupils took the trouble to contact me after my visit to tell me how much they enjoyed our question and answer session. I would like to thank them and say that I also enjoyed the session. I hope to repeat the visit to other schools in SE Cornwall. It is always good for me to hear the views of young people from my constituency. They are the voters of the future and their views are important to me. I can always be contacted on Facebook, Twitter or indeed by email at sheryll@sheryllmurray.com if anyone has a view on a particular issue or would simply like me to help them in some way.

I was also pleased to tell Mrs Bryce personally how pleased I was at the successful result after the recent Ofsted visit. There has been uplift in school funding recently but I believe there should be a fairer system. I spoke in the recent debate on the subject of fairer education funding in the House of Commons to point out that rural schools often have higher costs when compared to inner city schools.

Finally, it was a privilege to be invited to open the World War I Exhibition, including the important section on women's suffrage at Saltash Museum. I was also pleased to raise this in Parliament and call on adequate funding for our fantastic town Museums.

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Dambuster Days Recalled at Rowan House by Air Force Brothers

The dramatic days surrounding Britain's finest hour and the dark days when gallant young men dived with death each night over Nazi Europe were recalled at a ninetieth birthday party in a Saltash Residential home.

Ron Bamsey was celebrating ninety years of a life which saw him start a career as an apprentice coach painter, then serve in the ARP in the Plymouth blitz before being called up into the RAF where he served at RAF Scampton mixing with the famous 'dambusters' of 617 squadron. Guests at his party in Rowan House included his sister Hazel and brother Bill who himself piloted Halifax bombers and won the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Ron still prizes his autograph book signed by those who set out to bomb the dams in Germany's industrial heartland and many of whom never returned. He well remembers such men as 'Bomber' Harris, Cochrane, Guy Gibson and Barnes Wallace, inventor of the 'bouncing bomb'. The excitement at first was electric, he recalls. 'But as more 'kites' were lost and young men barely out of their teens failed to return the atmosphere became more sombre and Barnes Wallace in particular, who looked on them almost as his young family, became increasingly despondent.'

The flight crews would party as if there was no tomorrow, as for some of them there wasn't. Ron Bamsey, while serving as

batman, would often be awakened to serve early breakfast to crews returning from nights out in Lincoln. The upside to this was when colonial crews produced food parcels from home with unheard of treats including fruit, chocolate and fruit cake.

His brother Bill, meanwhile, having joined the RAF as apprentice fitter was recommended for pilot training in 1942 and ended the war as Flight Lieutenant piloting Anson and Halifax aircraft.

He recalls in particular supporting the D Day Landings with attacks upon French coastal batteries and railway depots. His granddaughter Hannah Hawkey is one of those who has campaigned to ensure that the men of bomber command achieved the recognition that they deserved.

Following the war Ron returned to his peacetime career as coach painter in Plymouth and came to live in Landrake before moving to Rowan House in Port View. His childhood Salvation Army background gave him a lifetime love of brass band music and he is proud to be the oldest member of Landrake Village Band, many members of whom joined the family in the Rowan House celebrations.



Fellow band member the Reverend Josephine Lobb, who takes services at Ron's parish church of St. Nicholas, spoke of Ron as 'a true gentleman - and it is because of what you and others gave, that we are here today.' She thanked the Rowan House staff for the care and homeliness they offer him and for the birthday spread provided, before concluding, 'It is a privilege to have Ron as part of our church and of the Landrake Village Band, as well as to hear him say that his Christian faith has sustained him all of his long life'.

Bridge Bus Stop A Safety Hazzard

Intending passengers at a local bus stop endanger their lives reaching the stop while bus drivers are reluctant to stop, as they believe it puts themselves and their passengers in danger.

Yet the bus stop at Notter Bridge for westbound passengers towards Looe and Liskeard cannot be moved due to Cornwall Highways' 'intransigence' it was reported to Saltash Town Council.

Two Western Greyhound busses an hour pass the stop which passengers can only access by crossing three lanes of fast moving traffic in the dip by the bridge, then scrambling over a metal barrier. The obvious answer is to move the stop, perhaps up the A38 a few metres towards the garage site on the Landrake side, suggested County Councillor Derek Holley. Cornwall Highways refuse on the basis that the stop is so little used. To which the answer given is that there is a substantial number of potential users who do not wish to risk their lives accessing the stop or who are physically unable to climb over the metal safety barrier.

On the Record

The filming and sound recording of all town council full and committee meetings, will be permitted following a change in council standing orders. It had previously only been allowed following granting of a specific request.

This follows a decision by Cornwall Council to allow such recording and a likely government ruling making it compulsory for larger authorities to allow this, Councillor Derek Holley had told town councillors. This might well be followed by an order that smaller authorities such as Saltash allow recording and he therefore moved that the council change the rules before this is forced upon them.

The town council will also make its own independent recording of each meeting. The digital recording equipment is already available and has been used on neighbourhood planning meetings, for a while so there will be no additional costs, the Mayor advised. The decision to allow recording was agreed unanimously.

An information sheet in the public gallery will inform the public present that should they wish to record the meeting they should inform the Chairman before its commencement, the council's policy and resources committee agree

"Pal's battalions"

Recently I visited the Saltash heritage centre to look around this years exhibition. Unsurprisingly the theme is about the First World War, to tie in, no doubt, with the commemorations of the beginning of the war that will be staged throughout this year.

Amongst the many interesting artefacts is a cleverly crafted exhibit in what is essentially the back yard of the centre; here they have recreated part of a trench from the battlefields of France and added sound effects to give it a sense of realism.

Standing there listening to taped sounds of the battle it wasn't hard to envisage those dreadful dark days when lads from our villages and towns stood in such trenches awaiting their fate so many years ago.

It must be a parent thing, but I couldn't help thinking about those young men who where often just a little older than my son is now, charged with the responsibility with fighting in such harsh conditions.

It must have been a frightening time, and not one I would have wanted to experience myself. Especially as many didn't return and are now the young names we honour each remembrance Sunday.

I know many joined on mass from villages, neighbourhoods and workplaces. They became known as "Pal's battalions" and meant that at least they would have been with their friends and neighbours on the front as they survived the day to day onslaught with people they were likely to have known their whole lives.

Of course the downside to this, was if a section was hit badly, the casualties were likely to have all come from the same small area, which I always find particularly moving whenever I look at the names on memorials in such communities.

Today, thanks in no small part to their sacrifice, we live in better times, but our service men and women still perish in the service of our nation and the British Legion along with other charities continue to support the families of the fallen and injured.

I know your new Mayor has close links with the British Legion and I am sure will be an excellent ambassador for the town as she carries out her civic duties this year, particularly as we reflect as a nation of the events of that great war and it's legacy. I wish her and her consort the very best for the coming year.

Phil Hutty Parliamentary candidate for the Lib Dems



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Music and Magic from Page2Stage

An enchanting evening of music and magic was provided by the young newcomers to our entertainment scene; Page 2 Stage. In their second major production these talented and enthusiastic young people surpassed even the high standards set by last year's 'Peter Pan'.

'My Son Pinocchio' lends itself perfectly to such a cast of high spirited yet disciplined youngsters. The cast of over forty ranging in age from 7 to 18 created a perfect team working together to bring the best out of each other in song, dance and drama.

The tale is of the toy-maker Gepetto complaining to the Blue Fairy that the puppet that she brought to life to be his son Pinocchio is imperfect and he asks for him to be taken back. Pinocchio overhears this and runs away. The scenes that follow, in which Gepetto seeks his son, allows the large cast to adopt multiple roles including the perfect children of Idyllia, the animals with identity problems seeking to follow family expectations, and the delinquents of the children's' paradise, Pleasure Island. As with all such tales it progresses to a happy ending, and father and son came together having on the journey discovered fresh truths about themselves as well as each other.

The three leads, Lucy Kevern, Robert Walsh and Megan Walsh as Pinocchio. Gepetto and the Blue Fairy well played out the bitter-sweet story of love and redemption, ably supported by a full cast whose singing and choreography could scarce be faulted. Becky Hill added humour as the somewhat feisty fairy 'Sue' and Brandon Escott brought magic to the roll of Professore Buonragazzo creator of the 'perfect child machine' but it was above all a team effort where each member complemented the others in an evening of non-stop song, dance and action. Guests at performances included representation from Cornwall Drama Association and National Operatic and Drama Association. We cannot believe that they will experience a better performance from an amateur youth group and hope that Page 2 Stage wins an award that they so richly deserve. Now we look forward to seeing what they will come up with for their third production.

Conundrum answers...

Answers: 1 Laser 2 Turkey 3 Rumm 4 Virginia 5 Norfolk 6 Norfolk 7 Endurance 8 Eroica 9 Orchid Re-arranged the letters spell out the Village of Velferton

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Cornwall Champions



Saltash United Under 15's Cornwall Champions. A match held at Kimberly Stadium against their local rivals Saltash Youth !!! The match went to penalties with United victorious. It was the Cornwall Cup, very rare both teams being from Saltash.

Shado visitors, members and families with John Hooper and Peter Gunn (entertainers)



Shado Celebrate 25 Years

SHADO President Sue Hooper welcomed many people to the SHADO Community Centre on Saturday 3rd May.

One of the first through the door was the new Saltash Citizen of the Year Elsie Edgcombe accompanied by her daughter Liz.

"Elsie, now a life member, was one of the early founding members of SHADO and has worked unstintingly for the club over many years, and has played a vital role in its continued success over those years, and her distinguished award was well deserved," said Teresa Orchard SHADO's chairman.

Club Treasurer, Jackie Ashton was delighted that over £150 was raised selling light refreshments, raffles and cream teas and she thanked President Sue Hooper, and all the committee and club volunteers for their continued help and support.

John Hooper (keyboard) and Peter Gunn (vocalist) provided the live entertainment which was much appreciated by the many visitors to SHADO over the long day.

"SHADO community centre is open to everyone who would like to join a happy band of people and of all abilities - we meet every Wednesday (term time) from 1.00pm until 4.00pm - we can also arrange transport locally if necessary," said Maureen Ashton the club's secretary.

"This month we are due to celebrate our 25 years at the SHADO building, opened by the late Princess Diana," Maureen continued.

Observer Telephone Numbers
07971484872 or
01579 345699
Email your copy to:
marye.crawford@virgin.net



Students Rise to the Challenge

Eighteen students from across years 9 and 10 at saltash.net community school have achieved an outstanding level of success in the UK's Intermediate Maths Challenge.

Organised by Maths teacher, Tatiana Hinds, participation in the Intermediate Level was designed to build on years of success in the Junior challenge. Mrs Hinds said, "This is the first time we have entered Year 9 and 10 for the Intermediate Maths Challenge. I am hoping to continue this work next year and enter current Year 10 who are going to be Year 11 so that 3 year groups will have the opportunity to participate in this enrichment activity. Each

challenge leads into a follow-on Olympiad round as well as mentoring schemes and summer schools for high performing students. It also includes the training of a team of six students to represent the UK in the International Mathematical Olympiad."

Year 10 students: Walter Stroud, Ed Gilford and Ryan Harvey performed exceptionally well in the challenge. As a result, Walter was invited to participate in the Olympiad, the results of which are eagerly awaited. Ed and Ryan were given the chance to take part in the Kangaroo Challenge which is an extension to the Intermediate Challenge. It is also an international competition organised by Kangourou sans Frontieres

with over six million school pupils from more than 50 countries throughout the world taking part at various levels. saltash.net was delighted to receive news this week that Ed had achieved a Merit in this International Challenge.

Head of Maths, Alan Hawthorne, said, "We are fortunate enough to be inundated with gifted and talented students at saltash.net and we look for every possible opportunity to promote their achievements."

THE PLOUGHBOY

Liskeard Rd Saltash

Mike & Joan welcome you to join them, for great food and congenial company

Don't forget to book early for our very popular

'Sunday Carvery'
Sunday Carvery £7.50

Children 12yrs & under £5.25

Enjoy a Sunday Lunch with family and friends

The Ploughboy is available as a Venue for Quiz Nights & Charity Events

(See Mike & Joan for further details)

Celebrate at The Ploughboy
Private function rooms available

Book now for your office & family Parties
Weddings, Christenings & Funerals

Groups & Organisations welcome for regular or One off events. Tel: 01752 842861 for more details

Look Out for details of our... Entertainment at the Ploughboy

Friday 16th May: **Sharon**

Sunday 25th May: **Jazz Evening**
Jazz Night last Sunday in every month

Friday 30th May: **Total Stranger**

Friday 6th June: **Dave Rich**

Saturday 7th June: **Euchre Presentation & Disco with Clive Price**

Comprehensive Menu with Specials Board
Choose from Our Varied Menu

Monday to Thursday

Enjoy 2 Home-made specials for £13.00

(Choosing from the home-made special Menu)

All day Tuesday 2 Rump Steaks £14.00

Food..

Lunch Menu available from: 12noon-2.30pm Mon-Fri
Evening Meals available from:

Mon-Thurs-5pm-8.30pm Fri-5pm-8.30pm

Saturdays from 12noon-8.30pm Sundays from 12noon-8-00pm

Clubs, Organisations & Coaches Welcome

We are open for Morning Coffee & Afternoon Tea.

Call 01752 842861 for bookings

and all enquires...book early to avoid disappointment!

-- Bookings advisable --

Saltash Leisure Centre Whitsun Half Term



Book early to avoid disappointment

Tuesday 27th May
Snorkelling Level 1 9am -11am 8-14yrs
£11.60

Run by a fully qualified instructor teaching basic water safety and snorkelling skills. Children must be able to swim 50m competently and un-aided.

Wednesday 28th May
Flip n Fun - Stage 5+ 9am - 11am £11.60

Flip and fun is an introduction into the basic fundamentals of diving. For children in stage 5 or above this is a fantastic opportunity to learn how to dive safely and correctly.

Thursday 29th May
Snorkelling Level 2 10am - 12pm 8-14yrs
£11.60

Run by a fully qualified instructor teaching further snorkelling skills for those that have already completed the Snorkelling 1 Award. Children must be able to swim 50m competently and un-aided.

Thursday 29th May
Art Attack 1pm -3pm 5-7yrs £4

Please bring a drink and wear old clothes. Come along and get creative using lots of recycled materials to make goodies to take away.

Friday 30th May
Wet and Wild Fun Session 10am - 12pm
All Ages £3.50

Body boards, balls, super soakers and great music make this session great fun for all ages. Please note that all children under 8 years must be accompanied by an adult Under 4s will still be charged the full price due to a restriction on numbers in the pool.

Pre-booking is essential for all Whitsun holiday activities

Please see our website or contact the centre for our full class timetable and further information. Tel: 01752 840940
www.tempusleisure.org.uk

Regular Classes Available

Please see our website or contact the centre for our full class timetable and further information.

Centre Opening Times
Mon-Fri 6.30am-10pm
Sat-6.30am-8pm Sun-7.30am-7pm



Tel: 01752 840940 www.tempusleisure.org.uk