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May 2017 - Issue 302

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Town has Acquired Station Building

The station building at Saltash, the decrepid state of which has long caused public concern, is once again coming back into public ownership. Negotiations between the owner and a team of Town Councillors had been successfully concluded, the last meeting of the 'old Town Council prior to the election was informed, and the Council's Solicitors were already actively preparing for the legal transfer of the building.

The purchase price of £165,000 will be met partly from general reserves of Council funds, partly from 'Section 106' money donated by Lidl's as a planning permission condition, and partly from a grant by Great Western Railway. There will be a further considerable sum to be spent renovating the long empty building.

Some Councillors expressed concerns that the

price to be paid for public ownership is far higher than the sum suggested recently by an independent valuer appointed by the Town Councillor. However other Councillors assured them that 'when we deliver a fully refurbished station building it will be good value for the community'. We should also take into account the high level of public interest and concern

over the site, added Councillor Derek Holley, concluding 'best value is not only cash value'.

The next issue will be the community use for which the building will be put. It is a condition of the G.W.R. grant that the station building should be put into use for the benefit of rail passengers as well as townspeople and visitors who wish to view Brunel's iconic bridge adjacent to it. Recent suggestions have included a cafe and waiting room with some Brunel related exhibits on display as well as toilet facilities. It was also suggested that the upper area might be converted to office space and rented out to produce on income. It is also hoped that the building might host the 'Saltash Chronicles' embroidery.

The building is not the original Brunel structure (as is St. Germans station) but a later Victorian replacement. Up until the 1950's it was the busiest station in Cornwall with commuters packing the 'Saltash Motor' trains to Plymouth but following the opening of the road bridge passenger's numbers fell drastically. They have more recently increased again with an improved Train Service.

This is the second time that the Saltash Town Council has purchased the buildings. It did so in 1996 for the considerably lesser sum of £35,000 when there were grandiose plans for a Brunel Heritage Centre and restaurant. Funding failed to be realised and the building was sold to a private developer in 2006 for £150,000. Over the past decade it has changed hands but with no occupancy it has decayed and attracted angry comments as a totally unfitting 'Gateway to Cornwall' for rail passengers.

It will now be open to the incoming Town Council to plan its restoration and future use as a community facility and visitor attraction.

Visitors Pictured in Period Dress in Yesteryear Shopping Display

A Victorian photographic studio where children and adults can be portrayed in period costume is already proving a popular feature of 'Retail Retold', this year's exhibition in Saltash Heritage Museum. The exhibition was officially opened by the Mayor Councillor Hilary Frank, with her consort Shojiro and their two young daughters who were then eager to have themselves photographed in costume.

Heritage chairman Bob Munro who recalled that since Heritage was founded in 1986 it has succeeded and grown thanks largely to the town council's moral and financial support introduced the Mayor. The Mayor expressed herself as delighted to help continuing to maintain this support, 'We need to know who we were in order to move forward', she said in reference to Heritage's vast array of information and material on the town's past. 'Thanks to all that Heritage have done and will do to help bind the community together.'

The exhibition, based on the traditional shops that have lined Fore Street and other main streets over the past century and more, retains many of the most popular features of last year's display. These include the wares of a haberdashery, a newsagents and a general store as well as a toy shop, looked on with nostalgia by older visitors and with wonder by the youngsters of the play station electronic era. To this is now added a model shop and an ironmongery and radio repairers. The photographic studio also contains a wide range of cameras from the pre-digital age.

Especially interesting to many are the photographic displays showing how the heart of the town has changed



with long established shops coming and going from the late nineteenth century to well within living memory.

The museum in Lower Fore Street, opposite the Guildhall, will now be open on Wednesdays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Saturdays and Bank Holidays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and with additional openings on Fridays from July to September. Admission is free though contributions are appreciated towards the running costs of this volunteer run organisations.



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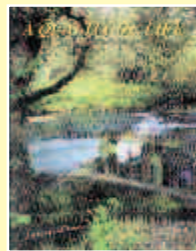
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A Fish Called Wendy has Wandered

After moving to Saltash Waterside from his family's former mine captain's house on Dartmoor, one of new resident, Ian Robinson's first tasks was to proudly affix a fish called Wendy to his front wall. The fish was a present from a close friend named Wendy and had been purchased from a widower raising money for a cancer charity, whose wife had succumbed to the disease.

It was therefore especially distressing when, after returning to Saltash in March after five weeks in the United States visiting a bereaved friend, Ian discovered the fish missing. It being two foot high it could not have been carried away easily, and it is

certainly unique in the area. While accepting assurances that such an incident is most rare in Saltash Ian is especially distressed as the fish had sentimental value to him. He is wondering if it has been just dumped in undergrowth by revellers or is

adorning someone else's garden. A generous reward is offered for information leading to the recovery of Wendy.

If you have any Information contact Ian on:

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Town Health Service Changes Receive Support

Changes to the provision of local health services which would include the retention of St. Barnabas hospital and the provision of an enhanced minor injuries unit elsewhere are proposed and receiving very strong support, Community Enterprises PL12 reports.

Overall there has been such a negative response in Cornwall to the proposed NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plan, which was put out for public discussion earlier this year that the timescale for the next stage has been postponed.

On a local scale however, Cornwall Partnerships Foundation Trust and Kernow C.C.G. have been reported as giving a very positive response to the town's Community Enterprises' joint proposal for the town under the sustainability and transformation plan.

This project includes the retention of St. Barnabas hospital as a health care centre with the basing of all local community health and care staff within the building and the running of a variety of integrated services from there, 'an exciting vision', Chairman Peter Thistlethwaite believes.

Pressures would be taken off the two existing surgeries with innovative specialist support services in the town.

The minor injuries unit, based at St. Barnabas Hospital until its closure last December, would be relocated adjacent to the Health Centre on Plougastel Drive behind the former registry office.

If properly enhanced, with an Xray machine and operator which was lacking at St. Barnabas and limited the care that could be offered there, this could be a major asset to the town.

While there are no plans currently to re-open the

inpatient wards at St. Barnabas, the project includes proposals to contract with local nursing homes to re-provide the beds lost and supporting them with one of the specialist team.

There had already been two positive meetings and the project is led personally by the Chief Executive of Cornwall Partnership Foundation Trust Phil Confue, which Saltash Community Enterprises interprets as very strong support.

Letter to the Editor...

What Happens Next?

Like many Saltash residents, I am very concerned about the unknown future of St Barnabas Hospital. As a former treasurer of St Barnabas Hospital League of Friends, I know how important these services are to the community.

People continually donate to our League of Friends, in support of the NHS, so that additional facilities and equipment can be provided for patients and staff at this very special hospital. From 2014 to 2016, the League purchased goods totalling £36,600 on behalf of the community. During this time period, they also tried, unsuccessfully, to get the NHS to carry out the proposed renovations to the Day Centre - for which funds had been reserved.

If St Barnabas is no longer to have in-patients, what is going to happen to the equipment that was purchased by the people of Saltash? Some can be used

by district nurses who are still providing services within Saltash, some could be put to good use in our care homes, along with the toiletry kits and comfort packs we provided for patients. Some could be used in our GP surgeries. And the dementia games we provided for patients could be used in our memory café.

I hope when Mr Confue (Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust) talks to us again, whatever their decision, he will agree that what Saltash residents have provided for their hospital should, if at all possible, stay within the community.

Denise Watkins

Essa Files...

Well I wasn't expecting that!

Having stood down from the town council I was rather looking forward to an election free spell, and I confess that the Prime Minister's decision to call a snap general election took me somewhat by surprise.

As a result I'm now involved in two important elections in early June - one is helping my preferred candidates for the 'adult' general election on June 8th, and the other is organising the mock general election at saltash.net community school on June 7th - snapvote.net! As in 2015, when the Monster Raving Loony narrowly edged out the Independent candidate, our mock election will feature hustings, posters, social media campaigns and - a particular favourite with the Observer reporters - political muffins. My colleagues and I have already been drumming up interest in assemblies, working to convince youngsters of the important of expressing their views and getting involved.

Which brings me on to the purpose of this column. I'm certainly not going to use it to suggest how to vote, but I will strongly suggest three things. Firstly if you are not yet registered to vote then do so now. The easiest way to tell if you are not sure whether you're currently registered is if you got a polling card for the local elections on May 4th - if not then assume you're not registered and go to https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. You have until May

22nd to register. Secondly, despite the no-doubt considerable temptation to avoid all TV and newspapers for the next few weeks, and possibly book a holiday somewhere far away for late May/early June, please do pay attention to the election and what the parties stand for. There are some huge issues at stake in this election - not just the question of Hard Brexit and the economy, but also the NHS, poverty, housing and education - and unlike in some previous elections the political parties have some very different opinions on this issues. Look into what they think and find the candidate who most closely matches your views.

Thirdly, vote. Vote for someone - my candidate, the other candidate, any candidate.

If you really don't like any of the candidates then turn up and spoil your ballot, but please do take some positive action to participate, to put across your view. Democracy is not perfect, but the more people who take part the better it reflects what people really think.

And look on the bright side, after June 9th we won't have another General Election for 5 years. Probably!

Fore Street Traders Trained to use Saltash Defibrillator



The Rotary Club of Saltash recently held two free training sessions to demonstrate how to use the new twenty four seven defibrillator now situated outside Bloom Hearing in Fore St, Saltash.

Having raised the money needed to install the defibrillator earlier this year, the Rotary Club asked Janet Honey and Peter Juniper, from Triangle Training, to give a demonstration, with every shop and office in Fore St and Keast Mews invited to send someone along to see first hand how to deal with a patient in need.

This was very much a hands-on demonstration, and it rapidly became clear how important it is to know how to perform CPR (cardio pulmonary resuscitation) to be able to use the defibrillator properly. Attendees at the training session, held at the Community Hub at 4, Fore Street, were shown how to

carry out CPR on a specially designed dummy, nicknamed Little Anne, and attendees were able to practice their new CPR skills. Little Anne was then used to demonstrate how to use the defibrillator and attendees were again able to try it out for themselves.

Michael Lavelle, Saltash Rotarian, said, "We are very grateful to Janet and Peter for giving their time and to everyone who attended. We now have people up and down Fore Street who know how to use the defibrillator and one day, this might save someone's life."

For further information, please contact the Rotary Club of Saltash.

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Mayoral Matters...

By the time you read this Saltash will have a new Mayor. 16 people have been elected to town council, four from each of the four wards in the town. Half of them are returning having already served as councillor for 4 years or more, but for the other half it will be their first experience of life on the Town Council. They will bring with them fresh ideas, new perspectives.

The 16 will choose the Mayor from among their number. So at this stage no-one knows who the new Mayor will be, but I do know that the year ahead will be a tumultuous roller coaster of intense, beautiful experiences for whoever is chosen. And I know that coming out at the end of the year the Mayor will feel a sense of utter pride at the vibrant community spirit here in this terrific town of ours.

To me, community is a sign that love is possible in this materialistic world of ours. One of the most important things you can do in a community is to love your neighbour - let people know they are not alone. That is what Saltash is so good at doing. It is what makes our town a community. Over the last year, I've had the good fortune to meet many, many people and groups in our community who are inspiring others, supporting others. It has been a humbling experience.

It has been the honour of my life to serve you as Mayor. But I won't stop serving the town just because I've stepped down from town council. I'll be right there with you, as a fellow citizen of



Saltash, as a mother and as a councillor representing Saltash South on Cornwall Council. I pledge to continue to work hard for the town. Why? Well, it's my way of saying 'thank you' for sunshine and health, for a child's infectious, spontaneous laughter, for happiness.

Some more thanks - it is, after all, my final column as Mayor, so I hope you'll allow me! First, my heartfelt thanks to the councillors who have served with me and supported me. Where a town council works well, it enables individuals to come together and help the community in a way they couldn't on their own. When councillors pool their strengths and experiences, when they share the work and responsibilities, they become a strong force for good within the community. Thanks, too, to the patient, steady, understanding officers of the Town Council, who have skillfully guided councillors through civic duties and responsibilities. One of the most beautiful bouquet of thanks I give to my husband and daughters - they didn't ask for the roles they have played, but they have fulfilled them with grace and steadfast support.

The story of my time as Mayor is nearly at an end, but in Life every end is a new beginning, and I embrace the new beginning, enriched by my experiences over the last year. So, my final thanks go to you, Saltash: the community with the beating heart.

*Cllr Hilary Frank MCIL
(Japanese)
Town Mayor*

Easter Fun for all at Lively Landrake 'Local'



Spring was certainly in the air at Landrake this Easter as families and friends gathered to welcome in the season in April sunshine at the 'Bullers Arms'. Since taking over this long established 'local', Landlady Amy has been eager to promote the 'Bullers' as a pub at the heart of the local community to which all locals and visitors are welcome.

The Easter weekend saw crowds turn out in the sunshine. Bargain hunters enthusiastically patronised the table top sale on Easter Saturday. Scrumptious Easter cakes home baked by Julie Turner proved a particular attraction. Meanwhile youngsters, were seen eagerly awaiting the egg-citement of an Easter Egg Hunt, the Easter bunny having been busy around Landrake village, and the Bullers' programme of live music as usual proved especially popular.

More community activities are planned for Landrake and for visitors in the summer months with carnival day on 1st July definitely a date for the diary.



Secret Garden - Fence Replacement

The fence that surrounds the land around Brunel's bust opposite the Tamar Bridge sometimes referred to as the 'Secret Garden' is in a dilapidated and broken down state. This was referred to the Town Council by a member of the public during its public question time. The Council is aware of this and a contract has already been awarded to replace the fence the Mayor confirmed.

Thank you from Mike Parker

I would like to thank all the residents of East Ward who voted for me in the recent Town Council Elections. I will do my best to serve all the residents in Saltash. I am looking forward to working with the new councillors.

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Town Must Spend £100,000 or Lose It

A sum of £106,241 is available to be spent on the betterment of Saltash, to help increase footfall in Fore Street and improve job opportunities. But unless it is allocated by January of next year it will be lost to the town.

This money was paid by Lidl's supermarket as a condition of their being granted planning permission almost a decade ago, under a 'Section 106' agreement.

However the rules state that any money still unspent after this time expires must be returned to Lidl's together with interest.

Much of this is likely to be spent over the next year as the Town Council takes over devolved responsibilities from Cornwall Council, in particular on the Waterside area.

However the public are invited to put any ideas as to how this money might be spent, within the appropriate criteria, to the Town Clerk in the Guildhall.

Crime Increases as Police Numbers Reduced

A recent spike in crime, particularly in Fore Street, Keast Mews and the Waterside has coincided with reduction in Police numbers in Saltash. Police have been called on frequent occasions to scenes of alleged anti-social behaviour and PC Mark Rothwell reported to the Town Council that a number of thirteen to sixteen year olds have been identified. Of those five were classed as 'identified', three 'progressed' and two others has been spoken to, with anti-social orders all due to be served. Another twelve had been identified and received home visits.

This had achieved some reduction in the problem, PC Rothwell added, and meanwhile response officers from all over South East Cornwall had been asked to increase patrols in Saltash when not on other urgent business. He added that the lighter evenings each Spring usually see an increase in such behaviour. The Police also feel that Saltash is being targeted by shop lifters and action is being taken regarding this.

It is not just anti-social, it is actual criminal behaviour, claimed Councillor Julie Rance, who sought that Police should take more vigorous

action. During a recent spate of vandalism on Waterside the Police had failed to attend despite four 999 calls and her husband Andy, a local youth worker had, she alleged, been confronted by eight young people who had been smashing windows and were armed with an axe handle.

Meanwhile the Police sergeant based in Saltash was leaving and not being replaced, said Councillor Derek Holley, resulting in the sergeant at Liskeard having Saltash as one of the four police stations under his command. A constable is also leaving and not being replaced so that PC Mark Rothwell will be only full Police officer based in the town with four PCSO'S

'If you think a 999 call is warranted especially if someone appears in danger, call that number as the 101 service is not working effectively', advised Councillor Holley, adding 'When you receive a response you must ask for a crime number to ensure that the matter is logged.'

Mia and Jack Receive Citizenship Award




Proudly bearing the cup jointly awarded to them as Young Citizen of the Year are siblings Mia and Jack Rhodes, who have together raised hundreds of pounds in memory of a beloved Grandfather.

The Saltash Observer had been proud to nominate Mia (10) and Jack (8) for their work in aid of the Chestnut Appeal. This Derriford Hospital based charity which has supported prostate cancer patients and saves lives through acquisition of the latest technology from Japan, as previously reported in your Observer, has been one of the Observer's favoured charities for our own fund raising.

We were delighted that the Rhodes children, who have dedicated many hours to creating produce to sell at their own stall at various local

events, were the successful nominees, named as such at the Mayor's Civic Service and awarded their cup by last year's Citizen of the Year Jack Phelan on his 15th birthday at this year's May Fair.

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Costing for CCTV Cameras

The issue of mounting CCTV cameras to monitor crime and anti-social behaviour in and around Fore Street has again been raised.

It costs around £3,000 per camera, advised Councillor David Yates, with each one having a life of around five to seven years. It costs a further £12,000 to fit the link to ensure that they are monitored from a site such as the Fire Station. To monitor each camera for forty hours per week costs around £1,000 per year.

Meanwhile Barclays have confirmed that they are shutting off their out of hours wi-fi in Fore Street which has been encouraging young people to loiter outside and intimidate cashpoint customers. The Manager however advised that such behaviour is likely to continue unless the root cause is dealt with.



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Youngstagers bring Theatrical Magic to 'Peter Pan'

Our talented band of Youngstagers always bring us theatrical magic but this year, as the 6 to 18 year olds transported their audiences to Neverland, their production of 'Peter Pan' truly appeared to sparkle with the fairy dust that Pan scattered over the Darling children.

There are various versions of 'Peter Pan' but the Youngstagers relied upon a traditional show staying close to the original Barrie production of 1904. Indeed as Barrie directed father figure Mr Darling and his alter ego Captain Hook were played by the same actor, Tyler Stapleton, who managed to merge villainy and pathos in both roles as well as achieving a murderous climax in his song 'Goodbye Peter Pan'.

In the two lead parts of Wendy and Peter, Christine



Hicks aged 12 and Ryan Bailey aged 13 not only acted and sang themselves fully into their roles but also explored their enigmatic relationship with dramatic skills. Ryan perfectly portrayed the multi-faceted character of Pan that Barrie created in this weirdest of stories, through to his moving farewell song to Wendy 'Don't say Goodbye'.

But especially for the younger audience members, most memorable were the stomping dances and resounding choruses of the pirates, the Indians and the lost boys. All three choruses gave it their all; sharing their evident enjoyment with their audiences. Danny Burkitt was a successfully solemn John Darling contrasting with Toby Irons as a cheeky Michael and with Naomi Hargadon as Barrie's eternal mother figure Mrs Darling. The action, choreography and especially the fight and the

flying sequences, so lively and seemingly natural were great credit to the hard work put in by the cast of 25 and of course the large production team led by Youngstagers founder Marilyn Grose, now in her 26th year and 36th production of the troupe. And 'fans' favourite was clearly the crocodile drawing whispers of 'awesome' from the three girls behind us.

These girls and all of us were, of course, eagerly determined to support Peter Pan in saving the life of Tinkerbell (played unusually not by a flickering light but by Honey Sullivan) loudly confirming that we all 'Gotta believe in fairies' and as we watched the Lost Boys be adopted by the Darling family and inevitably grow up some of us might have envied Peter as he flew away to further adventures in his never ending childhood in the Neverland.

Conundrum Corner

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

- 1 In which Pantomime does the character Wishee-Washee appear? (7)
 - 2 The French call it a Champignon, what do we call it? (8)
 - 3 In the Jungle Book what type of animal is Shere Khan? (5)
 - 4 Niagara Falls separates New York State from which Canadian Province? (7)
 - 5 What type of musical instrument is a Flageolet? (5)
 - 6 Which African Nation was ruthlessly led by Idi Amin? (6)
 - 7 Since 1988 the Welsh town of Hay-on-Wye has hosted a famous festival principally celebrating which branch of the Arts? (10)
 - 8 In which County is the New Forest situated? (9)
- Answers on Page 7

Information on Monument Mystery

Many thanks to readers who have contacted us concerning our interest in the plaque commemo-rating Les Urbans, uncovered by the footbridge at Carkeel.

We have been deluged with information and subject to the permission of his family we will share this with our readership shortly.

Skate Park Improvements

The Junk Yard Skate Park at Salt Mill, highly popular with the town's youth and attracting skateboard enthusiasts from beyond the town, is to be enhanced. The Town Council has agreed to a support funding request and allocated £3,000 towards health and safety maintenance works to the Saltash BMX Race Track. The Town Council is also to discuss with Cornwall Council, who own the land at Salt Mill, the possibility of devolving the ownership and management of the BMX Race Track to the Town Council.

Virtual War Memorial Supported by Council

A 'virtual war memorial' in cyber-space carrying full details of Saltash war dead could be the first of such established by a Town Council, profession genealogist Christine Douglas told the Town Council.

The Council was considering an application for around £15,000 of the 'Section 106' money paid by Lidl's as a condition of their planning permission, to be put towards the cost of research and setting up a web site.

This follows research by Saltash Heritage Volunteer Peter Clements into those named on the town's two war memorials. He discovered various misspellings, as well as names of those with no known connection to Saltash. Moreover he discovered around fifty persons who lived in Saltash and who died in the two world wars but whose names are not recorded on either memorial.

Mr. Clements has already uncovered a considerable amount of data on the town's war dead but now feels that he has progressed as far as he can. Accordingly an expert genealogist, Christine Douglas, has been appointed to assist and had already put in around fifty

hours of voluntary work. During this time she has uncovered a wealth of information and some interesting and poignant stories on the dead of both world wars. She now wishes to extend her work and suggested that the further names that she researches, rather than being literally 'carved in stone', might be entered into a web site where they can be amended or added to as more facts are uncovered.

The Town Council eagerly agreed to make its own application for section 106 money to be released for this project. It is hoped to involve schools and colleges, with saltash.net students perhaps researching those former pupils whose names appear on the school's memorial. 'The work would also have a direct impact on living relatives of the dead', Councillors agreed.

Find your Family's Roots in Free Discovery Day

Another chance to discover fascinating facts about one's family's past will be on offer at the Liskeard Public Hall on Saturday 3rd June.

Following last year's popular and highly successful Family History Discovery Day. Lizzy Sharpe-Asprey, Secretary of Saltash Heritage, has helped organise a similar event through the South East Cornwall Museums Forum.

This year these will be even more organisations represented, all offering their expertise in digging out one's family roots. Plymouth and West Devon Record office will be joining both Cornwall and Devon History Societies as well as representatives from most of the museums, local history centres and archive holders in East Cornwall. For those interested in their family's military past Cornwall's Regimental Museum will be represented.

Entrance as well as advice and assistance will be free of charge all day from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. and refreshments will be available.

School Childrens Safety Concerns

Road Safety Group

Speeding traffic on the approach to the Hatt roundabout and the safety of schoolchildren walking the narrow but well used lanes between Hatt and Landulph have been among the issues that have recently concerned the Saltash Area Road Safety Committee.

They have also followed up issues relating to children's safety in the narrow section of St. Stephens Road. Letters have been sent expressing concern at the withdrawal of several school crossing patrols in Saltash. Several requests from local residents for a speedwatch have been processed, this involving having the Speedwatch site under consideration validated by a special department of Plymouth police.

The merging of traffic and the signage on the A38 west of Latchbrook has also been on the committee's active list and it has liaised with Highways England on the issue.

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Retiring Councillor Made Freeman at Surprise Reception

Having devoted thirty years to serving the town as Councillor, four of them as mayor, and having been involved with countless local charities and organisations, some of which she initiated, it was agreed unanimously by Saltash Towns Councillors that Councillor Sue Hooper MBE's last town council meeting should be preceded by a surprise reception for her and a special award.

Having arrived early at the Guildhall, supposedly for a photo shoot of the town council, Mrs Hooper was greeted with applause from around seventy guests. These included nineteen former Mayors as well as councillors past and present, representatives of organisations in which she had served, family members and friends including Mary and Martin of the 'Observer'.

Having come to Saltash in the 1970's with husband John and two pre-school children, it was a chance meeting in the launderette that resulted in Sue becoming an active member of Saltash Operatic and Dramatic Society (SODS), Mayor Councillor Hilary Frank recalled. This was followed by her becoming a founder member of Saltash Residents' Association and then the momentous decision to stand as councillor alongside colleague Derek Holley.



After a resume of her work for her work for the town given by the Mayor, Sue Hooper's daughter Kaye Bonner gave a reading of Sue's favourite poem 'Phenomenal Women' by Maya Angelou, followed by a rendition of a favourite song by Sue's granddaughter Florence Bonner, now studying music at Chichester.

Still recovering from her delighted surprise Sue told the assembled throng, 'I will never forget getting out of the lift and seeing so many friendly faces. It has been as wonderful journey and we have achieved a lot'.

The Mayor formally presented Councillor Sue Hooper with a badge and scroll making her a Freeman of Saltash, as well as a clock for her husband and four times Mayor's Consort John Hooper. Sue concluded by thanking everybody concerned and with a special tribute to 'my husband John who has always been at my side for better or for worse'.

Pictured left:
Nineteen people who have served as Mayor of Saltash, the four Freeman, current councillors and many representatives from groups and organisations that Susie has supported over the years attended the award ceremony.



Saltash on Show as Film Club makes History

A newsreel highlighting the past year in Saltash, a historical newsreel reminder of a long gone year and a selection of films celebrating the beauty of our local environment, all of these regular feature in the annual show from the Saltash Video Group. Founded in 1963 this enthusiastic group has, each year over the decades, mounted a popular show as a prelude to May Fair.

This year a crowded 'house' saw an archive newsreel of 1987 including the founding of the Ashtorpe Rock Centre, in which the show was given, as well as the near completion of the Saltash tunnel.

A film put together to celebrate Brunel's 200th anniversary included a steam train crossing the Tamar and steaming through Cornwall, while "Springtime" at Cotehele featured the beauty of the awakening garden. A feature film on 'The Charm of Lundy' followed a visit to that island, and the evening ended with a review of Saltash events in 2016 including May Fair, Regatta and Christmas, with many audience members

identifying themselves.

Sadly this could be the last such show, the audience was informed, as falling membership mean there are no longer members enough to put one together. Over the past half century the group has taken on many exciting projects while documenting the changing face of the town and have won various awards. Anyone with an interest in film making would be welcomed, and ownership of equipment is not required.

The group meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7.30 p.m. at Burraton Community Centre or can be contacted on 01752 212078

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Town Crier and Tree Warden Receive Awards

Two familiar faces who have worked for the Saltash community over the decades but recently stood down received the thanks of the Town Council and limited edition prints of the town in recognition of their services.

Brian Whipp, long a familiar figure about town in his persona of Sir Francis Drake and more recently as a pirate was selected as Saltash's first town crier in recent history in 2007. Since then he has regularly been seen crying out for Mayfair, regatta and other local events.

Working for Saltash more quietly but equally effectively Mrs. Flok de Rijke-Winter has for over thirty years served as Saltash's voluntary tree warden. Her knowledge of matters arboreal has helped ensure the survival of many of the town's finest trees and the Town Council commented on the great

support received from her particularly when a planning application concerned a tree or trees.

Commenting on Brian Whipp's service to the Town Council, Town Councillor Jo Ellison reminded members that Brian and his late wife Monica had together travelled far and wide competing and frequently winning town crier competitions often in the costumes that Monica had made, 'I am very proud to receive this award and have always been proud to represent the town as Town Crier', said Mr. Whipp adding, 'I will still be seen around in costume, people and children in particular love seeing me about the town.'

Flok de Rijke-Winter has advised the town 'assiduously and well', said Councillor Derek Holley. She had been especially active when the former scrubland by the Tamar Bridge was transformed into the attractive Elwell Woods.

Her thirty years of residence in Saltash were filled with contentment and fulfilment, she had told the Town Council and it had been rewarding to be involved in the community's treescape. 'It was my hobby and I enjoyed every moment of it' she added.

The incoming Town Council will be actively seeking replacements in both Town Crier and Tree Warden.

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Peter Ryland Keeping us Updated... CIC Celebrate their 4th Anniversary

As a director of the CIC I was pleased, on the 20th April, to be involved in the small celebration of 4 years for the community shop at No. 4 Fore Street being open. This unit carries out many roles including the community market, Dementia Cafe, Booking Office for Hopper Bus, a base for finding out more about volunteering in Saltash and the Head Office for the Community Interest Company (CIC). Its success has been down to the effort of Rosie Waters (a fellow director of the CIC) who has put in over 7,000 hours of her time to run the shop, all on a volunteer basis, well done Rosie.

There are 11 directors of the CIC who put their time to the activities of the CIC totally on a voluntary basis. We are always looking to have further directors who can help expand the activities of the CIC. At present, in addition to No. 4 and the Hopper Bus, we also run the Saltash Card, the

Dementia Cafe, have a lease of 18 Belle Vue Road where we have, amongst others, the Food bank and Citizen's Advice as occupiers, we have a month to month agreement to operate the Pop-up shop at No. 5 Fore Street and provide a community voice in many of the other activities that happen in the town.

If anyone would like to volunteer to help whether at Board level or as a Hopper Bus driver or helping with the administration do not hesitate to drop into No. 4 and have a word with Rosie who will put you in touch with the appropriate director. It does not mean that you will have to do thousands of hours but even a couple of hours a month can help. This is an exciting time for the CIC as there are opportunities coming forward as Cornwall Council are devolving a lot of



activities for which they have been responsible in the past. With the support of more volunteers, we can ensure that these activities, if they are beneficial to the PL12 community, can continue.

On other matters, at the time of writing this article, the Chamber is still trying to find out what is happening re - the site at Carkeel roundabout

owned by Tesco, there are many rumours. We have attended a meeting between the South East Cornwall Chambers and Sandra Rothwell of the Local Enterprise Partnership wherein priorities for investment in the area included infrastructure, mainly transport and broadband/mobile, and

improving apprenticeship and business demand/opportunities. We want to ensure that some of the financial resources available to the LEP are spent in South East Cornwall.

The Chamber was also concerned that some shoppers were having difficulty in

knowing which shops would issue car parking refunds. We have contacted the Town Council to get an update list, which will be publicised in due course.

With car parking refund and discount by way of the Saltash Card, is there any reason not to shop in Saltash?



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Scouts Parade for St George



Saltash's Scouts and Waterside Explorer Scouts marked St. George's Day by parading to St. Stephen's Church with visiting Scouts from throughout Saltash South East Cornwall numbering around two hundred.

The Mayor and her Consort Councillor Hilary and Shojiro Frank marched with them from The Core Youth Centre to the church alongside the Mayors of Liskeard, Looe and Torpoint in a procession led by the Saltash Town Band.

The scout groups included troops from all of these towns as well as Linkinhome, Millbrook, Callington, Pelynt, St. Neot and Menheniot. They packed the church for a special St. Georges Day service led by the Reverend Michelle Parkman. 'During the service the Chief Scout's Silver Bar to the award of merit was presented to Saltash Scout Leader and former Mayor Colin Oakes'.

It is a local scouting tradition that each town in South East Cornwall takes turn to host the annual parade and service in honour of the England's patron saint.

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