

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

May 2021 - Issue 350

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Growing Leadership at Bishop Cornish



will be thinking not only about the local community but also about the global community, and how they can make a positive change. Everything is children-led as they plan and implement social action projects that follow their ideas and passions. "We are so excited to be involved, and to see our leadership skills develop and used in our projects," said Thomas.

The children are busy researching the local community to see how they can be of 'service.' Eleanor said: "We've been for a long walk along the waterfront and Fore Street to see if there is any rubbish or any projects that may need our help." They are so enthusiastic they have already started with small acts of kindness in their homes and with their neighbours, like litter picking and making cards to sell for charity. The children say they are aiming to raise money for both a local charity and a national charity through their final projects.

The Year 5 class at Bishop Cornish Church of England School have become the first children in Cornwall to take part in the Archbishop of York Youth Trust Young Leaders Award.

The Award was created by Dr John Sentamu, the 97th Archbishop of York, who said: "Never before has it been so important for our young people, regardless of their background or faith, to discover the life skills of compassion, patience, self-control, gentleness and leadership."

The Youth Trust's mission is to develop opportunities for young people to grow in leadership and character, and the course delves into 'big questions' where the children

Tamar Bridge Work Faces Further Delay

Delays to the resurfacing work to be carried out on the Tamar Bridge have allowed pedestrians and cyclists to continue using the southern cantilever to cross. This was supposed to be closed in April to allow another lane for motorised traffic as resurfacing work got under way.

Now the work, and the closure of the lane, has been postponed again until the beginning of June. From then on free shuttle buses will take pedestrians and carry bicycles between Fore Street and the car park on the Devon side. While cyclists are permitted to ride in the carriageway with other traffic, for their safety they are urged to use the Shuttle bus service.

The delay is at the request of the contractors, the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry management have advised. The former concrete deck was replaced by a much lighter steel deck twenty years ago and the resurfacing of steel requires a specialist operation and a

specialised form of asphalt. Few companies are able to undertake this work and Volker Laser, the main contractors, have sub contracted to a Swiss specialist company Aeschlimann AG, who need to ensure their staff and equipment are all in place ready to commence work before lane closure and traffic restrictions come into effect.

The resurfacing work, the first resurfacing since the steel deck was installed in 2000/2001 was due to commence in April this year and be completed by September. The late start will mean a later finish but it is intended to be completed by the end of the year.

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SALTFEST
2021
SALTASH CORNWALL
The Saltash Chamber of Commerce is keeping an eye on the roadmap out of lockdown but getting on with plans to hold SALTFEST on 31st July. Longstone Park and Saltash Town Centre will ring out with music and laughter at the town's first major event in more than a year.
Please Help 'Fund the Fun' by purchasing some Raffle Tickets.
Local companies Chapple Property Management, Eclectic Interiors & The Bookshelf have donated cash prizes.
Tickets are on sale from Eclectic Interiors & The Bookshelf.

Town Messenger

Working for the People of Saltash

News from Saltash Town Council
Konsel an dre Essa



Education Department

Telephone: 0300 1234 101

Email:
schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk

Education Welfare:

Telephone: 0300 1234 101

educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk

Housing Department

Telephone: 0300 1234 161

Email: info@cornwallhousing.org.uk

Social Services Department

Telephone: 0300 1234 101

Email:
children@cornwall.gov.uk

Social Services Department

Telephone: 0300 1234 131

adultcare@cornwall.gov.uk

Highways Department

Telephone: 0300 1234 222

Email:
customerrelations@cornwalllimited.co.uk

Transport Department

(Schools Transport)

Telephone: 0300 1234 101

(Bus Pass) Telephone: 0300 1234 222

Email:
schooltransport@cornwall.gov.uk

Roads, Transport and Parking

Telephone: 0300 1234 222

Email:
roadtransportandparking@cornwall.gov.uk

Waste Department

Telephone: 0300 1234 141

Email: via contact form on website only.

Cormac Solutions

Telephone: 01872 323 313

Email:
customerrelations@cormacltd.co.uk

Fly Tipping:

Telephone: 0300 1234 141

Email:
refuseandrecycling@cornwall.gov.uk

*Town Messenger
news is supplied
by the Town
Council*

Cornwall Councillors/ Wards

Saltash Essa ED

Cllr Hilary Frank
cldr.hilary.frank@cornwall.gov.uk

Saltash Tamar ED

Cllr Sheila Lennox-Boyd
cldr.sheila.lennox-boyd@cornwall.gov.uk

Saltash Trematon

& Landrake ED

Cllr Martin Worth
cldr.martin.worth@cornwall.gov.uk

Cornwall Councillors

Cover such services as:

Housing – Education
Social Services
Highways
Waste & Recycling
Tamar Bridge

Saltash Town Council Thank You

It has been a busy time for Saltash Town Council with the 2021 May elections taking place. Can we take this opportunity to thank those who are not part of the new Council, for their past hard work and endeavours, whilst welcoming back those who are returning (for more!) and for giving their time to the town as they do, together with welcoming our newly elected Members.

The First Meeting of the Fiscal Year

Saltash Town Council are pleased to inform residents that legislation now permits physical face to face meetings.

The first scheduled meeting of this fiscal year was the Annual Town Council meeting which was held at the Guildhall on Thursday 20th May 2021, subject to Covid-19 safe working practices.

Residents of Saltash were welcomed back in person to the Town Council meeting. To find out more on the safety measures when attending Town Council meetings please view the agenda front sheets located on the Town Council website

<https://modern.saltash.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeId=1148>

Rest assured all safety measures, the Risk Assessment and Protocol can be found here:

<https://modern.saltash.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?bcr=1&sch=doc>

Elections for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Saltash

Nominations were received, and the vote took place at the Annual Town Council meeting on Thursday 20th May 2021. Councillor Pete Samuels was re-elected as Mayor with councillor Richard Bickford as Deputy Mayor

Fore St S106 works – Phase 1

An S106 Panel meeting was held on 1st February 2021 and a bid application was received on behalf of Community Enterprises PL12, Saltash 1941 Blitz Committee, and the Town Team.

The application was considered and approved at that meeting. The bid application is to install environmentally sustainable seating on a various themed basis, including Brunel and the Blitz, to enhance the visitor/shopper experience in Fore Street whilst paying tribute to those fallen but not forgotten.

The project outlines the requirement and need to replace the wooden tops to existing planters along Fore Street and includes the provision of monies towards noticeboards. The project also forms part of a potential larger scheme for seating, tree planting, covered areas, and gazebos, which is being considered subject to health and safety requirements. Meetings have been held with Cornwall Council's Environmental Team to establish which trees are suitable for planting with Saltash Town Council working towards Phase 1 works commencing as soon as possible. More information regarding the start dates of works will be made available on our website and social media sites.

Saltash Library Hub – Books and More...

Saltash Library Hub have been busy over the past month providing limited browsing to residents, click and collect and some awesome competitions.

May 4th – Star Wars day was a great success and the library team enjoyed all the pictures and stories submitted, with the winners winning some fantastic Star Wars gifts.

Congratulations to Alfie and Lincoln!

The Library Hub continues to provide more than just books to its local community with the month of May being Local Community History Month. The Hub Team have a small exhibition with interesting local reads on the history of Saltash and are looking to hear from you or family members with stories and recollections, memories and photographs of living and working in and around Saltash, past and present.

Whether you would like to record a story from 50 years ago or a recent experience during lockdown, the aim is to publish a Saltash Social History 2021 Recollections book to keep at the Library for future generations to access.

And let's not forget to mention Pollenize!

Saltash Library Hub have free seeds available, subject to demand, for those who wish to collect and plant within local urban environments to support conservation and bees.

For more information on any of the brilliant works happening at your local library hub please contact the Library on 01752 844846 (option 6) or email saltash.library@liscornwall.org.uk or follow Saltash Library Hub on facebook to keep up to date.

Election results for New Council Term 2021-25

New Cornwall Councillors

Following the 6th May 2021 Local Elections in which the representation of Cornwall Councillors in Saltash went from 4 to 3, representing the new ward boundaries of Essa, Tamar and Trematon and Landrake, we welcome the following Councillors:



Saltash Essa

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



Saltash Tamar

Councillor Sheila Lennox-Boyd
Cldr.sheila.lennox-boyd@cornwall.gov.uk



Saltash Trematon and Landrake

Councillor Martin Worth
Cldr.martin.worth@cornwall.gov.uk

Election Results for New Council Term 2021-25

New Town Councillors

Following the 6th May 2021 local Parish and Town Council elections Saltash Town Council are pleased to inform you of your 2021 – 2025 Town Councillors as follows:

Essa Ward



Cllr. Richard Bickford



Cllr. Rachel Bullock



Cllr. Gloria Challen



Cllr. Mark Fox



Cllr. Averil Pinkney

Tamar Ward



Cllr. Lewis Challen



Cllr. Sarah Gillies



Cllr. Sarah Martin



Cllr. Julia Peggs



Cllr. Pete Samuels

Trematon Ward



Cllr. Steve Miller



Cllr. Brenda Samuels



Cllr. Garry Taylor



Cllr. David Yates

Vacancies

There are currently 2 vacancies, one in Saltash Tamar and Essa wards. If you are interested in becoming a local Councillor please contact us at enquiries@saltash.gov.uk for further information on how to apply check out our website <https://www.saltash.gov.uk/councillorvacancies.php>

Your Town Council & Wards

Saltash Essa:

1. Cllr Richard Bickford
r.bickford@saltash.gov.uk
2. Cllr Rachel Bullock
r.bullock@saltash.gov.uk
3. Cllr Gloria Challen
g.challen@saltash.gov.uk
4. Cllr Mark Fox
m.fox@saltash.gov.uk
5. Cllr Averil Pinckney
a.pinckney@saltash.gov.uk
6. **Vacancy**

Saltash Tamar:

1. Cllr Lewis Challen
l.challen@saltash.gov.uk
2. Cllr Sarah Gillies
s.gillies@saltash.gov.uk
3. Cllr Sarah Martin
s.martin@saltash.gov.uk
4. Cllr Julia Peggs
j.peggs@saltash.gov.uk
5. Cllr Pete Samuels
p.samuels@saltash.gov.uk
6. **Vacancy**

Saltash Trematon:

1. Cllr Steve Miller
s.miller@saltash.gov.uk
2. Cllr Brenda Samuels
b.samuels@saltash.gov.uk
3. Cllr Garry Taylor
g.taylor@saltash.gov.uk
4. Cllr Yates
d.yates@saltash.gov.uk

Mayor:

Cllr Pete Samuels

Deputy Mayor.

Cllr Richard Bickford

Town Clerk:

Ray Lane
T: 844846
E: enquiries@saltash.gov.uk

**Councillors' Telephone
Numbers can be obtained
at The Guildhall.**

**Saltash Town Council, The Guildhall, 12 Lower Fore Street,
Saltash PL12 6JX
Tel.: 01752 844846 Email: enquiries@saltash.gov.uk
Website: www.saltash.gov.uk**

Chamber Chairman Sarah Martin Keeping us Updated...

As this goes to print, we have hit another government roadmap milestone with most indoor hospitality venues reopening, and a relaxing of restrictions regarding mixing indoors. The first and second days of trading have unfortunately been disrupted by abysmal weather with torrential rain and hailstones, but hopefully that hasn't deterred people from shopping in Fore Street and visiting our many cafés and eateries

Business Directory

A growing number of local businesses are adding their details to the online directory created by Chamber member Antonia at Carbon Pixel. Any PL12 business can add their profile to the website at www.shop-saltash.co.uk free of charge. The Chamber hopes that the website will play a key role in building resilience going forward. If every adult in Saltash spent £5 per week locally it would be worth an extra £3.2 million per year going into our local economy, which means more jobs, better facilities and a nicer place for us all to live.

Chamber Meetings in Person

We are cautiously optimistic that we will once again be able to meet in person for our monthly Chamber meetings at China Fleet Club. We have had a host of new members join Chamber recently including Stevie Elliot-Loar from new Saltash estate agency Keller Williams, Paul Webber from Love Audio Productions, Scrapstore with trustees Rosie and Dave Waters, Andy and Rebecca Farrington from Saltash Aesthetics, Steve Meyrick and Lou Meyrick from Stax Reclamation and Donna Hemmings from Eclectic Interiors. We welcome them on board and look forward to getting to know them in person very soon!

Free Business Advice

One of the benefits of Chamber is our access to organisations in Cornwall who can offer our members some excellent advice in their areas of expertise. None more so than Amy Crawford (Cornwall Training and Consultancy Ltd) and Natalie Swift (Swift HR) who joined us for our May meeting with updates on Health and Safety at work including first aid, and the pitfalls of recruiting and employing new staff. The session was so constructive and useful that we have asked both

Amy and Natalie to join us again for a drop-in clinic for our members when we are able to meet again in person. Let us know if you are a business in Saltash who is interested in their help by contacting us at info@saltashchamber.co.uk

Parking in Saltash

Of course, the lifting of restrictions has also meant the reintroduction of charging in Cornwall Council car parks. The price per hour has increased to 60p per hour (from 1 April) which is still great value for shopping in the town compared to our closest neighbour across the river, but still, we will once again be considering options as a Chamber to subsidise parking in the town as we continue down the roadmap. Things are moving quickly so watch out in car parks and on other media platforms for updates as we progress our plans!

Totally Locally - Coming to a shop near you in Saltash!

During the pandemic we have all learnt the importance of staying local and supporting those businesses closer to home. At Chamber, we want to encourage this even more and will be joining with the national Totally Locally shop local campaign in June. A first event in this campaign and our launch event is the Totally Locally FiverFest, which acknowledges the impact of spending just £5 to support the local economy. This will run from 12th - 26th June. Make sure you visit Fore Street and support our local independent retailers and businesses and shop local.

SaltFest - 31 July 2021 Fund the Fun!

Planning is under way for SaltFest on 31 July with lots of crossed fingers among the committee that the roadmap remains in place! Funding events is always a tricky undertaking, and we are asking



people to put their hands in their pockets to 'Fund the Fun' by buying raffle tickets for cash prizes! We are exceedingly grateful to three Chamber members for supporting the event with their generous donations of cash prizes: Chapple Property Management, Eclectic Interiors and The Bookshelf. Now we just need you all to buy those tickets! Just £1 a ticket helps us to make SaltFest a great day for all!

Tamar Bridge Update

Delays on visas for specialist subcontractors from the EU for complex bridge works have meant the project to resurface the Bridge has been put back, with an anticipated start date now of 1 June. The change in the start of the project means that the works will now not be completed by the end of September as originally planned. The Joint Bridge Authority, however, is committed to ensuring the resurfacing programme is delivered and all lanes of the Bridge are re-opened before the end of 2021. We will continue to update members and residents on our Facebook page @SaltashChamber and via this column.

That just leaves me a little space now to wish all well in early summer as we continue along this roadmap with the new Indian Covid variant. Let's remain vigilant and proactive in our social distancing and hand washing, looking after each other so that we don't jeopardise all our good progress so far. Best wishes until next month.

**Observer Telephone
Numbers 07971484872
or 01579 345699**

Recycling for Saltash

During the last lockdown, Community Enterprises volunteers made gallons of delicious homemade soup, & gave it out to Saltash residents through the Community Fridge and the Mobile Larder. We struggled to find environmentally packaging which didn't cost a fortune- as the soup was being supplied free of charge, we didn't have much of a budget!

We opted to use plastic takeaway containers, as long as people promised to recycle them.

We're very pleased to report that we have now set up our own recycling scheme for PP(5) plastics- like takeaway tubs HDPE(2) plastics - like milk carton caps and chocolate tubs

We're collecting the plastics at our Community Hub at 4 Fore St, and they are then going to a Devon company, to be transformed into garden benches. These benches can be recycled, so the plastic will never end up clogging up our rivers and oceans.

If you'd like to help with this recycling scheme, please drop your clean PP(5) or HDPE(2) plastics in to us at the Community Hub during normal opening hours, 10am - 2pm Tuesday - Saturday.



Look for these symbols on the plastics;

Saltash Model Railway Club

If anyone is interested in joining and being a member of a new Model Railway Club we are trying to form in Saltash, please contact me Peter Broyd on, M: 07800789737 or email peter_broyd@yahoo.co.uk

Abbeyfield Saltash



'Residents from Abbeyfield Saltash raised £105 in their Easter Raffle for chosen charity, Barnardo's.'

**maryecrawford@hotmail.com
www.saltash-observer.co.uk**

Residents Below Report Anti-Social Behaviour from the Bridge

Lower Fore Street and Old Ferry Road residents have reported problems from those crossing the Tamar Bridge above their properties. The problems range from shouting and use of foul language to the throwing of debris into the gardens below.

This issue has been brought to light following a survey of residents in both Saltash and Saltash Passage on the Devon side. Eleven incidents of items thrown down over three years were recorded varying from a litter bin to parts of a pig. There were 19 such incidents over the homes on the Devon side and 15 over Saltash. Several residents reported having to move their cars, or reducing time spent in their gardens as a result of anti-social behaviour.

It was previously suggested that the Tamar Bridge barriers be raised to 2.6 metres, either across the bridge or just above the properties on either side, but the bridge and ferry committee rejected the proposal after a working party reported on it in 2019.

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Saltash Hopper Trips June 2021

**Sunday 6th June 11.30am - 3pm
Lunch at The Canteen at Maker Heights £6**

**Tuesday 15th June 9am - 5pm
Mystery Trip with Ian £10**

**Tuesday 22nd June 11am - 3.30pm
The Garden House, Yelverton £6**

**Sunday 27th June 12 noon - 3pm
Lunch at the Engine House, Callington £6**

Contact Al on 01752 848348 to book and for more information.

*Max of 8 people per trip. All are expected to follow Covid-19 recommendations.
Prices do not include food. All trips and venues will be subject to future Covid restrictions.

01752 848348 hub@cepl12.co.uk www.CEPL12.co.uk @CEPL12

Community Enterprises PL12 | 4 Fore Street | Saltash | PL12 6JL

Saltash Scrapstore

GRANTS AVAILABLE

Thanks to the support of the Saltash Community, we have, despite Covid, had a good first year as a charity. As a result, we would like to help other organisations in and around Saltash who have a project but need a bit of finance to start/keep it going. So, if you have a project which is to do with recycling or protecting/enhancing the environment or a community art project and need some finance to move it forward then Please contact us for an application form either by popping into our shop or by e-mailing peter@hilllane.co.uk

To the Residents of Tamar Division Saltash

I would like to thank all those residents who have supported me as a councillor over the years, in all sorts of ways, not just by voting but by writing supporting letters on numerous issues. Now I am finished I am just glad that the three main issues I have been leading on and involved with are now at the stage of no return, I hope - but I am writing as I would be very grateful for your continued pressure on this first one.

This is that after much work and many meetings Cornwall Council have accepted that Gilston Road needs sorting out, a solution to help relieve queues, if not get rid of them altogether, has been also been accepted and funding is being sought by officers. In a similar vein and after much negotiation the first stage of making North Road safer by putting in average speed cameras to reduce speed and hopefully reduce its use as a rat run will be done soon. Secondly I started and have negotiated for four years for the redevelopment of the poor quality housing on part of Tamara estate by Saltmill, which is now progressing well, with funding hopefully in place and I don't think that will founder. It is the one I most want to succeed and if I can say that I helped a lot of people get better housing, superbly insulated, well designed internally, air source heating etc. then that is enough .The one I think is OK is the more or less complete

redevelopment of the all-weather pitch at Saltmill, which has come to the end of its life, and this work is at the stage of going ahead within a year, thanks to Groundwork who run it and to Cornwall Council who have also helped enormously.

But it is the daily, nitty - gritty issues that concern people and this is a thank you to all those people who have kept me updated and aware of what is going on, week after week for years. I would have been unable to do my job without you.

*Kind regards to you all
Derek Holley*

Thank You

Wendy and Family would like to thank all family and friends for their kind messages and cards at the passing of Gordon. Donations for St Luke's in his memory amounted to £400.25
Thank you to you all
Regards Wendy Prynns
Saltash

Letter to the Editor... Waterside Safety

We are very lucky here in Saltash to have a boat park and slipway. However, sadly, the park does lack water, electricity and security; long-promised Council improvements are still awaited.

The slipway can be quite dangerous. With a northerly wind and strong current it is impossible to launch a small dinghy or even a bigger boat single-handed; even with two people it can be difficult with no protection from the waves, or maybe a wash caused by the Marines whizzing about. There are no securing cleats or rings except two high up the slip; the inclined side has no timber or fenders of any sort which can cause considerable damage to craft, and nothing to tie a boat to, deterring many from use. A simple, inexpensive, removable Gabion wall (steel basket of stone) with scaffolding planks attached beside the slip would provide a walkway and let boats tie alongside the wall, allowing others to use the slip or whilst trailers are parked. I base my observations both as a boat owner and nearby resident.

*John Stamm
Address supplied*

Conundrum Corner

Taking the initial letters to the one-word answers to the following ten questions can you re-arrange them to give the name of well-known celebrity? 5,5
1 A light Orchestral piece, written by Leroy Anderson in 1950, features which unusual instrument more commonly found in an Office? (10)
2 What type of Dance takes its name from the Spanish word for Sauce? (5)
3 Which River, rising in the Himalayas, empties into the Arabian Sea near Karachi? (5)
4 Which Meat is the main ingredient for the dish Vienna Schnitzel? (4)
5 How many legs does a Scorpion have? (5)
6 In Roald Dahl's Matilda what relation is Miss Trunchbull to Miss Honey? (4)
7 What name is given to dark reddish brown pigment obtained from the inky secretion of the Cuttlefish? (5)
8 What name is given to the part of France not occupied by the Germans in World War 11 (5)
9 What word is used to describe secretly listening to other peoples' conversation? (13)
10 Which is the only English County to have two completely separate coastlines? (5)
Answers Page 7

Observer Telephone Numbers
07971484872 or
01579 345699

Essa Voices

A wise priest struck up conversation with me as I walked up the hill last week from Saltash train station. “You know,” he said, “I’ve never understood why the media insists on using a political party’s name along with the title MP. Once a politician has been elected, they serve all the people, not just those who voted for them.”

Absolutely, wise priest. And while I’m thankful and humbled that enough residents voted for me so I could get returned as the councillor representing the Essa Division on Cornwall Council, I am also determined to make sure that the voices of all people living in the Division are heard, irrespective of the candidate who got their vote. I stood for election because I want to help Saltash shape a post-Covid world that will be caring, fair and respectful - it is those values, along with the voices of residents, that will carry me forward, not party politics.

So, I am very grateful to the Editor of the Saltash and District Observer for offering me the opportunity to write this regular column. I’ve grabbed the chance to monopolise this space, and will be using it to give you information to help

you use your voice, as well as to amplify residents’ voices. Some of the voices will be older, some younger. In this first column, I’m giving voice to people at polar ends of this ‘age’ spectrum: the ancient family who gave their name to Saltash and the future leaders who are singing to today’s world leaders.

The ancient Borough of Esse

Esse is a Norman surname meaning ‘ash tree’. It seems that a Norman French family with the surname Esse settled here in the years after William had conquered England. By 1201, the Borough of Esse was a well-established market town and seaport. Over time, the name transmuted from ‘Esse’ to ‘Asshe’, and the prefix ‘Salt’ was added, showing the town’s location on the saltwater

estuary of the River Tamar, and distinguishing it from other places with similar names. The town’s 1584 Charter states that ‘Essa is now commonly called Saltash’.

The voices of future leaders

Let me take you from the seaport in Saltash to the seaport in Carbis Bay, where world leaders will be sitting down next month to debate at the G7 summit. Sir Tim Rice has written a catchy song, full of rich historical, cultural and mathematical references, designed to put children’s voices at the heart of the G7 summit and encourage world powers not to ignore the powerless. You can listen to the song on the Sing 2 G7 website. The website also has a range of free teaching resources designed to help schools, youth groups and families learn about leadership, and help them add their voices to the 13,000 young people worldwide who have already signed up to sing along and make their voices heard.



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

Your Vote Matters



The Sing 2 G7 website quotes Greta Thunberg saying: ‘No one is too small to make a difference.’ And this brings me, neatly, back to where I started this first column of Essa Voices, because I want to thank people for voting in the local elections, and to reinforce the point that every vote does matter - the contest in Launceston in May’s local elections for Cornwall Council, for example, was won by just three votes. And by voting we add our voice to the chorus that forms opinions and the basis for actions. I’m greatly looking forward to helping conduct that chorus, so our voices are heard.


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Save Money and Save The Planet

A new initiative to help Cornwall’s young people save money by reducing energy consumption is being rolled-out across the county by Citizens Advice.

The pioneering Powerhouse project – funded by the Energy Redress Scheme - is aimed at people who are not in education, employment or training and builds lifelong skills and habits among the more vulnerable members of society.

Project leader, Kremena Whiting, said:

“We want to show people how they can take control of their energy bills and keep warm more affordably. This will help them budget, improve their health and also help the environment through reduced emissions.”

According to the latest government statistics, Cornwall has 31,862 households in fuel poverty, amounting to 12.6% of the population, the fourth highest county rate in the country after the Isles of Scilly (20.9%), Cumbria (13.3%) and Herefordshire (12.9%).

Kremena added: “We know Cornwall suffers from a high level of fuel poverty so by tackling the root causes with young people, we hope to reduce energy usage and bills for future generations.”

Citizens Advice Chief Executive, Gill Pipkin, said:

“We’re delighted to be able to roll-out this scheme across Cornwall, where we know issues around fuel poverty are causing real hardship for so many people. Powerhouse offers some of the most vulnerable people in our community a way out of going into debt just to keep warm.”

Powerhouse sessions cover efficient energy usage, planning for bills, comparing costs and switching providers, getting out of fuel debt and keeping homes warm and free of damp.

Sessions are tailored to individual needs and are held online, over the phone or face-to-face subject to social distancing rules.

Benefits of taking part in the scheme include managing energy use more efficiently, accessing grants for insulation and heating, budgeting for energy bills, getting help with benefits you may be eligible for, comparing costs and switching suppliers and reducing your carbon footprint.

Powerhouse Top Tips For Reducing Energy Bills:

Spend less time in the shower
 Dry your washing on the line if the weather permits
 Only use your washing machine/dishwasher when you have a full load
 Get yourself some energy saving light bulbs - they can save you £55 a year and are longer lasting, so work out cheaper than the alternative
 If you turn down your room thermostat just by one degree, you can save yourself £50 a year.

Powerhouse is open to anyone living in Cornwall aged between 16 and 25 years and who is not in education, employment or training or who is leaving care. For more details, text ADVICE POWERHOUSE to 78866 or email powerhouse@citizensadvicecornwall.org.uk

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Rebranded and Refurbished Ready to Welcome you Back

The recent lockdown period proved a positive experience for Tracey of Saltash Bookshelf who dedicated the prolonged break to rebranding and refurbishing her popular bookshop and tearooms. Following complete redecoration and including new logo, canopy, signage and above all a roof terrace with panoramic river and country views, Tracey is delighted to show off her enhanced premises to those who wish to browse through her book section, enjoy delicious drinks and snacks, or indeed do both as many do.

The ground floor refurbishment has allowed Tracey to enhance her selection of new books, many hot off the press. She tries to ensure that all best sellers are in stock at all times together with the speciality selection of children's and young adult books for all ages. Especially popular is the local interest book collection together with books of walks (including the 'Saltash Observer's own book of walks) and maps.

In addition to the wide selection in stock any book can be ordered and available for collections, or sent direct, within a couple of days. Books can be ordered through the Bookshelf website or via bookshop.org naming Saltash Bookshelf as preferred independent bookshop. There is also a popular range of Gibson's Jigsaws and of cards for all occasions.

Upstairs surrounding the tearoom new bookshelves are lined with second hand books. These too cover adult and children's fiction, non-fiction and reference. Donated by customers, the proceeds of sale are all put towards fundraising for local clubs and schools.

Tracey and her team are all keen booklovers and are always happy to recommend or to help search out that elusive book.



American Pancakes Prove to be a Popular Choice

Those who enjoy the delicious selection of home-made cakes, savouries, snacks and light lunches for which Saltash Bookshelf is famous now have a choice of venues in which to enjoy them. While many will be pleased once again to sit indoors the two storey tea rooms, with the sunny days returning customers can continue to sit outside in Continental style. And now following lockdown refurbishment Tracey is delighted to welcome customers to her roof terrace with its panoramic views over the Tamar and the Cornish and Devon countryside beyond.

The finest quality hot drinks include superior Puro Fairtrade Coffee. Locally sourced speciality St. Piran's teas and hot chocolate prove popular, as are the cold drinks including Elderflower bubbly and the special luxury milk shakes.

Home made cakes and soups are a speciality as are the Cornish cream tea and savoury cream tea. These can also be enjoyed at home in gift boxes to be collected or delivered locally.

Of the more substantial snack the American pancakes are proving fast favourites as is the brunch menu, available from 10a.m. and we must not forget Saltash Bookshelf's 'Young Readers' menu with its selection of 'sand witches'

Tracey has worked especially hard during the pandemic doing her bit to make our town centre a welcoming and attractive place to shop and to relax. She looks forward now to welcoming back friends and meeting new customers supporting local businesses. She thanks all of her customers for their loyal support and in particular, thanks her enthusiastic team on whose support she depends.



Ramblers Report Blockage to Foreshore Footpath

Among the many interesting and attractive footpaths that Saltash walkers have been able to enjoy especially since lockdown is one that leads along the foreshore from Neal Point, near Landulph, to Cargreen. Shown on the definitive map and clearly signed as 'only usable at low spring tides' it was found to be blocked by a number of fallen trees on a recent foray by a local Rambler. The blockage has been reported to Cornwall Council's footpath officer.

The route is otherwise passable though heavy boots or wellingtons are recommended for the muddier sections. As well as commanding fine estuarial views it is of historical interest as it passes the now grilled off adit to the West Tamar Silver-Lead mine. Started in 1851 this

apparently produced some 'splendid' silver-lead ore during its short life.

Walkers are strongly recommended to report to Cornwall Council's footpath officer any such obstruction to a public footpath or bridleway shown as such on the ordnance survey map.

Lanes, Footpaths, Woodlands and Meadows...

Waiting to be discovered

Late Spring and early Summer always bring joy but this year they are accompanied by a special excitement as we are released from months of lockdown and can at last fully enjoy the delights of the country around us with family and friends.

There are so many lanes and footpaths, woodlands and meadows, bedecked with flowers and the pale green early foliage on trees and hedgerows, all waiting to be discovered.

To discover the best of these the Saltash Observer's own classic book of the local countryside 'A Quality of Life - In and Around Saltash and Countryside' remains available in Saltash Bookshelf. Together with many articles of local interest it includes eight walks taking in the villages and countryside around the town, as well as six shorter strolls close to the town.

We have been re-exploring many of these walks ourselves during our lockdown exercise and are pleased to find them as pleasurable as ever, especially the 'Wander to Wisewandra' round and about Tideford and the flower lined grass paved Paradise Lane included in the walk round Landulph and Cargreen.

At just £4.99 'A Quality of Life' can be picked up in Fore Street's own specialist bookshop, the 'Saltash Bookshelf'.

Alternatively it can be delivered locally by contacting Mary Crawford on M: 07971 484872
E: maryecrawford@hotmail.com

NHS Big Tea Day



Saltash Town Council will be celebrating NHS Big Tea Day on July 5th by hosting an all-day Tea Party at Saltash Library Hub. This is a chance to not only celebrate lives saved but remember loved ones lost. From 10am until 4pm you can pop into the Library for a slice of cake and a cuppa for a mid-morning or mid-afternoon celebration and toast the birthday of the NHS with your friends and family. There will be opportunities to donate to the fundraising event in the Library and help us all say a big thankyou to the wonderful service the NHS is providing.

Pop in and enjoy your tea and cake in the new Library layout . . . for children we will have some sweets for you too in the new children's area.

There will also be a chance to bid for a gastro prize cake to 'wow your socks off' that will be won by the highest bidder!

The Town Council are also visually supporting the NHS by decking the high street and Council buildings with NHS flags and of course lighting up our fantastic Celtic Cross.

The tea pots are standing by for 5th July! See you in the Library

Mayor Samuels to Serve Second Term

The annual town meeting saw councillor Pete Samuels re-elected as Mayor of Saltash with councillor Richard Bickford as Deputy Mayor.

In proposing the mayor, councillor Peggs stated that councillor Samuels due to the Pandemic had not enjoyed a full year as Mayor and had many projects outstanding in which he wished to be involved.

Last year's deputy Mayor Julie Rance had not stood for re-election as councillor and councillor Richard Bickford was unanimously elected in her place.

We will report further on the election and new council in your next observer.



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Our gorgeous countryside is inviting you to see it at its best. All around are a network of footpaths, bridleways and lanes to explore. To enable our readers to experience the very best of our countryside, The Saltash and District Observer's own publication 'A Quality of Life' is still available and crammed full of local walks, strolls and other leisure ideas.

Visitors can particularly benefit, discovering so many of our local delights within its pages.

I will deliver your copy locally free of charge or you can purchase it from The Bookshelf in Fore Street Saltash by calling 07989 163 946

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Saltash 1941 Blitz Committee...

Pays further Homage to the 15 Saltash Civilian Fallen of April

1941 Following the most touching Sunset wreath laying ceremony paying tribute to the six Auxiliary Fire Servicemen (AFS). The penultimate parts of the Saltash 1941 Blitz committee's acts of remembrance has been to attend the blessing and wreath laying of Donald Noel Cummins memorial plaque at Saltash Railway Station. Donald was the 18 year old Boy Scout AFS fire fighter that was killed at the GWR Saltash Station goods yard on April 28th 1941. Then to the blessing and wreath laying of the Blitz Memorial board in Fore Street (Wesley Road).

Further, the committee visited every war grave of the 9 civilian personnel that were also tragically killed in Saltash on April 28th and laid Commonwealth War Grave Commission memorial tokens. Their names being...

Charles Henry and Emma Amelia Allen, Alfred William Olver, William Rogers, Mrs. Dorothy Goad and Miss Joan Goad, Walter Eales and Aaron Brooking.



Then onto the Cornish Cross, to witness the illumination of the Cross, and to set off the Air Raid Siren as it would have done 80 years ago on the anniversary of the April 28th Saltash Blitz.

Our sincere thanks are conveyed to the Saltash Town Council and Simon Jewell for their vital role in the evening event with the lit Cross and the setting off of the siren by Simon.

The final event will be the Remembrance Parade led by the Devon and Somerset Ceremonial Unit of the Fire Service (pipes and drums) and a Church Service on Sunday August 8th this year; this will be attended by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Saltash, together with known families of the fallen, guests and dignitaries.

Sue Hooper MBE (general secretary) The Saltash 1941 Blitz committee; Mike Parker and Alan Chowings (joint chairs) Sue Hooper (General Secretary), Mark Fox (treasurer), John Hooper, Gloria Challen and Paul Blakeston

Kelly and "Ken Dad" Grandfather to Us

Among the longest standing friends and supporters of the Saltash Observer are the team at the 'Union Inn' including in particular daughter Kelly. We have been there taking photographs of her from early childhood, through her 'Prom' and sharing with her all that she has achieved despite her physical disabilities Her father Brian, landlord of the Union and mother Barbara have in turn supported the 'Observer' throughout.

This Spring marked Kelly's 30th birthday and she greatly looked forward to celebrating it alongside her beloved grandfather as he marked his centenary. Grandfather Kenneth Hutchings particularly looked forward to having his hundredth birthday at the same time as the Duke of Edinburgh. Sadly, neither of them made it and both passed away a few weeks before.

Grandfather ('Ken Dad' to Kelly) visited his granddaughter each Thursday and Sunday almost until his death and both enjoyed their countless games of dominoes and board games. A proud Cornishman, born in Metherell, Kenneth trained as a bomber pilot in World War II though an injury resulted in hospitalisation in Cairo and ground duties thereafter. In peacetime he worked as a mechanic and always enjoyed repairing things. Following the loss of his wife Dorothy in 2010 he moved into Cedar Court Saltash where he lived independently up until his death this year aged almost 100.

Kelly's planned 30th birthday celebrations had to be limited to a family lockdown party though soon afterwards we were able to meet with her to reminisce and laugh over the fun that we had shared on past birthdays and other events. These included the time we arranged for her to join other disabled young people on a Rotary organised motor launch cruise around Plymouth Sound, and the occasion when she bravely went down a zip wire, followed by apprehensive Observer Editor Mary.

Though birthday celebrations were low key and Grandfather sadly missed we are delighted that as restrictions ease Kelly is resuming some of her chief pleasures. These include riding for the disabled at Erme Valley Riding Group (for whom the 'Union Inn' has often held fundraising events) and swimming in the hydrotherapy pool at Seale Hayne, Newton Abbot. And Kelly was especially looking forward to meeting with many old friends as the 'Union Inn' re-opens in mid-May.



Photo Ian Robinson

Huntley Gardens Hideaway

Why would a thoughtless flytipper mysteriously throw a huge amount of green waste over the wall into peaceful Huntley Gardens off quiet Silver Street; in addition, a few broken sticks of furniture and fencing, and a faded Poppy on a wooden cross? Living closeby, I value the haven's serenity and alerted our local groundsman/grasscutter. Within the hour, his Saltash Council colleagues efficiently removed the equivalent of 8 dumpy bags of dead vegetation, almost a full truckload, which they disposed of a few short miles away at our free public recycling facility.

The gardens, created from derelict land by the local

residents association, are a hidden gem of solitude with their own tale to tell. They feature on a painting by Victorian artist Henry Martin and three cottages stood here until the 1950s, of which traces are still visible on one of Brunel's bridge supports. A large granite block (now displaying the famous engineer's bronze plaque) was originally trackside above... until it fell one day through the privy roof of a surprised resident, Mrs Budge, fortunately not seated at the time! The plaque itself was once on Saltash station and was lost for many years, until it reappeared to be unveiled in 2006 to commemorate the Bicentenary of IK Brunel.

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Tamar Reflections

Town Dung – Dock Dung or even Night Soil...

As a small child and from humble beginnings after the war, my extremely hard-working parents made do with just the bare essentials, bringing up their three children. I remember well, so many things that my father did to encourage good home grown produce of fruit and vegetables, which were still scarce after the war.

I recall my dad going out with his bucket and shovel and scooping up the horse dung left by the delivery Dray Horses, to place around his rhubarb, strawberries, raspberries, and blackcurrants; and as a result they tasted delicious.

In our village at Burraton Coombe, we see the riding horses most days in our lanes, and they leave their dung gifts behind just the same, and it is such a tempting thought to scoop up a bucket full for our home grown produce.

Which brings me onto what an important commodity dung was for over 200 years. Saltash hinterland benefitted greatly in the Victorian times from dung, which was a thriving industry, especially for the farmers, and particularly around the Tamar and Lynher estuaries.

Saltash has celebrated many thriving industries during the 19th and 20th Centuries, in particular for



slate, lime, boat building, fishing and civil engineering of our railway. Yet, sadly little has been written about the importance of dung, which was known, as 'Town Dung' and 'Dock Dung, or even 'Night Soil.'

Dock Dung, around our locality originated from Plymouth Dock and its composition was from sweepings from Plymouth streets in the days of horse-drawn transport. Dray horses were used for so many industries, including

delivering for local breweries and people carriages.

When the 'Dock Dung' was being swept, the debris included all kinds of waste, including glass bottles, clay pipes, china and pottery ware, children's toys, and clothing to name but a small selection. Waste from butchers, toilet slops and coal and coke were all in the mix.

Tons of Dock Dung was loaded onto barges and sent further afield from Plymouth quays like Pottery Quay (where my father was born

and bred) and Vauxhall Quay. Tons were transported to Forder and Antony Passage for use in the surrounding fields, market gardens and homesteads as agriculture and horticulture fertilisers; small quays that we can still see today were constructed for unloading. The composite hard cores were sorted from the barges and removed from the dung and thrown into the rivers, fields and gardens in the area.

This plentiful yet pungent industry was phased out in the early 20th century due to motor vehicles and provision of mains sewage.

Walkers in the area of Forder, Antony Passage, Trematon, Trehan and Shillingham, if they look closely, will still see extraordinary pieces of Dock Dung in the creeks, footpaths, and hedgerows. Last year I found an old meat paste jar at Wearde.

What are quite amazing to me are the mosaic items that can be created from the Dock Dung. At the bottom of Saltash Fore Street is a lovely 'Cup and Saucer' seat made from Dock Dung, and is a fine example of a modern piece of art made from historic dock debris.

Now, where did I put that bucket and shovel?

Sue Hooper MBE

Award for 'Legend' Micky

Micky Northfield has previously been recognised with a national honour for his 35 years of service in the Royal Marines, but it is his dedicated service supporting young people that was recognised at a recent ceremony at The Core Youth and Community Centre, when Micky was presented with a Cornwall Civic Award.

It was back in 2006, soon after leaving the Royal Marines, that Micky started delivering a programme of vocational training for unemployed young people. This led to him starting work at K3, as The Core used to be known, working in partnership with agencies from the public and private sectors inspiring young people to achieve their potential. In 2011, it was Micky's vision and determination in delivering thousands of flyers by hand and spearheading the efforts to get people to vote that led to The Core winning a grant from the Lottery's Jubilee People's Millions to construct the climbing wall in The Core. Micky has maintained his strong links with The Core to




this day, volunteering on the Management Committee of the Centre.

In 2010, Micky joined forces with Devon & Cornwall Police to bring back youth boxing to Saltash after a 25-year absence, establishing the Saltash Amateur Boxing Club. Volunteering not only as Secretary and Treasurer but also as Child Welfare Officer and Fitness Trainer, Micky and the Club have enabled countless young people in Saltash to build their confidence, helping them learn about self-defence and respect.

"I am completely surprised to receive this prestigious award," said Micky, with typical humility. "It has been my privilege to have worked with so

many Cornwall Council and partner agency workers over the years, but the greatest aspect has been the amazing young people I've been able to work with, support or be an advocate for."

The Award was presented by Cllr. Hilary Frank in her role as Chairman of Cornwall Council. In paying tribute to Micky, Cllr. Frank said: "Over the years you have supported so many young people, really giving them the power to believe in themselves. This Award is the highest that can be conferred by Cornwall Council. It is our way of thanking you, on behalf of all the families you have supported, for your selfless commitment and dedication. You really are a legend."



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GWR Grant Boosts Project To Increase Visitor Numbers to Cornwall Nature Reserve

A project encouraging visitors to Churchtown Farm Community Nature Reserve has received a £4,500 grant from Great Western Railway (GWR).

Cornwall Wildlife Trust wants to promote walking links between the reserve and Saltash station, as well as helping to reduce social isolation and provide new volunteering opportunities.

As part of GWR's franchise agreement with the Department for Transport, the train operator has a Community Cohesion Fund to assist small community charities, enterprises and station adopters.

The nature reserve has the mainline railway and the viaduct running spectacularly across it and is a 20-minute walk from Saltash station.

James Webb, Fundraising Manager at Cornwall

Wildlife Trust, said:

"Churchtown Farm Community Nature Reserve is an important place both for people and wildlife.

Recognising the importance of the site to local people, a group exists to enable community members to contribute to all aspects of the site's management.

"We want more people to become involved with this group, to help reduce social isolation and encourage more rail users to visit and benefit from the reserve's location on the edge of Saltash, making it an ideal place for people to escape for a bit of peace and quiet."

Emma Morris, GWR Community Manager, said: *"The project fits in well with our objective to engage with the wider communities we serve, helping to deliver a sustainable future in a socially-responsible way by promoting local environmental and economic regeneration."*

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Firemen Heroes Honoured at Blitz Anniversary Service

As the entire heart of Plymouth appeared to be ablaze and its citizens were fleeing, six Saltash civilians were rushing into the heart of the inferno. The full fury of the German Luftwaffe was being vented on the city when the six part-time members of the Auxiliary Fire Service headed into Plymouth in a taxi towing a trailer pump. They wore rudimentary safety clothing, some purchased by themselves. They never returned.

Exactly eighty years after their vehicle struck a land mine in King Street, killing them instantly, a small group of family members attended a commemorative service they had organised in St. Stephens Church. As well as representatives of the Fire Brigade, who brought with them a fire engine used in the Plymouth blitz, guests included the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, Cornwall's High Sheriff, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Plymouth, the Chairman of Cornwall Council, the Mayor of Saltash, the Chief Fire Officer of the

Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service, Sheryll Murray MP, and Luke Pollard MP. The service was conducted by the Bishop of St. Germans together with Prebendary Brian Anderson, and included the rededication of the Firemen's Memorial Desk presented to the Church in 1949. Following the service, the Standards led the family members to the firemen's gravesides for a private blessing.

The six firemen were all volunteers and had jobs including farmer, shopkeeper, van driver and labourer. One was a World War 1 veteran. Another had wanted to serve in the army alongside his brothers but had been refused as being in a 'reserved occupation'. His brothers survived the war, he did not. One of their wives had her husband's supper and slippers waiting for his return. One man shouted to his family 'I won't

be long' as he rushed out never to return.

Also remembered at the service was a teenage boy scout, Donald Cummings, a member of a scout fire crew who died fighting the Saltash blitz.

Lt. Commander Barry Brooking, grandson of one of the firemen, described them as "ordinary men doing an extraordinary thing by putting themselves in harm's way, in the true tradition of the fire service".

Mr Brooking told the Observer: "As a small group of organisers, we were honoured and delighted that every senior official from Cornwall and Plymouth who had been invited,

attended St. Stephen's Church. Several of the attendees were kind enough to describe it as a very poignant service. It reflected those held following the tragic deaths in 1941, and the memorial service in 1949. Family members of the heroic firemen organised and financed the event as what will probably be a last tribute since we ourselves are growing older".

"We were concerned as to whether coronavirus regulations would allow us to hold the event on the anniversary, but we held our nerve and the rules allowed us to do so. The firemen deserved no less."

The Firemen:

Francis Brooking aged 44; Stanley Crabb aged 26; Alfred Crapp aged 33
Bernard Jasper aged 27; John Stanlake aged 28; Leslie Tibbs aged 31



Barry Brookings-Grandad

Hop into Summer with the Saltash Hopper

Hopper Trips

With restrictions lifting and indoor dinner dates permitted once again, it's time to jump back on board the Hopper! From the much loved Mystery Trip with Ian, to Roger's lunchtime dates, we're starting up our regular trips again on Tuesdays and Sundays in June.

The Hopper picks up from locations around the town and delivers you safely back to your doorstep on the return journey. Our bus is routinely fogged after each use in line with Covid hygiene regulations. All our drivers have had their vaccinations and look forward to your return!

We will be extending our range of trips throughout the summer so keep an eye out for updates by following @SaltashHoppers Facebook page or join up for our newsletter at hub@cepl12.co.uk. And, don't forget, if you're the lucky recipient of a Hopper voucher to use it when booking to get £5 off your trip on us!

Hopper Shopper

Wednesdays is Hopper Shopper day taking you to Saltash shops and retail parks starting at 10am. We pick-up from various locations around the town dropping to Fore Street at 10.25am. The return journey leaves at 12 noon picking back up from Fore Street at 12.25pm to take you and your shopping back home - help is on hand from our drivers too for those heavy items. Let's support our local and independent businesses who have been there for us all during the last difficult year!

Saltash Community Transport

The Saltash Hopper is community transport brought to you by Community Enterprises PL12 based at 4, Fore Street. We offer group or club hire of the bus to all community groups and organisations in the PL12 area. Membership of CEPL12 is a pre-requisite for travel but is FREE and easy to do. For all bookings and hire enquiries, contact Al on 01752 848348 or pop into the Hub at No. 4 Fore Street.

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Late Wake-up for Saltash Sailing Club



Photo Ian Robinson

It's May already. Yachts are a month late returning to the Tamar, delayed by an evil virus far more deadly even than the horrendous Fastnet Race disaster that claimed 19 skilled yachtsmen over 40 years ago. Like all Irish Sea killer hurricanes, UK Lockdown is also fading. 64 more local vessels are now back bobbing at river moorings in readiness for Plymouth Sound racing, or summer cruises to Looe, Salcombe and beyond.

Except for Outward Bound cutters in Scotland's Moray Sea School once, I'm a self-confessed land-lubber. Yesterday, I reflected as I ducked under a barnacle-free, 28-foot, sandblast-smoothed hull, waiting its turn for re-immersion into our sparkling Cornish river. Appropriately with his maritime background, I'd watched as Neil Trathen outlined the detailed demands of the day to a hard-hatted, yellow-vested team-crew of very water-fluent seamen. Military precision accompanied his attention to detail, including releasing backstays, unravelling strops tangled around stanchions, checking rigging halyards, even very last-minute keel-painting. I snapped pictures frantically as the professional hand signals between overseeing banksman and attentive crane driver nudged a 5-ton hull deftly but gently skywards under a strong sun, guided fore and aft between neighbouring hulls by caring linesmen. Only a day before, SW Water workers had laboured way past sunset to

open local powercut roadworks to bring through the orange giant, a 15-ton multi-wheeled SW Crane Hire Terex leviathan, the star of the day. My mind raced back to Massachusetts in 1985 when my first published story featured the biggest truck in the world, the Terex Titan, that could accommodate not one, but two Greyhound buses in its scoop... on that day she was mine for an afternoon!

Today, landside, as the likes of Musk Ox, Djibouti, Inky Paper, Extortionate and Elusive float alongside other sister craft, on the sailing club forecourt, boat cradles are storage-bound, supplanted by tender and cadet racks, and nimble sailing dinghies, replacing the winter forest of skyscraping masts. Beneath a pair of earnest, airborne, southbound mute swans, the daily MOD police launch heads upriver, the sea cadet club waiting list grows longer

and grey-haired sailors (not the ladies!) dream of full spinnakers on Thursday race night, as they stow varnish brushes until October. Time to rescue my Canadian canoe from the clutches of my garden bluebells and head upriver among the avocets!

Ian Robinson.

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