



# SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

November 2010 - Issue 220

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## HUNDREDS RALLY BY THE RIVER TO "KEEP CORNWALL WHOLE"

A sea of Cornish flags bedecked the banks of the Tamar as the Mayors of Saltash and Torpoint stepped ashore on Jubilee Green serenaded by a Celtic piper playing Trelawney.

Hundreds had gathered in Saltash from throughout Cornwall to join the 'Keep Cornwall Whole - Respect the Tamar' rally. This formed the climax to a campaign of political lobbying seeking to ensure that parts of Cornwall, likely to include Saltash, are not joined with a Plymouth

parliamentary constituency in order to create a reduced House of Commons with constituencies of equal populace.

As well as our local Mayors and Councillors civic representatives present included Mayors and their deputies from Truro, St. Austell, Hayle and Launceston. Our Conservative M.P. Sheryll Murray joined with the Lib-Dem member for St. Austell and Newquay Steve Gilbert to speak against the proposals. Other speakers ranged from the Grand Bard of the Cornish Gorseth, who spoke in Cornish, and our own Saltash May Fair Princess.

"The proposals for the Devon and Cornwall constituency suggests that

numbers are more important than people and place and threaten to do away with a thousand years of history", thundered Saltash Mayor Adam Killeya, while Torpoint Mayor Edward Andrews added, "This is the thin end of the wedge with Torpoint and Saltash being soaked into Plymouth".

"I have already written to David Cameron expressing concern over his remark that the Tamar is not the Amazon", Sheryll Murray M.P. declared, "It isn't, it's colder!" After today he should be left in no doubt that the people of Cornwall are turning up the temperature. We must fight the destruction of a historical border by a political map. I have tabled an amendment to the bill and if it is not successful

I will take it through the House of Lords and fight on to ensure that the border of our historic duchy is protected".

Steven Gilbert also promised to vote against the government and for an amendment to the bill, stating, "This is intrinsic to how Cornwall strives to prosper in the 21st century. We must not have an M.P. straddling the border".

Speaking for our youth fourteen year old May Fair Princess Corina Roissetter added, "We are all Cornish and proud of it and that's how we want it to stay".

Cornwall Council unanimously voted to recommend that Cornish M.P.'s constituencies remain wholly in Cornwall, the council's chairman Mrs. Pat Harvey

informed the crowd, adding "Over 76000 households in Cornwall are currently not registered to vote. The lists are published in December, it is vital to register and boost numbers to help this campaign succeed".

The rally followed a symbolic journey down the Tamar visiting the border towns likely to be affected by any parliamentary changes. As the boats approached Saltash the gathering crowds were entertained by the Rally Band and Saltash Town Band while well-known entertainer Will Coleman of Calstock introduced each speaker. The event concluded with a mass singing of 'Trelawney' led by the Saltash Town Band.

"It was absolutely fantastic, hundreds of people, a number of boats and almost all the Cornish flags in the County", Mayor Adam Killeya enthused to the Observer as the crowds dispersed.

"I am delighted that I have today witnessed the reincarnation of Trelawney's Army on Jubilee Green, Saltash", an equally enthusiastic Sheryll Murray M.P. added to the 'Observer'. "This is just a start. I now hope that M.P.'s support my amendment and that it is chosen".

It was anticipated that the bill concerning the re-alignment of parliamentary constituencies would be debated in the Commons within the following few weeks. However the hot issue of the spending cuts has caused the issue to be deferred.



Photos by David Wood

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## NO NEW HOUSES AMID EDWARDIAN VILLAS

Around forty residents from the Essa Road and Port View area attended a town council meeting to express objection to a proposed housing development in Essa Road.

There had been fifty-one signatures to a petition opposing the development and fifteen letters of objection to the council.

The plans were for two detached dwellings in the garden of Mr. Darren Bennetts who spoke in defence of his project. As a long term local resident he said he had put much thought into his renewed application, following an earlier refusal, and he and his architect respected the character and history of the surrounding properties around a century old. His garden, he said, had originally included plots intended for additional properties.

Neighbours claimed that the proposed development was too dense and out of keeping with

the area. Neighbour Mrs. Jones, who addressed the council, spoke of need to prevent 'garden grabbing'.

Deputy Mayor Colin Oakes expressed concern at overdevelopment and the proposals being out of character and not in keeping with the street scene of Edwardian style villas. He also commented on congestion issues, and the proximity of a dangerous corner on a narrow and busy road. He spoke also of loss of green and garden space.

After discussion town councillors unanimously recommended refusal of the two property development, to the evident delight of the residents who had packed the council chamber.

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## 'Don't Miss the Bus'

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Volunteer drivers also required for the bus, if you can spare a couple of hours to fill in when needed, please call Phil on 845099.

Cheer up your winter and join us for entertainment and friendship through the week.

Tuesday Sequence Dance Club at the Burraton Community Centre from 1.45pm - 4pm for more details contact Anne on 843682.

The last Wednesday in each month the social club meet, listen to an interesting speaker and have a nice cup of tea in good company. For more details contact Christine on 848182.

"Come Dine with us" on Thursday, at the Burraton Community Centre from 10.30am - 3pm

2 courses of excellent home cooking for £3.50 for details contact Barbara on 840462

Having trouble with your feet? Every month we have a foot clinic at the Saltash Wesley church, this service is available to all ages, for details contact Margaret on 846249.

We look forward to your company.

## GEMMA AND WAYNE WEDDED ON BEACH



As the soft Cypriot air wafted over the waves a well loved local couple made their wedding vows before twenty-two friends and family members from Plymouth and Saltash.

Gemma McConaghy will be remembered as care assistant and cook at St. George's Day centre though she now works in a Plymouth supermarket.

She was married to Wayne Angear who works as a tyre fitter in ATS, Saltash and whose parents Brian and Sue are well known to the many patrons of Station Garage. Wayne attended Brunel and later Saltash.com school,

Saltash.

Gemma, who wore a creamy flowing dress was accompanied by 6 bridesmaids as she made her way to the beach in front of the Hotel Athena in Paphos, Cyprus.

Brian and his friends had 'decorated' the bridal suite before the ceremony, followed by a cutting of the cake in the hotel and later a full dinner in the warm evening air outside the Colosseum Restaurant.

We join with Brian and Sue and all their many friends and family in wishing well to the newly-wed couple.

## Breast Cancer 'Screening Programme' in Saltash

The West Devon and East Cornwall Breast Screening Programme will be inviting women between the ages of 50 and 70, registered at Saltash Health Centre or Port View Surgery, to attend the mobile unit for their breast cancer screening mammogram. The mobile unit will be located in Waitrose Car Park, Saltash. All eligible women in the area will be sent an appointment by post. If there are any queries regarding appointments please contact the screening office at Derriford Hospital on 08451 558167.

## SALTASH PUBLIC ASKED WHERE CORNWALL COUNCIL SHOULD MAKE CUTS

Which Cornwall County services should be cut in order to reduce the budget? Members of the public were largely outnumbered by local councillors at a public meeting in which views were sought as to how £10 million could be found to balance next year's county budget. Lack of publicity over the meeting held in Saltash Guildhall at short notice was a criticism of many present.

John Keeling, Cornwall Councillor and Chair of the Overview Scrutiny Committee, and Mike Crich, director of resources were among senior councillors and executives who put Cornwall's position to Saltash residents. The local government association believes that local government funding will be short by £20 billion and Cornwall, with other authorities, needs to look at services being provided with a view to reducing service levels in some areas.

Those present were invited to comment on what services they could accept being cut

and what needed to be maintained. All were given a sheet in which they were invited to tick five out of forty services where a lower level of service would be acceptable. These varied from adult care and children and young people's social care to refuse collection, libraries, street lighting and public toilets.

Library services in particular are currently running on a skeleton budget which just enables the provision of a frontline service, the manager of Saltash Library stated. With any further cut they could not continue to provide what is for many a lifelong education.

Other concerns included a plea to maintain services for disabled children, by the parent of such a child, and a request to prioritise public transport above road maintenance. This latter came from a St. Germans resident who complained of apparently unnecessary road works in that village.

Major reduction could be achieved by reducing management level and salaries at county hall in a similar way to private companies, claimed several present including a Unison executive who represents many local government staff. Not surprisingly this met with little support from the county representatives present.

Many present suggested that a county-wide survey would be a more appropriate means of gauging public opinion than public meetings which seemingly attract largely local councillors and those who already have a vested interest. However with the council having to consider its emergency budget proposals for 2011/12 at the end of November there would be little time for this. However views can be put forward to Cornwall Council online at [www.cornwall.gov.uk/hardch](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/hardch) oices.

What may be at least good news for council tax payers, if it is less good news for councillors trying to balance a budget, is that there is an assumption that any increase in council tax next year will be very small or even zero.

## A Sporting Event for Children in Need

Come in for coffee to support Children in need and have fun with the caring staff at The Hearing Room and the NHS Centre in Fore St Saltash

They will be joining in the spirit of raising funds and having fun by hosting the event in their sporty attire

The Hearing Room sporty coffee & tea party will be on Friday 19th November from 10.00am until 1.00pm everyone is welcome (no need to wear your sports wear unless of course you wish to).

Please come in and Support Children in Need.

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**FROM THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR...**

I hope that like me you have been enjoying a remarkably fine set of October weather, although as I type it appears to be departing for the winter!

My month has focused particularly on the continuing fight to Keep Cornwall Whole, in opposition to splitting an MP between Cornwall and Devon which will potentially force Saltash and Plymouth to share. On Saturday 9th October I joined a parade down the Cornish Border – beginning with a very early morning radio interview with both Radio Cornwall and Radio Devon in Morwenstowe – former parish of Reverend Hawker, author of ‘Trelawney’. We continued with stops in Bude, Launceston and Callington all of which enjoyed a great turnout and support. On Sunday 10th we held our big Keep Cornwall Whole Rally in Saltash on Jubilee Green and it was a great event – around 500 people attended, with bands, face painting, a flotilla from Saltash Sailing Club and Caradon Gig Club, and what felt like half the St Piran’s flags in Cornwall! We had an array of speakers from across the political spectrum: as well as both me and the Mayor of Torpoint we had the Grand Bard of the Cornish Gorsedd, the (Independent) Chairman of Cornwall Council, Sheryll Murray MP (Conservative), Steve Gilbert MP (Lib Dem), Trevor Colman MEP (UKIP), Andrew Long from Mebyon Kernow, Jen Forbes from the Cornish Labour Party, and our own Mayfair Princess Corina Roissetter speaking for the Youth of Saltash. The campaign has received a lot of local, regional and national press, radio and TV coverage and, although we cannot claim to be confident of victory, we fight on.

During October Merryn and I also attended Cllr Mrs. Sue Hooper’s presentation to her Mayoral Charities (over £5000 raised, including over £3000 to Help For Heroes – a splendid amount!), the Saltash Music and Drama Festival AGM, the Learning for Leadership Graduation and the Saltash Wesley Craft Fair in aid of the 2nd Saltash Scout Group. We further attended a very convivial

Saltash Royal Navy Association Dinner, the re-launch of K2 Youth Club as K3, the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance, and of course our own Saltash Civic Service. I also attended the Sue Hooper Charitable Foundation Last Night of the Proms Concert with the splendid Camborne Youth Band.

Also this month the Town Council has reviewed our priorities for the forthcoming year: our Top Priority remains the regeneration of the Town Centre; whilst our High Priorities are: Enhancing the look of empty buildings in the Town Centre; Local Economy Initiatives (e.g. Saltash Card); Taking on extra verges on highways; Further Environmental Beautification Works; Funding Festivals; Allotments; Grants for Community Groups; Crime Reduction Initiatives; Environmental Initiatives; Fair Trade Initiatives; Refurbishment of Guildhall and the Restoration and protection of civic regalia. We are also actively investigating the possibility of delivering some services jointly with Cornwall Council – perhaps including grass cutting and weed spraying.

As you will all be aware the start of November means the annual Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, and I’m sure we will all be working to support Saltash’s excellent branch in achieving another record total! The Town Council was delighted to support the Festival of Remembrance to launch this year’s appeal, and to help facilitate the Legion’s splendid appeal display in the former Marianne’s shop. I know they will appreciate all donations and offers of assistance that you feel able to give.

And finally, for those of you who live in Pill, we have a town council by-election coming up on November 11th – we have three keen candidates and no matter who you vote for, please vote!

Town Mayor  
Cllr: Adam Killeya

**BEAUTIFUL BUTTERFLIES WERE THE BIG DRAW**



Fluttering butterflies abounded in the Local History Centre above Saltash museum as children joined in the Big Draw organised by Saltash Heritage.

This years theme for the nationwide Big Draw scheme included endangered species and Heritage decided to enhance the ‘Alice in Wonderland’ tableau of the ‘Pastimes of Past Times’ exhibition with a colourful display of butterflies. A happy group of children were soon cutting out and decorating some brightly-hued butterflies which they displayed on the dias in the museum.

**SHOPPERS’ PARKING CHARGES CAPPED**

Saltash has succeeded in being treated as a ‘special case’ in the fixing of Cornwall Council parking fees.

Instead of county-wide fixed parking fees as many in the county had sought, Saltash and Torpoint because of their vulnerability to Plymouth shops, are to be granted special status for ‘shoppers’ parking.

The fee for the first hour will be limited to thirty pence, a rise from twenty pence but less than the fifty pence sought as a county wide fee.

This followed what County Councillor Derek Halley

described to the town council as ‘bargaining and horse trading’. Local Councillors were unsuccessful in achieving similar concessions for the second and third hour’s parking.

It was however agreed to stop charging for parking in Saltash at 4 p.m. This allows those who are working to stop in town at no charge to shop on the way home. Arguments for free parking on Saturday afternoons were unsuccessful.

These charges now have to go to public consultation before being referred back to the county’s cabinet for decision.

**CARKEEL SPEEDING SIGN SOUGHT**

A new thirty m.p.h. repeater sign is to be placed in Carkeel in an attempt to improve on safety for residents as well as passing motorists.

As reported in your September ‘Observer’ a survey confirmed that average speeds through the village are above the legal limit. It was also confirmed that the current speed restriction sign was improperly placed and therefore unenforceable.

A new sign is to be properly placed, the town’s industry commerce transport and tourism committee agreed, subject to county councillors confirming funding with the clerk.

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CHAMBER’S BUSY YEAR OF PROMOTING LOCAL BUSINESS

A

busy year of campaigning to promote local businesses was recalled by Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chairman William Cotton at the chamber’s annual general meeting.

He looked back on various reasons for standing down, Mr. Cotton said that he would miss the steadfast support and friendship that had eased his role as Chairman. He then presented the retiring secretary with a framed picture of Saltash on behalf of the Chamber. Mr. Peter Dickerson was unanimously elected secretary in his place, Mr. Lovegrove would continue as a member and moderator of the Chamber’s on line blog.

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at

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# CHRISTMAS IS COMING – SO COME OUT TO CELEBRATE IN SALTASH STYLE

Saltash always welcomes in the festive season with its own special magic. The packed programme planned for the town's combined Civic Carol Service and switch-on of the festive lights promises that this year's event will be as good as, if not better than, ever.

In recent years the celebrations have been held on a Saturday in order to ensure that as many of the town's adults and children as possible can join in the fun. This year Saturday 27th November is the date to be marked on calendars and diaries.

From one o'clock that afternoon Fore Street will be closed to traffic but full of fun and entertainment. Stalls selling seasonal goodies will line the street alongside others manned by local charities and organisations. Among these will be a lively variety of entertainers including the ever-popular Elfie the Jester. Juggling, stilt-walking and fairground attractions promise to bring all the fun of the Christmas Fair to Saltash.

In the arena at the foot of Fore Street a full programme of musical entertainment is promised. This will include the 'Select Four' jazz band, the familiar 'Hi-Jack' and this year 'Perfect Harmony' over from Plymouth, a 'first' for



Saltash's Christmas celebrations.

It is hoped that these, and other bands and choirs who will be joining in the carol service, will also be entertaining along the street as well as in the arena.

With so much to enjoy and a festive atmosphere to share it promises to be an ideal occasion to walk Fore Street, soak up the atmosphere of a town preparing for the festive season ahead, and see what our variety of friendly, largely locally-run shops have in store for Christmas. It is the perfect chance to

prepare for Christmas by shopping in Saltash.

Then, as the brief winter afternoon darkens, Saltash will bring its own light to bear upon the evening. Just after five that evening Father Christmas has promised to put in a personal appearance from his busy schedule and lead the grand civic parade down Fore Street in his sleigh. He will be followed by the Saltash town band in seasonal tune, the Mayor and other civic dignitaries. This year our children are being specially invited to join the parade with electric torches and

help create a procession of light.

As the parade reaches the podium at the foot of Fore Street the guest of honour will be invited to switch on the festive lights. This year Saltash is delighted that the

well-known presenter of BBC's 'Spotlight', Justin Leigh, has agreed to do the honour for the town.

As a cascade of lights illuminate our lively street a chorus of 'oohs' and 'aahs' is traditionally guaranteed. Then one and all are invited to raise their voices in a service of traditional carols. They will be accompanied

by the Saltash Town Band and led by the Saltash Ladies Choir, Saltash Girls Choir and Brunel Harmony Chorus, all of whom will have been invited to sing about the town during the afternoon. The day's events will be compered by well known local entertainer and D.J., Peter Gunn.

Even after the last notes of the carols have faded into the darkness beyond the street many shops should be staying open late for further Christmas shopping opportunities while the festive atmosphere lingers. The street will re-open to traffic at 7 p.m.

It is rare indeed for the winter weather to interfere with the festivities and carol service which have become so-much a well loved local institution. If, as happened last year for the first time in most memories, the outdoor event is rained off, the Wesley Church will welcome the carol service.

With less than a month then to come before the Big Day Saltash's very own welcoming in of the Christmas season is an ideal opportunity to cast aside workaday worries and come together to share the true tradition of a community Christmastide.

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## “A MUSICAL MIX” PROMISES TO PLEASE ALL TASTES

Whether your taste be for popular, jazz or choral music, some of the very finest in local musical entertainment is promised for Saltash on Saturday 20th November.

Lipson Community College, Plymouth, has been acclaimed a centre of musical excellence and some of their finest talent is travelling to

### SANTA'S SUPER SLEIGH

AS EXCITEMENT mounts with Christmas ever nearer many youngsters will be treated to an early glimpse of Santa. Every year in the run up to Christmas Rotarians have accompanied the sleigh through the streets of Saltash. Children attracted by Christmas music, rush out to greet Father Christmas while Rotarians collect for local and national good causes.

Santa and his Sleigh will again be a welcome part of our Christmas Lights switch-on on November 27th and around our streets in the run-up to Christmas.

Saltash Wesley Church that evening to entertain the town. This will include the Lipson Community Big Band and the College Choir guaranteeing a sound seldom matched in the town. 'Perfect Harmony' promises softer sounds, but a total variety of music is the aim of the evening.

The other aim is to raise funds for our much loved community hospital and the concert is being organised by the Friends of St. Barnabas Hospital.

'A Musical Mix' will start at 7 p.m. on the 20th November. Tickets at £5 (£3 for concessions) will be on sale in advance in 'Piglets' and 'Saltash Bookshelf' on Fore Street or else on the door.

## saltash.net becomes an International School



### Diary Date!

**Christmas Lights Festival**  
Fore St Saltash

Sat 27th Nov from 1pm  
Santa  
Christmas Fayre  
Entertainers  
Carol singing

*Fun For all the family  
Don't miss it!!*

Saltash.net community school recently received the news that it had been successful in its bid to become a fully accredited International School.

This was thanks, in part, to the fantastic portfolio of evidence that Mr Roberts, Deputy Headteacher, submitted, giving details of all the projects with which students and staff had been involved. saltash.net is internationally known for its

innovative teaching, along with the opportunities it provides for students to discover and experience other cultures, particularly through the use of technology. The internet enables saltash.net students to participate in projects on a global scale; for example working with the charity Cool Earth to consider issues such as climate change or taking part in video conferences to share learning with other students across the world. The school has most recently welcomed teachers from Nigeria and students and staff from Germany and Spain. Students have also had the opportunity to take part in return visits overseas and also get involved in amazing cultural experiences such as last year's World Challenge expedition to Malaysia. A group of Year 9 students will be venturing to Morocco over half term for this year's World Challenge experience.

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**WAITROSE MANAGER GETS ON HIS BIKE FOR CHARITY**

Over two thousand cyclists took part in a marathon ride around the coast of Britain to raise money for two charities this September.

Since the official sponsors were Waitrose, Paul Guinan, a manager at their Saltash store, was pleased to participate and join in the grand fund raising event.

He joined in two of the events closing stages in the 6500 kilometre run, divided into sixty-four sections. Paul found that he had volunteered for two of the most demanding stages, from Millbrook to Dartmouth, then on to Seaton the next day, involving a total climb of over four thousand metres. All riders had to raise a minimum of £50 participation fee.

The proceeds were divided between the prostate cancer charity and Caravan the

national grocers' benevolent fund, Waitrose were hoping to raise up to £100,000 to be divided between the two causes.

"There are two reasons I entered into the Great Cycle Tour", said Paul. "Firstly I saw it as a personal challenge to physically push myself following knee surgery earlier this year. Secondly to raise awareness and much needed funds for two great charities, Caravan and the prostate cancer charity. I feel that prostate cancer is not something openly talked about amongst men and that this tour was a great way of raising awareness".



Paul back on duty at Waitrose

**Technology achieves top marks for award-winning school**



saltash.net community school wins one of Becta's national ICT Excellence Awards  
 Creative use of technology brings learning and lessons to life

**"PILLMERE PONG" UNDER INVESTIGATION**

Complaints from Pillmere residents of an unpleasant odour in the area are being investigated.

The smells would appear to relate to the drainage system and the Environment Agency is looking into the cause and seeking a remedy, Cllr. Derek Holley told the town's industry commerce transport and tourism committee.

saltash.net community school has beaten off competition from more than 150 schools across the country to make the final of Becta's national ICT Excellence Awards.

The ICT Excellence Awards, which recognise and reward those schools that have shown how technology can be imaginatively used to enhance lessons and support all school activities, have been run by Becta, the agency formed to encourage the use of technology in learning.

In the face of stiff competition, saltash.net managed to impress the judges by showcasing their ideas and methods of incorporating technology into the heart of school life. They were the national winner in the Leadership, Management and Collaboration category and were

presented with their award on Thursday 14 October by Stephen Crowne, Chief Executive of Becta.

Niel McLean, Becta's executive director for schools and families, explained: "This year we've been so impressed to see such inspiring and enthusiastic use of ICT. saltash.net community school has really invested their time and effort into putting technology at the core of their everyday activities.

"This is certainly the way forward and I'm sure everyone connected with the school - teachers, learners, parents and governors - will all benefit from the rewards that technology can bring, whether that's through better monitoring of pupils' progress, building links with the home or making lessons more exciting."

Isobel Bryce, Headteacher, added: "We're thrilled to have won. It's a fitting reflection of the dedication shown by our teachers and the enthusiastic approach of the pupils. We are absolutely committed to using technology in exciting and innovative ways to ensure our pupils progress and achieve their full potential, and, most importantly, enjoy their learning."

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*My grandchildren speak far too quickly and they don't have good diction these days."*

*"My husband gets very irritable and short tempered.*

*I know I speak clearly but he won't accept he has a hearing problem. When we go out he doesn't involve himself in conversations and people think he's standoffish.*

*I feel so sad that the grandchildren don't talk to him anymore because he doesn't hear them. I know if he could hear well he'd enjoy life much more."*



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## BOMB VICTIM BEN MOTIVATES YOUTH AT CENTRE RELAUNCH

The hardest of handicaps can be overcome by those with a will so to do was the motivating message given to our young people at the relaunch of their youth centre. The message was especially inspirational coming as it did from one who had suffered a life shattering experience when a Taliban mine changed him from a fit and rugged commando to a one-armed and one-legged invalid. Ben McBean gave his young audience at the newly renamed K3 centre a vivid account of his experience as well as the positive outlook which had enabled him to resume a full and active life.

The club, originally known as 'Kenwanne' and, since its move to the Saltash College campus as 'K2' has

undergone many recent changes and now a relaunch with the title, chosen by its members of K3. The relaunch, at which Ben McBean was a guest, also included a display by the newly formed amateur boxing club. All those interested in the sport from age eleven to adult are welcome to attend on Tuesday evening from 7 to 9 or Saturday morning from ten till noon. Commonwealth silver medallist John McKinty with coach 'Rab' Butler guarantee excellent tuition.

The relaunch follows the young people achieving a £2500 grant from Cornwall Council's 'Our Money Your Dreams' funding. This has been put towards redecorating and refurbishing the premises to

the young members' tastes. The centre remains as popular as ever with over a hundred eleven and twelve year olds often attending on a Thursday evening and almost as many thirteen to twenty year olds on other weekday evenings from 7.15 to 9.45 p.m. The centre also has a packed programme of holiday activities indoors and days away, all chosen by the young people themselves. Facilities include a multi-sport hall, meeting rooms, a computer suite and a coffee bar. All are welcome whether they wish to be active or simply chill out with friends.

During the day the centre is also busy from 9.30 a.m. to 3 p.m. especially welcoming NEET's (young people not in employment, education or training). Youth worker Gillian Furse and her two youth workers, supported by part-timers and volunteers (including teenage youth centre members) also work closely with outside agencies able to offer advice and information on all youth concerns be they health, relationship, or employment issues. With its relaunch as the new 'K3' the centre retains its mission to promote 'healthy minds and healthy bodies' for all of our young people.

## Reading between the lines – Historic Railway revealed

Which was the first railway in Britain, and the world, to be steam hauled throughout its length? No, not in the industrial North but here in Cornwall.

The Bodmin and Wadebridge Railway first ran in 1834, with a human cow-chaser sitting on the buffers, long before the G.W.R. rolled westwards.

Built originally to carry sea sand to fertilise the fields of the Camel valley the line has also borne such diverse cargos as stone, china clay, and excursionists including over a thousand eager to view a public hanging at Bodmin gaol.

Such a quirky and historic railway deserves a quirky history and John Burden has written one to commemorate the line's 175th

anniversary. 'Making the Unforgettable .....Unforgettable' subtitled 'The Arrival, Departure and Return of the Bodmin and Wadebridge Railway' is available in Saltash Bookshelf. And on Tuesday 23rd November John Burden will be there from 10 a.m. to noon to discuss and to sign his book which covers, in a light entertaining style, the birth, life and death of the line as well as its subsequent rebirth in part as a steam operated preservation railway.

For those with an interest in the Good Life – Cornish style – there will also be a signing of the popular 'Up with the Larks' by Tessa Hainsworth on Monday 29th November, also from 10 a.m. till noon.



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