

Sat 2nd December  
Saltash Christmas Festival  
Special Edition

# SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

November 2017 - Issue 308

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## Our Fire Cadets Return to Flanders Fields

'We learned more there in four days than in a whole term at school'. This is a comment typical of the Saltash fire cadets, aged between 12 and 19, who each year for the last ten have experienced Armistice Day Ceremony at Ypres' renowned Menin Gate as part of a memorable visit to the trenches and cemeteries of World War I.

Mike Parker, who together with instructor Alan Chowings has been organising these visits each year for the last ten, while fully respecting the work that schools do, can appreciate such comments. 'They get to experience history, hands on as they cannot do in school. We are teaching the next generation never to forget and to respect those who fought and who died, some at the same age or little older than our Saltash cadets'.

Mike was speaking to the Observer shortly before he and

Alan were due to take twelve of the twenty or so Saltash cadets to Ypres together with the two cadet instructors and fire fighters from Saltash and around. Others in the party were to include Mike's fellow town councillor Steve Thorn, all travelling as guest of Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service. They would fill two mini-buses and be followed by a van carrying kit including the cadets' ceremonial uniforms and standards.

Having travelled overnight

to Kent and collected a fire fighter from Bicester, Oxfordshire, who runs their local cadets, the party would travel the Channel tunnel and make their first stop at Bray Dunes, one of the evocative World War II evacuation beaches near Dunkirk. They would then visit Lijssenthoek military cemetery before reaching Popperinge. Here the cadets would visit the attic which became the original Toc H meeting house, as described in your recent 'Observer' marking Saltash Heritage's recent Toc H celebrations. By total contrast the cadets are then shown the town hall and gaol cells outside which 'deserters' some still in their teens, were shot in the chill of dawn.

After checking into the hotel at Kor trijk, which the brigades take over for their stay, they are then taken to the Menin Gate to



watch the November 10th evening parade in preparation for participation the next day.

Reveille at 6 a.m. on 11th November is followed by putting on full uniform and joining fire brigades from all over Britain to march in force at the eleventh hour under the

Menin Gate on which the names of 54,000 missing soldiers of World War I are carved. There is time to visit the Flanders Fields Museum in the famous Ypres Cloth Hall, and the Ramparts Cemetery overlooking the moat of the old town, 'the most beautiful I have ever seen', believes Mike. Then the cadets must prepare for the Evening Parade when, alongside dignitaries from all over the world, they lay their wreath at the Menin Gate. Cadets who are on their first visit to Ypres always do this.

The following day, described as 'our day' has previously begun with a visit to Langmark, but this year it was to be Menin cemetery. They are both German war cemeteries, described as 'dark and stark' compared to the beautifully tended white gravestones of the Commonwealth cemeteries. Each cadet has a poppy and a cross to leave at the grave of a fallen soldier at some stage of the four day visit. Some choose a Cornish Light Infantry grave 'because I am Cornish too'. A New Zealander was selected 'as his relations have probably never come this far'. One cadet left his cross on a German boy's grave 'as I don't suppose he wanted to fight any more than most of our men did'.

Visits are then paid to Sanctuary Wood where a museum leads into an original trench and tunnel system, then Essex Farm Cemetery where war poet John McCrae wrote his immortal 'In Flanders Fields'. A visit to a reconstructed trench system at Boezinge on the Ypres salient precedes a fitting conclusion at Tyne Cot. And it is here that the cadets are always most overwhelmed as they gaze across the endless rows of

12,000 graves and the memorial to the further 34,000 men missing.

There is a formal farewell dinner in the hotel when speeches and thanks are given and the Saltash teenagers can reminisce over the physical and emotional journeys of the past few days. Then it is back to Saltash and to their schools, none of which Mike is grateful to record, has ever refused a student leave of absence.

Saltash is proud to host the only fire cadet force in Cornwall for which the Armistice visit to Flanders is just one of a wide range of

activities. Any boy or girl aged 12 or over is invited to see what is happening at Saltash fire station any Monday evening from 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. during school term time.

And this year, as for the past ten years we know that our Saltash cadets have taken up the words of John McCrae

*'The torch; be yours to hold it high,  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though  
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In Flanders fields'.*

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December 17

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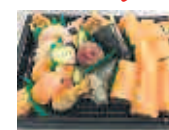
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## Town Supports Free Water Bottles

Saltash Town Council has offered financial support for the 'Re Fill' campaign launched by Saltash Environmental Action as reported in your October 'Observer'.

The objective is to reduce the use of plastic bottles, and hence them being dumped or ending up as landfill, by encouraging multi-use of these bottles.

Already five local businesses are displaying their willingness to refill bottles with tap water without the requirement for a purchase to be made by the thirsty bottle user.

The Mayor suggested that the Town Council might offer Saltash Environmental Action £200 for the purchase of new water bottles to be distributed for multi use. However after discussion it was agreed to donate £500 and allow Saltash Environmental Action to decide how to spend it.

**Observer Telephone Numbers**  
07971484872  
or 01579 345699

## Sheila's Back In Town

Well known local landlady and restaurateur Sheila Lennox Boyd, who became Cornwall Councillor during this spring's elections, has completed a double by being returned to the town council in October's by-election. She was, she said, concerned that none of the existing Cornwall Councillors sat also on the town council to have their fingers on the local pulse, and now she is in a position to remedy this. Sheila had previous town council experience between 2007 and 2009 but she had to stand down due to pressure, running her own business. Sheila Lennox Boyd gained the vacant seat in Saltash South in a three cornered contest.

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## Peter Ryland Chamber Chairman - Keeping us Updated...

Well I am still Chairman of the Chamber with no other candidates having come forward I was re-elected. I am supported by Danielle Frith of Truly Scrumptious as Vice Chairman, Douglas Bond of Saphira Jewellers as Treasurer, Marilyn Grose of Encore Show Business as Secretary, Dave Jones of PSP Insurance Solutions as Membership Secretary. We are all helped by Bill Cotton of Cotton Taxis as President.

The committee is looking forward to a busy year with the 1st event on our calendar being the Christmas Festival. We hope this will be a great success and would ask you all to hope for good weather on the 2nd December and I hope to see you all in Fore Street, as there is so much on offer, including Santas on Bikes, Lantern Parade, Father Christmas, Christmas Grotto, Snow Canons and, of course, Fireworks.

I would also take this opportunity to congratulate Saltash Observer on its 25th Anniversary. The Chamber has been associated with the Observer for many years with one of the correspondents, Martin Lister, being our Minute Secretary. Thank you Martin for all your efforts despite the odd s(p)elling mistake.

What else is happening in the business world? The

developers of the site at Carkeel are having to change their plans as Aldi have decided not to proceed but I am told they now have another food retailer expressing interest, they are having to change their proposals to take account of the amended site requirement of new food retailer.

In Fore Street - It is good to see that the Brunel in Fore Street is now being improved and we look forward to the opening. After many years decline, it is a pleasure to see that, with the Railway, we will now have two family public houses in Fore Street.

I have been asked to comment on the works that have been carried out to Carkeel roundabout. To me the works have been carried out without too much disruption and, as the roundabout now seems fully functional, it is working well but I would welcome any views from readers.

We have lost, or are losing, a couple of shops in and around Fore Street and this is always sad to hear about but, hopefully they will be occupied again in the near future.

This is my last article before Christmas and therefore, on behalf of the Chamber, I would take the opportunity to wish all residents of Saltash a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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Quite often as a councillor I get wound up about Cornwall Council's role in national issues. Two examples are Universal Credit, and completely differently, renewable energy and the cash back that wind turbine owners receive and which solar panel householders also receive. I have to say at this stage that Cornwall Council is not responsible for either of these but has to deal with them, and that the take on it is mine as a local councillor in this authority. I am pretty certain that quite a few of you readers will disagree with my comments on both of these, but here goes.

Firstly I am sure that most of you are aware that Universal Credit is the new government system for forcing together into one payment a variety of support grants for people in need. These include child tax credit, working tax credit, income support and crucially housing benefit. The idea is that this will be throughout Cornwall by March next year. The problem as I see it, and which I think is a complete and utter moral disgrace by the government (and I would say this about any government), is that it is being rolled out when the preparation and software for it is not ready - resulting in unfairly long waits by claimants. A delay of 6 to 8 weeks is incredibly part of the system and the Cornwall Council website on this has to trot out the government line that claimants should be ready for this, have savings and be able to pay bills. What a foolish assumption to make!

As we have all heard on national television, these delays can be considerably longer than this period. On top of that is the fact that a problem in one of these payments can affect the paying of the whole credit - it can stop it completely, again with disastrous consequences for a family. That in itself is wrong and is a disgrace of organisation. On top of that is the assumption that all of



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For Observer readers

Derek Holley

Cornwall Councillor, Saltash East.  
[dholley@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:dholley@cornwall.gov.uk)

these claimants are able to deal with this system and are able to budget - for housing benefit, for example. We must not forget that some of these claimants have ability or mental health issues in a system where these issues cannot be addressed quickly. On top of all that, these payments, often for the most vulnerable in society, are not generous, despite what you read in some papers. If you were a mother with children in this system, money was tight and you had a choice of putting food in your children's mouths and clothes on their backs - or paying your rent on time - which would you do? Having said all that I think the system could work if more care was put into it. At the moment though, it seems designed to punish those who fall into this credit trap. You are bad people, you should save more, you should get on your bike, and you should get better work and higher wages....

However as people in an advanced society we have a moral obligation to care for those in need and those who are unable to cope. I know full well that as a councillor I am going to be called upon regularly to help these people where I can. I just hope I will be able to, because if I can't there isn't much point in my being here in the first place. I really wish that Cornwall Council would take a more determined moral standpoint on this. You could. Write to them and to our MP Sheryl Murray. If you are already in debt contact Citizens Advice...text DEBT to 78866. They will ring you back.

As for the so called "Feed-in Tariff", the very generous cash back received by farmers with wind turbines and residents able to

afford solar panels - well, I have used the words "moral disgrace" already, which is a shame because it applies here as well. This cash back does not come from a generous government but it comes from a tax put on everybody's electricity bills, about 10% and likely to rise substantially. So the lovely payments that solar panel owners receive is most likely to be paid for by poorer people who cannot afford those solar panels in the first place. That is not opinion that is fact. I certainly do not say this to make those residents feel uncomfortable and undoubtedly the electricity generated saves CO2 going into the atmosphere - but it is just not right that it should be a burden heaped mostly upon those less able to pay. The system is there and I do not blame people for taking advantage of it, but at source it is corrupt and morally wrong. As an aside I came across the interesting fact, and I know it is a fact as I saw the papers, that one very large wind turbine was generating, no pun intended, several hundreds of thousands of pounds annually in "Feed-in tariff". Yes, you read that figure correctly.

I have just roughly calculated that I have lost 200 votes at least by this article, perhaps more! It's a funny thing, life.

Our garden slopes down towards the north so it takes days for the soil to dry out and longer for the lawn to be ready to cut in the cold season. My vegetables also suffer from the lack of sun. Accordingly I am seeking subscriptions to turn our house and garden around - just like those fortunate gardens in south Saltash. I like dreams!

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## Grave Responsibilities

Balancing the priorities of keeping our churchyards and cemetery neat and tidy, providing a wildflower and wildlife habitat, and spending Council tax economically has proved especially taxing during the wet summer that we have experienced.

This is complicated by the fact that responsibilities are divided between Cornwall and Saltash town councils. As one proceeds along Farm Lane towards Churchtown Farm and passes the gate to the churchyard, the gate marks the boundary.

To the left, towards the church, is the 'closed' churchyard maintained by Cornwall Council. The grass here is cut at least three times a year while Cornwall also seeks to adopt a sympathetic wildlife focused approach offering ecological benefits while maintaining the churchyard in a respectful way.

The area to the right of the gate, away from the church, and the new cemetery opposite are the responsibility of Saltash Town Council. The full time cemetery warden is employed to keep it tidy and keep the grass down. Much of the grass around the graves cannot be mowed but must be trimmed, which cannot always be done during the warm wet weather in which the grass has grown so rampantly.

Saltash Town Council appreciates that visitors to the graves may be upset to see the area overgrown and wishes to assure that efforts are made to keep the grass down but there are logistical problems while it is soaking wet.

## Refurbishing the Civic Regalia

Following the town council's decision, as reported in your 'Observer', to decommission the attractive and historic Mayoress' chain of office and plan putting it on public display, a civic regalia working party is considering the badges of office which will continue to be worn and work to be done with them.

It has been agreed that the Deputy Mayor's badge will be mounted on a dark blue velvet collar and the Deputy Mayoress' badge remain on its current ribbon.

The Mayor's consort badge, which will in future be worn by a female Mayoress as well as a male consort, is to be assessed to have its engraving enhanced. It was also agreed that it will be mounted on a velvet collar and that pins showing the names and dates of those who have worn it since 2000 will be added to this collar. The costs of this, up to £1,000 will be met from town council reserves.

A stole to be worn by the Mayor's Chaplain and a sash for the Mayor's Cadet will also be considered.

### Observer Telephone Nos

07971484872 or  
01579 345699

## Mayoral Matters

### Congratulations in order...

Firstly it is my pleasant duty to welcome to the Town Council Mrs. Sheila Lennox-Boyd. It is especially good for us to have Sheila on board since previous Town Councils had always had one or more members who also served on Cornwall Council, something which the current council lacked. Now, with Sheila we once more have a 'dual-hatted' Town and Cornwall Councillor. It is good to know that Saltash and Cornwall are talking.

Secondly it is my equally pleasant duty to congratulate the Saltash Observer and its team of Martin and Mary on completing a quarter century of bringing truly local news to the people of Saltash and promoting the town and its businesses.

Thirdly I must congratulate all of those responsible for organising a highly successful and enjoyable Kalan Gwav and once more packing Warfelton Field with a happy crowd of all ages. I look forward to future community events which bring Saltash together, The Mayfair, The Regatta and of course the forthcoming Chamber of Commerce Christmas celebrations.

Talking of festivals and of community, I would take this opportunity of reminding one and all that there is money available in the town's

Festival Fund and in the Community Chest, the latter being available for local organisations seeking financial help towards a benefit to the Saltash community. Just ask at Guildhall reception for an application form and the conditions for the making of these grants.

Improving the environment for the benefit of the community is the thinking behind the initiative Green Infrastructure for Growth (GI4G) in which we are now involved. Briefly this is about looking at 'green deserts' of public open space with no wildlife habitat and no interest and considering how they may be bettered. Initial ideas include the perimeter of Warfelton field, which could be lined with benches as well as trees or shrubs to encourage biodiversity, and similarly Longstone Park which might include an edging of wildflower gardens and bushes. Smaller spaces being considered includes around the bungalows of Fearnside Way - watch this space - or these spaces.

The time is fast approaching for the town council precept setting season. This is when each committee considers its budget for the next financial year, considers how much it will need and what it will seek as part of Saltash's small sector of your council tax bill. With Cornwall Council seeking to devolve so many services to the town councils we are anxious to ensure that your money is spent in the best way possible.

With Christmas fast approaching I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible. Please remember that I and my Deputy Mayor are always pleased to be invited to attend any suitable public event or private celebration, such as a landmark anniversary or hundredth birthday, just let the Guildhall know and we will come if we can.

*Cllr Jean Dent*  
Town Mayor

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## Cream Tea Supports Train the Brain Therapy

Those in and around Saltash living with mild to moderate dementia and mild cognitive impairment have a new service to aid them and a recent cream tea held by Trematon Womens Institute was served to help promote



and finance this. Those attending the 'Cream Tea Event', held by Trematon WI in the town's Baptist Church, eagerly ate delicious homemade cakes and scones.

The Baptist Church is also the venue for meetings of 'Turning the Cogs', the service organised by Echo Cornwall in support of which the cream tea was organised.

This new service, designed and managed by Phillippa Hodge, while overseen and financed by Echo Cornwall is based on the discovery that the more actively the brain is used, the slower dementia progresses. Two hour sessions have been held by up to four groups in Liskeard and have now been introduced to Saltash and may include discussion of current affairs, physical activities involving scoring and utilising number

## Students Grill Local Councillors Over Big Issues

Sixth Form students at saltash.net community recently had the opportunity to learn more about the issues facing Saltash Town Councillors, as part of their education in Citizenship and British Values.

Four Councillors – the Mayor Jean Dent, Julie Rance, Garry Taylor and David Yates – came in to speak with all of the Year 12 and Year 13 students at the school. They each talked

skills, and in particular laughter which really is the best medicine, poetry and music is shared and may introduce reminiscence therapy, bringing about relaxation and pleasure.

'Turning the Cogs' sessions are limited to around eight to ten participants.

There are already a number of keen local volunteer helpers but more would be welcome. Any prospective volunteers, or those who might benefit from the service are invited to contact Echo Cornwall on 01579 341070

about why they became councillors and what they do, and then took students' questions on a range of issues from 'what is the biggest challenge facing Saltash?' to 'Should 16 year olds have the vote?' to 'What will be the impact of Brexit on Saltash?'

One student was particularly interested in the mayoral chain, and the Mayor kindly gave him the opportunity to try it on.

Head of Sixth Form Adam Killeya, who organised the sessions, said "We don't just

want students to leave with good results and good post-18 destinations; we also want them to fully equipped as citizens to take an active part in their community and in the world. We're very appreciative that the councillors gave up their time for the students".

Head Student Hollie Kiely, who studies A Level Politics, said "The town council session was very interesting in telling us all how Saltash is run and we thoroughly enjoyed it."



## Chapel Days Remembered in Anniversary Exhibition

Age, when, for many in Saltash and the villages round, life revolved around the chapel and its various activities, was brought vividly back to life at an exhibition in Burraton Methodist Church.

Assembled as part of the tenth anniversary celebrations of the existing church, the exhibition featured memorabilia and photographs of many local Methodist Churches past and present. These ranged from the long gone Albert Hall Mission in Lower Fore Street, to well loved and remembered chapels at Forder, Trematon, Botus Fleming and Pillaton. It featured also the massive Methodist edifices in West Cornwall and 'up country'.

The exhibition also related the history of Methodism from Wesley's early visits to Cornwall through the splits into such schisms as the Primitive, New Connection, the Bible Christians (Bryanites) and the Countess of Huntingdon Connection

Methodist Church, before the re-union of 1907 in the United Methodists.

China tea sets commemorating long-gone and existing local chapels, featured largely, as did fascinating photographs, programmes and pamphlets such as a picture of a long gone Summer charabanc trip for the Botus Fleming Band of Hope, and of the Burraton Wesleyan Church Choir of 1912.

The exhibition was mounted by church member Julian Langston largely from his own collection. It was particularly enlivened by a colourful display of hats and accessories from the days of proper 'Sunday Best' from the collection of Mr & Mrs Terry Pawley.

## New Years Eve at

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## Christmas Season Promises to be as Spectacular as Ever in Saltash



The festival will once again be an ideal opportunity to visit our friendly local shops and see what they have to offer. Largely family owned, often by the same local family over many years, they are well experienced in catering for local needs and run by owners who know their stock and are genuinely anxious to please their local customers. Many have been busy since the warm days of summer organising their Christmas stock so as to offer Saltash the very best of seasonal fare as well as that unusual or esoteric Christmas present for the hard to choose for.

By shopping locally at Christmas and throughout the year you can avoid the bustle and hustle of crowded streets, packed and expensive car parks, and impersonal superstores stocking the same wares.

Instead you can rediscover the joys of Christmas shopping past in a relaxed friendly small town atmosphere pausing, if you will, for hot or cold refreshment in one of our many welcoming cafes, coffee houses or inns. And by shopping locally you are aiding the local economy, keeping money circulating within the town and not just supporting the shareholders of the superstores.

Through the past quarter of a century your Saltash Observer has been proud to support local businesses and for our twenty-sixth Christmas edition we say once again – Shop in Saltash!



## Seasonal Music is Guaranteed

Song and dance, music and laughter, are all a part of the Christmas festivities in Saltash and this year's packed programme promises each in abundance. Our very own talented Youngstagers will once again be to the fore and we may hope that they will be performing some of the music from this year's award winning show 'Peter Pan' as well as more seasonal songs.

Seasonal music is definitely guaranteed during the mid-afternoon Christmas singalong when all will be encouraged to raise their voices along with Roxie Grew.

Later lovers of the dance may wonder at the terpsichorean skills of the young people from Geraldine Lamb School of Dance who delighted us at May Fair and are back to add to the magic of a Saltash Christmas.

## Christmas Tree Festival in Eleventh Year

For ten tremendous years the Christmas Tree Festival in St. Nicholas Church has been growing with increasing numbers of societies, organisations and individuals adding to the magic which seasonally fills this ancient place of worship in the heart of our town.

The eleventh festival promises to equal or exceed that of past years with a variety of simply or richly decorated trees lining the walls, the aisles and chapels which last year totalled around seventy.

The festival will open on the town Christmas Festival Day, Saturday 2nd December at 10a.m. and remain open as, perhaps a quiet retreat from the street's activities until late. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served as part of the town's celebrations. Refreshments will be served on Sat 2nd & 9th.



The display will remain open until Friday 15th December there will be daytime refreshments in the Church Rooms and on Sunday 10th December from 3 to 4 p.m., there will be entertainment from popular local singers the Burraton Church Rooms and on Boys.

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Saltash's very special celebrations for the beginning of the Christmas season promise to be as spectacular as ever as you may read in this special anniversary and Christmas 'Observer'.

Saltash Chamber of Commerce, representing local traders and businesses, has pulled out all the stops to ensure a Christmas experience to whisk one and all into the magic of this most special of seasons.



**Entertainment Every Weekend**

**NOW!** Every Sunday Night Karaoke

**November 2017**

Sat 25th Ashes to Ashes (Bar)

**December 2017**

Sat 2nd Mrs Jones (Soul/Motown) (Bar)

Sat 9th Sons of Dirty Lil (Brit Pop) (Bar)

Sat 16th Opium (Bar)

Sat 23rd Vicious Kitten (Bar)

**Sun 24th Christmas Eve**

Vinyl Grooves Disco (Bar)

**Tues 26th Boxing Day - 2pm**

Chris Banderas

**Sun 31st New Year's Eve**

The Sultans (MH)

**Christmas & New Year Opening Times**

**December 17**

Sat 23rd 11am -11 30pm

**Christmas Eve** 11am -12 00 midnight

**Christmas Day** 10am -2 00pm

**Boxing Day** 11am -12 00 midnight

**New Years Eve** 11am -1 00am

**Every Sunday**

Vince & Kaz Karaoke/Play Your Cards Right

All Information correct at the time of going to Press  
Subject to change

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**THE CASE OF THE PURLOINED PANTO!!!"**

Burraton Community Players return to the stage on  
**December 14th, 15th & 16th 2017**

With a brand new & completely original pantomime  
Written by Leigh Hughes and produced by Jill Price.

Featuring several performers in principal roles who have never appeared in a BCP pantomime before, the show mixes some traditional panto humour with a strong element of the detective mysteries of Conan Doyle and features a range of music including authentic Victorian and music hall songs.

Tickets for the 4 performances will be on sale from the beginning of November at the usual ticket outlet, Piglets in Fore Street, Saltash

Further information is available from Leigh Hughes  
on 01752 842109

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**Christmas 2017**

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Menus available online

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& 5:00pm - 9:00pm

Sun: 12 noon - 3:00pm & 5:00pm - 8:30pm



For bookings & information contact: 01579 350238

E: [info@wearyfriar.co.uk](mailto:info@wearyfriar.co.uk) W: [www.wearyfriar.co.uk](http://www.wearyfriar.co.uk)

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We are pleased to support the Christmas Festival & Welcome you to pop in to see us for refreshments  
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**11th Christmas Tree Festival**  
at  
**SS Nicholas and Faith Church Saltash**  
Alexandra Square PL12 6AN  
Opening 10am on Sat 2nd December & Closing 6pm Fri 15th December  
Admission £1.50 with accompanied children free  
Entry disabled access  
Refreshments Served  
Sat 2nd Dec & Sat 9th Dec  
Also Sat 2nd Dec church will stay open late to coincide with the town late night shopping and lights switch on. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served  
Burraton Boys will entertain in church on Sunday 10th December from 3 - 4pm.  
For further details visit:  
www.saltshiteamministry.org



## Christmas Weaves its Magic Once Again

The very word 'Christmas' weaves its magic upon us from our very earliest years, and as we age and take on responsibilities, still there is an irresistible sparkle to life as that festive season approaches.

Here in Saltash the enchantment that the festive season brings starts with the shared communal festivities that each year welcome that Christmas season to Saltash. This year it will be on Saturday 2nd December when once again Fore Street will be empty of traffic but filled with Christmas themed market stalls, street entertainment, fun for all and, we hope, those of all ages feasting upon the Christmas Spirit.

As the programme shows the street will close late morning, earlier than usual, before a parade of Santa's on bikes add the vroom vroom to the Ho!Ho! through the town en route to Little Harbour hospice, loaded with presents.

Through the afternoon, and as darkness falls, there will be a nonstop programme of entertainment for all. Snow is guaranteed with the return by popular demand, of the much loved snow cannons.

From Midday, until the festivities conclude in sky-shattering fireworks, this will be the opportunity, between enjoying the range of family-focussed fun, to sample Christmas fare from the varied stalls, and to seek out that individual, possibly quirky present, from among the market stalls and of course our own amazing range of largely family run shops which will remain open well into the evening.

## As Darkness Falls the Sky will Erupt with Fireworks

As darkness falls over an expectant crowd filling Fore Street between the exciting variety of stalls and shops, there is always a breath of excitement in the air as the town band strikes up and a benign gentleman in a red robe and white beard waves a greeting to all.

The lantern parade grows even more spectacular each year as local schoolchildren bear their proud homemade lanterns between the more dramatic creations from local societies - as described elsewhere in your 'Observer'.

In what has become a long established Christmas tradition, the official switching on of the town's illumination, following the mass countdown, concludes with a chorus of 'aahs' as the stream of lights cascades down the street. Then, again a long standing tradition, one and all are invited to raise their voices in those well loved Christmas carols accompanied by the town band.

And to conclude in fitting style, the sky will erupt with fireworks, starting earlier this year to ensure that they can be enjoyed by our youngest townfolk, welcoming in yet another Christmas season to Saltash.

**Advance Warning** FTASGROUP TrafficManagement

**Saltash Christmas Lights 2017**

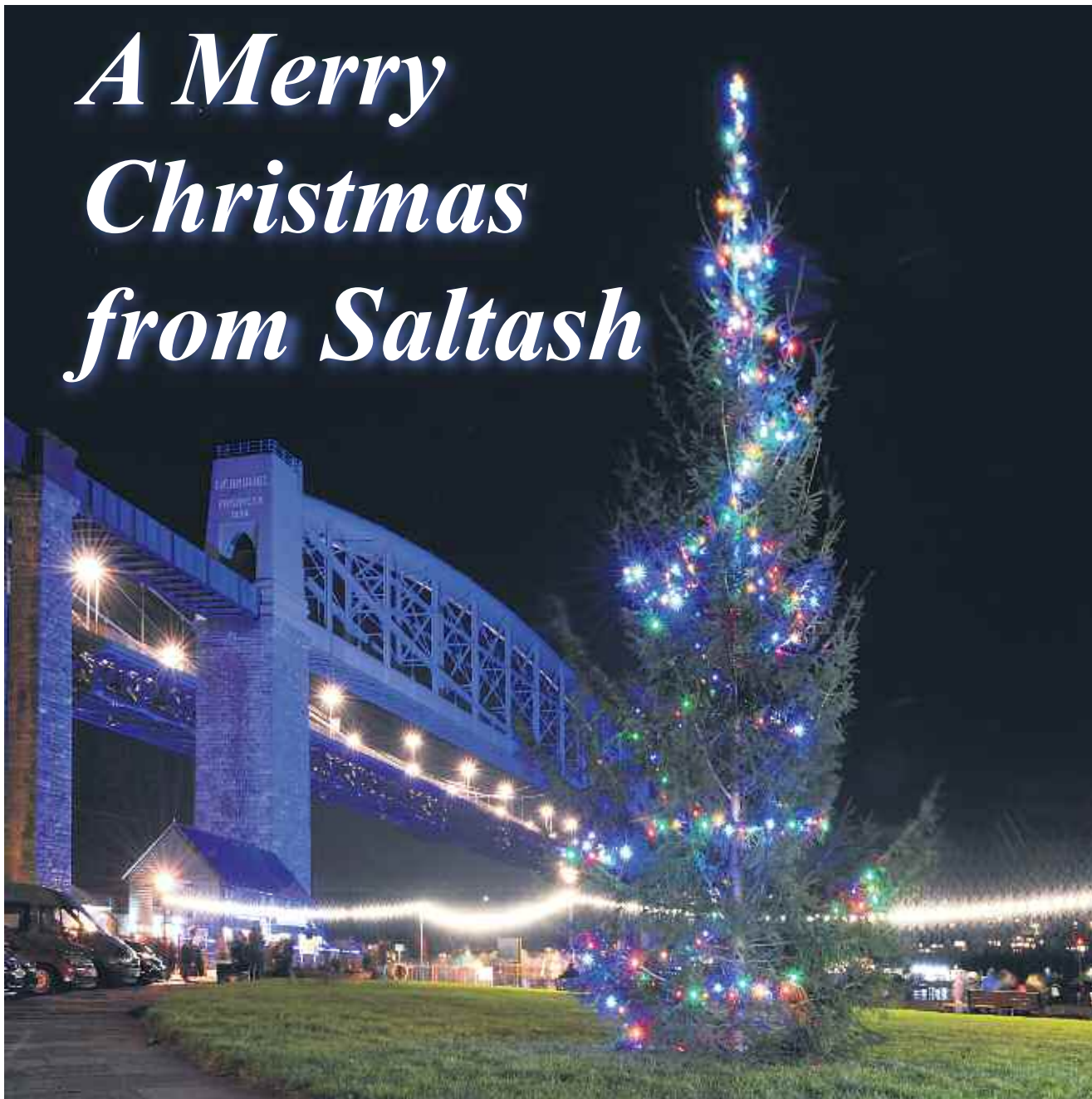
These roads will be CLOSED  
02/12/2017 - from 12noon until 11pm

Fore Street Closed with diversions in place

Temporary Closure on North Road & Lower Fore Street from 5.30pm - 6.30pm"

FTAS Group Traffic Management regrets any inconvenience that may be caused

Info: trafficmanagement.ftasgroup.co.uk



# A Merry Christmas from Saltash

## Entertainers Come Together to Bring Drama & Delight

It will be on with the show in Saltash during the Christmas Saturday celebration as a variety of entertainers come together to bring drama and delight in festive mode.

Princess and Superheroes shows should fulfil the dreams of every young girl and boy as they perform during the afternoon.

Those of all ages, we are assured will be filled with wonder at Simeon 'Jumping Stilts', Kiola Fire Show which will also be repeated to ensure that none may miss its amazements.

More amazing stunts are promised at the afternoon family magic show on the main stage.

And for those eager to participate in the excitement a fun treasure hunt is at the Redeemer Church Community Group stall throughout the afternoon.

And of course there will be the usual rides and other entertainments to help our youngest citizens enter into the pre-Christmas excitement.

## Christmas Events Around & About the Town

While Fore Street will be the focus of the seasonal fun and entertainment there will be plenty to enjoy and experience around and about the town. In addition to the St. Nicholas Christmas Tree festival described elsewhere, Santa Claus himself (a.k.a. Father Christmas) has promised to take time off from his busy seasonal schedule to put in an appearance in his grotto in the community market at the foot of Fore Street.

In early afternoon there will be free family Christmas crafts on offer in Saltash Baptist Church. Christmas Fairs are also being planned for Burraton Community Church and St. Bamabas Hospital, while early visitors can relax at a coffee morning in the Wesley church above Fore Street.

There will be no soggy bottoms, we are assured, when the Grand Christmas Bake off is judged in Saltash Bookshelf late afternoon.

And the day will also offer an opportunity to visit the time capsule Elliotts Grocer's Shop, recently granted museum accreditation status, as well as a last chance to see this year's display on Yesteryear's Shopping in Saltash Museum both in Lower Fore Street.

**Saltash Christmas Festival**  
Saturday 2nd December

Saltash Chamber of Commerce are delighted to invite you to this year's Christmas Festival.

On Saturday 2nd December a sparkling Christmas Market will be set up on Fore Street. There will be snow cannons, stilt walkers, rides and inflatables. Be sure to visit Santa in his grotto at the Community Market and the Christmas Tree Festival at SS Nicholas & Faith Church. The day promises plenty of festive fun, all rounded off with the magical lantern parade and amazing firework display.

Fore Street	
13:00	Santas on Bikes
17:00	Light Switch On
17:45	Lantern Parade
18:15	Fireworks Display

Christmas Festival Stage (At the lower end of Fore Street)	
14:00	Zigzag the Magician
15:00	Stage Stilts
15:15	Family sing along with Roxie Grew
15:45	Plymouth Party Princesses
16:15	Fire Show
16:30	Tara's School of Dance
16:45	Youngstagers
17:15	Geraldine Lamb School of Dance
17:30	Fire Show

**The Bookshelf & The Tea Rooms Saltash**  
Join us for...  
**Breakfast, Lunch or Tea With Father Christmas**  
Sat 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd Dec  
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**Saltash Community Market**  
Join us for Some Festive Fun at 4 Fore Street  
**Christmas Lights Festival**  
Saturday 2nd December  
**Santa's Grotto 5 - 7pm**  
Free Mulled Cider and Mince Pies  
All proceeds to  
**Your Community Market**  
Will be open as usual from 9.30am to 3pm  
Then it will transform into a...  
**Christmas Gifts Market from 4 - 7.30pm**  
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## New Autumn / Winter Menu from The Cardinals Hatt, Saltash.



Freshly made steak burgers, homemade curry, and ale battered fish and chips.

With daily specials and delicious desserts, our new menu has something for all the family.

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Come on in and enjoy a game of  
DARTS POOL SNOOKER (Except match nights)  
Congratulations to the Observer on their 25th Anniversary



# Saltash Welcomes' Winter In Festival of Fruit and Fireworks

To mark the arrival of the dark nights of winter Saltash celebrates in a Cornish festival of fireworks and apple related activities. Apples, a symbol of fertility, were at the heart of the Cornish Festival of Kalan Gwav which was successfully revived for the second successive year in Saltash.

Despite the chill wind and occasional shower breaking through the November sunshine, crowds came once more to Warfelton to visit the range of stalls around the field; especially those selling cider, apple juice and other apple produce. The stream of people became a flood as darkness fell and the event was formally opened by Deputy Mayor David Yates. He spoke of the ancient tradition of Kalan Gwav, a less sinister Cornish alternative to Halloween, before organiser Hilary Frank announced the winners of various competitions who were awarded certificates by Mrs Sheila Lennox-Boyd as President of Saltash United Football Club.

These were awards for the various scarecrows that had been bedecking the Saltash streets, the favourites including the scarecrow girl with plaits 'Pippi' and the Wizard Dumblestraw.

Awards were given in various child and adult categories for apple dishes including, this year an overall Mayor's Trophy. This was presented in memory of the late Frankie Lister who with her husband Tony, had done so much to promote



ecological farming, including apple growing, around Saltash. Tony Lister was invited to present the trophy to winner Emma Jolly.

Then it was time to 'Wassail' four apple trees donated by Lord Boyd and which were to be planted out the following day. An excited group of children were instructed to follow round each tree, chant a traditional blessing and wish for future sackfuls of apples, before banging loud instruments to scare away evil spirits, Girls from the Geraldine Lamb School of Dance then danced round the trees to the sound of

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the 'Essa Wassail', written specially for last year's event and now put to music. Further music followed, most notably from the popular local 'Burraton Boys' while the stalls, especially those selling hot food and drink, did a roaring trade. Then, as the November night had fully darkened, eyes were fixed south as the countdown to the

fireworks commenced. The sky duly lit up as a fantastic array of fireworks illuminated the Saltash skyline and the thousands gathered there to watch. The sound of the fireworks and of the appreciative crowds surely scared away any evil spirits lingering post wassail in the apple trees resting before bursting into life next spring.




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**Hopper Bus Direct Derriford Service**

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From	To	Day	Time	Day	Time	Time
Travelodge	6.20	9.10	D	13.00	D	15.25
Pilmere	6.22 7.23	9.12	I	13.06	I	15.30 16.31
Ploughboy	6.25 7.26	9.15	A	13.09	A	15.33 16.34
Fire station	6.27 7.28	9.17	L	13.11	L	15.35 16.36
Church Rd by College	6.30 7.31	9.20	.	13.14	.	15.38 16.38
Beatrice Ave	6.32 7.33	9.22	A	13.16	A	15.40 16.41
No 4 Fore St	6.40 7.37	9.32	.	13.25	.	15.45 16.45
Railway station		9.36	R		R	15.48 16.48
Derriford main entrance	6.56 7.59	9.52	I	13.41	I	16.08 17.08
Derriford maternity entrance	6.57 8.00	9.53	D	13.42	D	16.09 17.09
Peninsula NHS Hosp	6.59 8.02	9.55	E	13.44	E	
Land Registry arrive	7.00 8.03	9.56		13.45		
Land Registry depart	7.02 8.10	9.58	O	14.10	O	
Peninsula NHS Hosp	7.03 8.12	10.00	N	14.12	N	
Derriford Maternity Entrance	7.05 8.14	10.02	L	14.14	L	16.15 17.15
Derriford Main Entrance (Bus Bay 4)	7.06 8.15	10.03	Y	14.15	Y	16.16 17.16
Land Registry Tavistock Rd						16.19 17.19
No 4 Fore street	7.37 8.33	10.21	T	14.33	T	16.45 17.37
Railway station		10.23	I	14.35	I	16.48 17.39
Fire station	7.28 8.46	10.33	M	14.45	M	16.36 17.49
Ploughboy	7.26 8.48	10.36	E	14.48	E	16.34 17.52
Pilmere	7.23 8.51	10.39	S	14.51	S	16.31 17.55
Travelodge		10.41	.	14.53	.	17.57

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**DIAL A RIDE** - Book 24 Hours prior to commencing your journey.  
 Call our office weekdays 10am-2pm 01752 848348 or Mike on 07905 795256



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**A Book of Local Walks!**  
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Enjoy our walks and strolls in and around Saltash and Countryside including:  
 The Saltash Urban Countryside  
**History, hills, views and vales**

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**[www.saltash-observer.co.uk](http://www.saltash-observer.co.uk) Order your copy now!**

**Town Now has Three Hoppers**

A third Hopper bus has been purchased by Community Enterprises PL12 for Community use. Purchased second hand from the group's own funds it will allow extra flexibility as the service expands, avoid the need to pay for hire of a bus when one of the others is off the road, and reduce the pressure on the original well-used and aging Hopper.

The Derriford Hopper bus service is seeing increasing use, more from hospital workers than patients and visitors. However its financial viability remains uncertain and will be reconsidered at the end of the year.

**Christmas Magic**  
 ON  
**Saltash's Ancient Waterside**  
 On Green beside the Union Inn  
**Sun 10th Dec**  
**Father Christmas**  
 will arrive at 5pm  
 Carols will be led by **Salty Seadogs**  
 With **Fireworks** from the Pier around 6pm  
 Come along & join in!  
**Everyone Welcome**

**The Festive Season for the Hopper**

Join one of our wonderful Hopper Trips during the festive season.

Our volunteers work hard to make each trip friendly and enjoyable for everyone, and solo passengers are especially welcome.

Torpoint to Waitrose route started on 17/11/2017 as indicated in the last Observer. This will run every Friday in line with the above time table

**Kalan Gwav**



A stunning 29-page booklet telling the stories behind Kalan Gwav is on sale in **The Bookshelf, Saltash**. Featuring winning recipes from the Apple Bake Off, it is brimming over with images and community stories. All proceeds from the sale will be directly invested in to organising the Festival, so your purchase will help the volunteers fund this community event for another year -2018  
**A great little stocking filler - Get your copy now!**





## Your Observer Celebrates it's Quarter Century

This special pre-Christmas edition of your Saltash Observer celebrates for us, and for you our readers and advertisers, a truly amazing quarter of a century since the Observer first hit the mailboxes of our friendly local community. 'The Observer intends to ensure that all Saltash and district is aware of what is going on in and around this lively town.' is what we promised back in 1992 and as we approach our 26th Christmas edition we like to believe that we have succeeded. Certainly the feedback we receive as we go out and around the town from day to day remains positive. 'You are always so newsy', 'a truly local paper', 'I rely on the Observer to find out what is going on', are all typical of the comments that we began to receive soon after we started publication and which we still enjoy hearing today.

There have been many changes in and around Saltash, which we have recorded over the last quarter of a century, many for the better, and others less so. What remains unchanged over three decades however is our enthusiasm, which has never faded. We still love getting out and about, meeting so many of you and promoting your businesses, encouraging residents and visitors to patronise local establishments as far as possible over twenty-six Christmases, and in the months between. We equally enjoy finding out so much of what is going on in our friendly community and publicising it as far as is possible. In such a lively town as Saltash we sometimes just do not have the space to promote absolutely all that we are asked to, for which we apologise, but please still keep the information coming in and we will do our best to publicise you.

From the very start we have been eager to promote our town councillors and the work that they do and we have opened our columns to each Mayor, all of whom have been pleased to take advantage of this offer. We have also been pleased to welcome regular contributions from our county councillors and Member of Parliament, of whatever political persuasion, asking each of them in particular to

update us with their doings and with what is happening in Truro and in Westminster especially as it affects our Saltash community.

We have also been delighted to involve ourselves in the local community especially in fundraising for local and national good causes, usually while having fun with our friendly readers and advertisers. Who could forget our fabulous fundraising bashes at venues ranging from the Saltash Working Men's Club (as it then was) to Seaton Beach. More recently of course, there was our record breaking charity mega-quiz for which we took over the 'Ploughboy Inn'. Now our editor Mary, by popular request, has agreed to repeat her popular Saltash take on 'Come Dine with Me'.

So – a quarter of a century has flashed past and your Observer has moved with the times, being now in full colour and on line so that friends of Saltash can – and do – enjoy it literally in every part of the wide world. What changes Saltash will see over the next quarter of a century we cannot begin to guess. But we look forward to bringing the Saltash scene to you through your 'Observer' into our 26th Christmas and New Year celebratory edition and, we hope, for many years to come.

## Broadmoor Plans Move Forward

Detailed proposals for the mixed residential and employment development on what is now Broadmoor Farm will be moving forward over the next four to five months, Jon Allen of the developer company C.E.G. has advised the town council. Further progress on planning will continue throughout 2018 with work intended to start in 2019. Outline planning has now been granted.

The entire project which includes around 1000 new homes, will take between seven to ten years to complete. However it is a condition of planning that prior to completion of the 157th dwelling the developers will commence work on enhancing the road from Stocketon Cross on the A 38 to Roods Cross near Hatt, which will border the development. In addition to housing, the site will include a primary school, a community centre and shops catering for local needs as well as commercial opportunities. Open space

will include sports facilities and will also cater for a sustainable urban drainage system to control water flowing from what is largely a marshy area into the Latch Brook and down to Forder.

As previously recorded in your Observer the estate is to be marketed as 'Treledan' a rough Cornish translation of 'Broad Farm', a change that has drawn some local controversy. Mr. Allen advised that Cornwall's naming officers were keen on this as part of their policy in re-introducing the Cornish language to place names.

## Essa Files

My intention this month was to write about my half-term trip to Rome, which was everything you might expect and a bit more – visited the Colosseum, the forum and the Trevi Fountain, got a ticket to see the Pope preach in St Peter's Square, went Up Pompeii, ate lots of pizza etc. However, my appetite for writing about happy travels has been rather spoiled by the news this week.

Like most people I wasn't surprised to learn that some senior politicians, like some senior businessmen, film executives and no doubt a vast array of others in positions of

power, use that position to behave in an inappropriate, harassing, or abusive way. What did surprise me was the firstly the sheer scale of the abuse, and secondly the rush to excuse the behaviour as 'appropriate at the time', and to condemn the reaction to it as 'a witch-hunt'. The expression 'witch hunt' is particularly inappropriate given that actual witch hunts were one of the worst organised acts of violence against women in Western history, but my unhappiness goes beyond that. When victims finally muster the courage to speak out our first instincts must surely be to look after to them, and to ensure that it doesn't happen again, not to make excuses for their abuse or

to attack them.

You might reasonably ask what this has to do with Saltash, and I would respond that this has to do with everyone everywhere. If you haven't been a victim of inappropriate, harassing, or abusive behaviour (and if you're a woman then the odds are that you have) then you'll certainly know people who have. If you haven't ever behaved in that way, then the odds are you'll have heard people talk about behaving inappropriately or making jokes about it, or heard that someone is 'a bit handy' and have let it pass.

What has been in the news this week has been awful, but it is an opportunity for us to actually tackle this problem, which exists in every community, so that everyone can feel safe and respected. We can only do that though if we treat victims with respect. That doesn't mean that the accused don't have the right to be treated fairly – of course they do – but victims also have that right.

That was all a bit heavier that I'd normally write in this column, but I'm not sorry for that. This is something that our society needs to urgently sort out.

I will finish on a lighter note though – I just about remember the splendid occasion that was the Observer's 15th birthday party just after I got onto the Town Council, and I am delighted to wish them a very happy 25th!

Adam Killeya

## Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor,

I must take issue with your piece on the withdrawal of blood donation services from the town in the New Year.

You state that after then, the local residents will have to drive to Derriford in order to donate and have to pay to park. This is not the case as the Blood Unit has its own, unique parking area and it is free.

From a professional point of view, their appointment system is first class (no waiting around in halls) and I can make my journey to donate and return to my office in Saltash within an hour - including giving up a pint of the red stuff.

Their people are all top notch as well and soon get to know the regular donors.

Yours truly  
John Smith  
Saltash

Dear Mary,

In a recent issue of the Saltash Observer, Rebecca Pearce asked whether there are speakers of the Cornish language in Saltash. I can assure her that there are quite a few. I myself have been teaching Cornish here and elsewhere for many years.

With respect to her surmise regarding a Cornish translation of 'Broadmoor', her suggestion, Efanhal' should be the other way round. Most adjectives in Cornish follow the noun, so the English equivalent would be 'Moorbroad'.

A good word to translate 'broad' is 'ledan', found in a number of Cornish place names. 'Hal' originally meant a marsh, but came to describe an area of rough pasturage or moorland. Hence 'Halledan' would be very suitable.

If any of your readers wish to learn more, Cornish language classes are held at Saltash College, Church Road, Saltash on Tuesday evenings. 'Bywes Kernewek! Long live Cornish!'

Yn lel  
Wella Brown  
Saltash

Dear Editor,

I was delighted to read Rebecca Pearce's letter to the editor in the October edition of the Observer. I too was puzzled by the decision to take one of the common trepen- pol- prefixes and add a Cornish equivalent of 'broad' to describe the development at Broadmoor Farm.

Rebecca's research produced the more distinctive name of Efanhal. There are so many new Tre-developments around Cornwall. It would be nice to have a more accurate translation. And it is alliterative with Essa! Let's hope the developers listen.

Denise Watkins,  
Saltash

Dear Mary,

You may think the Carkeel roundabout is an improvement, using it most days as a retired driving instructor I can tell you it is a disaster, must have been designed by the idiot that designed junction 30 at Sandygate Exeter that has now been redesigned at least five times in ten years.

In five years of everyday use I saw one bump where a car went into the back of another one because he thought the one in front was going to move. So far in two weeks I have nearly had three bumps with cars coming up my inside and observed many other near misses. Vehicles approaching on the A38 towards the bridge find there path blocked with tail backs going towards the Lidl turning so have to bear left into the path of other vehicles. Coming to the roundabout from Lidl there is no indication as to where to wait, when the green light shows you have to cross the path of vehicles coming from the bridge entrance as their light is also green. The white lining marks are a complete dog's bollocks my 10 year old grandson could have done better. Going towards Waitrose no indication which lane for those that are not familiar, when they realise they need to turn right they will find someone up their off side.

So much for modern design and technology, the tail backs on the Lidl road are often back to the other roundabout, just wait for the holiday traffic.

Regards  
John Stamm

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**Letter to the Editor**

Dear Mary  
I was undertaking your conundrum corner in this month's copy, when I noticed a mistake. I would usually let this go, but as an Ancient History and Archaeology graduate this time I couldn't.

Question 5: according to legend who killed Helen of Troy? You put the answer as Paris. This is incorrect. Helen was taken back to Sparta by her husband Menelaus, where she was encountered by Telemachus in book 4 of the Odyssey.

Sorry for being pedantic about this but it is a subject close to my heart.

Yours  
Stuart T Collins

**Observer reply to the above query!**

Yes, the gentleman is quite right! In copying the question from my various books I inadvertently wrongly typed the word "killed" when it should have been "kidnapped" which would have given the answer "Paris".

We hope it didn't spoil the Conundrum for too many of our readers

Apologies John

**Householders Urged to Keep Footpaths Clear**

There have been many recent complaints from pedestrians regarding obstructions of local footpaths and footways. In particular concerns have been raised, especially from those with sight problems, concerning overgrowth from private properties adjacent to footpaths.

The town's services committee has been asked to collate all complaints and survey all footpaths to identify these problems.

Property owners are reminded that it is their responsibility to cut back their hedges and trees where they protrude over footways and footpaths. They can be asked to do so and if they fail so to do the local authority can carry out the work and bill the property owner.

Councillor Thorn, addressing the services committee, did note that he had received an unprecedented number of positive responses to his request on social media to manage overgrowth and has witnessed an improvement by property and land owners carrying out this work.

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**SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...**



Recently I presented the certificates to the young people who have recently participated in the Motiv-8 course for the unemployed on Friday at the Saltash Social Club. These young people showed fantastic ability to put a presentation together and I was very impressed with the quality of their presentation. They also showed great aspiration for their future chosen vocations, which ranged from becoming a Chef in the Armed Forces through to a Hairdresser. Unemployment has more than halved in this Constituency since 2010 with less than 3% being zero hours contracts nationally and I am sure it will not be long before these young people find themselves in permanent employment.

I am always impressed with the facilities that are available at the Social Club, having attended various functions there at all times of the day. It is a fantastic facility of which the Town should be proud.

At the recent by election in Saltash South for a new member of Saltash Town Council, I am delighted that Sheila Lennox Boyd was elected with over 50% of the vote. Well done to Sheila. I am sure that she will be a very successful Town Councillor and will be a fantastic link between Saltash Town Council and Cornwall Council. I know that

Sheila has already done a lot of good work for Saltash since her election to Cornwall Council.

I attended a concert in aid of the Sue Hooper Charitable Foundation recently. I was really impressed with the Plymouth Area Police Choir who put on a fantastic programme of songs. It was good to see a few familiar faces including retired police officer Ernie Reynolds and his wife Jeanette who I remember from my childhood in Millbrook. It was also good to catch up with my cousin June Beaver. I would also like to thank young Flo (Granddaughter of Sue and John Hooper) who gave a beautiful performance and I wish her well for the future. I saw for myself what a talented young lady she is.

After my usual Western Surgeries on Saturday, I was really pleased to attend the Festival of Remembrance at Saltash on Saturday evening. I would like to thank all of the Branches of the Royal British Legion for taking the time to raise funds for our Service personnel and for the fantastic work they carry out throughout the year. Very well done to Bill Dent for being a fantastic compère and thanks to Burraton Male Voice Choir, Saltash Town Band, the Plymouth Academy of Performing Arts and the two soloists for entertaining us so well.

**Talking Bench has Walked**

Ann Glanville who has long been sitting on the 'Talking Bench' half way up Fore Street has not gone on her holidays as some have suggested.

The life size reproduction of the renowned Victorian oarswoman has been removed so that the bench on which she sits can be repaired.

She may then be returned to Fore Street or alternatively she may be placed on the Waterside near her former home and overlooking the stretch of river that she knew so well.

Sadly however, it seems that she is unlikely ever again to describe the Saltash of her era in her rich local accent. It seems that the batteries, which enable the 'Talking Bench' to talk can no longer be acquired.

**Conundrum Corner**

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

- 1 In Charles Dickens's Great Expectations what was the name of Miss Havesham's adopted daughter who was brought up to break men's hearts? (7)
- 2 An image of what is cut into a chalk hill at Cerne Abbys in Dorset? (5)
- 3 What type of musical instrument is a Clarion? (7)
- 4 What did the A.R.P. Warden in Dad's Army often call Captain Mainwaring? (8)
- 5 What name is given to insects which feed by sucking the juices from plants? (6)
- 6 Which is the body's largest Organ? (5)
- 7 What name is given to the stomach tissue of Cattle used as food? (5)
- 8 The Republic of San Marino is completely surrounded by which Country? (5)

Answers on Page 11

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## Lifesaving Equipment at the Community Centre



Pictured above members of the management committee and David Phillips of Cardiac Science holding the defibrillator.

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Burraton Community Association has followed the example of other organisations in Saltash by providing lifesaving equipment at its community centre. The management committee felt that as the centre was used by so many community members of all ages and possible vulnerabilities, it would provide an additional service by installing a potentially lifesaving defibrillator. David Phillips of Cardiac Science was invited to the centre to demonstrate how to use the defibrillator and gave other valuable advice on how to save lives in association with using the equipment. The evening, where community groups that use the centre were invited to the event, was found to be most educational and beneficial. There is now a defibrillator in the front entrance to the centre which the management committee feel will be of great importance if needed by the users of the centre and beyond.

## Memorial Game for Alfie and Laura Hopes

Saltmill Football pitch in Saltash is the place to be at 11am on Christmas Eve this year as 2 teams packed full of "Saltash Legends" lock horns again in the annual "Saltash Legends Charity Football match".

The current champions, the Under 28's will again be managed by Callington Town Goalkeeper Sam Borthwick and Saltash United 3rds stalwart, Adam Stiff. The opposition, the Overs will be managed once more by highly experienced Will Swales and assisted by former St Stephens Borough hot shot, Stuart Fort.

The game kicks off at 11am and a suggested donation of £1 or an item of sports kit will be enough to gain you entry to this year's special event which, this year, has an exciting and poignant addition.

Earlier this year Alfie Hopes, 6 and his mum Laura were tragically killed in an accident near Landrake. Alfie was a player for Saltash United Juniors Under 6 side, amongst the coaches were his Dad, Lee Hopes and Sam Borthwick. So this year, there will be a very special "Alfie and Laura Hopes Memorial" game to be held at half time of the main game. The players of the current Saltash United Juniors under 6's and 7's will take to the field to showcase their talent in an eagerly anticipated twist. As always, there will be a raffle with some great prizes up for grabs including Arsenal signed memorabilia. Tickets will be available from both managers before the day and also at the gate on the day. £1 per strip. There will also be refreshments available to purchase on the day.

All money raised this year will be split 50/50, with 50% going to the usual Kits4Causes Charity, along with any kit donated and the other 50% will be donated to a charity selected by Lee Hopes and his son Tommy. B&G Haulage gratefully sponsors this year's whole event. Saltash Tyre Recycling Ltd sponsors the main game. S W Flooring sponsors the Memorial game. Finally the Man of the Match Trophy, which will be named the "Alfie Hopes Trophy" is sponsored by Gareth's Barbers Saltash.

If you would like to donate a raffle prize or offer any help on the day, please get in touch with any of the management teams or Charity Ambassador Julian Chenery.

Conundrum Answers: 1 Estella 2 Giant 3 Trumpet 4 Napoleon 5 Aphids 6 Liver 7 Triple Italy 8 Re-arranged the letters spell Timaged

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## Saltash Royal British Legion's own Poppy Wave Tribute

Inspired by the CWGC Poppy Wave recently displayed in Plymouth, there was a surprising addition to this year's Saltash & District Royal British Legion's Festival of Remembrance Concert held at the Wesley Church on Saturday 28th October 2017. Designed and constructed by "Carolann Pabst", the Branch's own Social Secretary, the Poppy Wave Tribute sited in the Foyer of the church, received quite a number of favourable compliments. Carolann stated that she felt it would be nice for Saltash to have its own version of the Poppy Wave to remember and commemorate all the local people who lost their lives as a result of wars and conflict. A special vote of thanks goes to Mike Parker of Saltash DIY and Decorating for donating the structural material. The Poppy Wave Tribute remained on display in the Wesley Church until the 12th November, but don't worry if you didn't manage to see it, because it can be seen again during the Christmas Tree Festival at SS Nicholas & Faith Church between 2nd and 15th December.



Pictured - Mayor Jean Dent giving her seal of approval for the display.

## Hospital's Future Remains Uncertain

The inpatient beds at St. Barnabas Hospital have now been closed 'temporarily' for over a year as has the minor injuries unit, though road signs still point to there being one at St. Barnabas.

The town's Community Enterprise PL12 group, which continues to support and represent patient views, has become alarmed at the lack of progress regarding the hospital's future.

Saltash people are regularly placed at Liskeard hospital on discharge from Derriford or sent there directly from home while the wards at St. Barnabas stand empty - Whether they will ever be re-opened is not clear. It is anticipated that minor injuries facilities may probably become the responsibility of the town's two surgeries, which could be to patients' benefit, but the NHS has of yet not transferred funding for this.

Following the 'temporary' closure a group was get up to consider the hospital's future and some progress appeared to be made, Mr Peter Thistlethwaite of Community Enterprises PL12 told the town council. However this group has not met since August. The town council agreed to contact the Chief Executive of Cornwall Partnership Trust. Philip Confue, as well as Sheryll Murray MP seeking reassurance as to the hospital building's future.

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## Society Hears How Plant Growing Flourishes in Tamar Valley

The daffodils, strawberries and cherries that once proliferated along the Tamar Valley are long gone and with them the employment that the horticultural industry brought. Saltash Old Cornwall Society members were delighted to be given a resume of this one flourishing industry by Mr. Richard Hartnett who is responsible for one of the most prominent of the horticultural businesses remaining. He described how his firm, Kernock Plants of Pillaton has grown and adapted to the 21st century, employing around 60 full time and 20 seasonal staff to

grow around 1.3 million plants under acres of glass.

Kernock Plants are nationally recognised in particular for their 'Instaplants' designed carpet bedding, which was once displayed in Trafalgar Square. Mr. Hartnett illustrated some of the colourful displays his firm have created for shows nationwide, including Chelsea Flower Show. He also brought along a small 'Wollemi Pine' or 'dinosaur plant', believed extinct two million years ago until rediscovered in the Australian mountains and now widely sold from Pillaton.

Society Secretary Martin Lister thanked him for a fascinating talk and for ensuring that the Tamar Valley remains a centre of excellence for horticulture and indeed, since Mr. Hartnett's son Bruce is now taking over the business, appears assured of continuing to do so.

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## Crying Out for Saltash

A Town Crier is to be sought for Saltash with the aim of commencing duties by next April.

The new appointee will be assuming the role that Brian Whipp made very much his own, supported by his late wife Monica. They not only became familiar figures in the town announcing and promoting local events but travelled to Town Crier contests throughout and beyond Devon and Cornwall, winning many awards.

The role has been vacant since Mr. Whipp's resignation from the post.

Job descriptions and advertisements for the position will be advertised in due course. The council set a budget for uniform, competition fees, travel and society membership fees

### Observer Telephone Numbers

07971484872 or

01579 345699

Email your copy to:

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## Baptist Church Hastens to Help Hospital



## Bungalow Building at Churchtown Farm Approved

An application to build sixteen homes, mainly dormer bungalows, on a site between the 'Cecil Arms' and the cemetery adjacent to Churchtown Farm has been recommended for approval by the town council.

Of these sixteen, four will be classed as affordable homes. The remainder are intended as self builds.

This follows controversy when, two years ago, there was strong local opposition to plans for twenty five two storey dwellings on the same site. A packed residents meeting in the Cecil Arms agreed that the larger development would increase traffic dangers to walkers visiting Churchtown Farm as well as damaging spectacular views over the Lynher and create sewage disposal issues. The town council had agreed with these points and recommended refusal.

The current developers have been anxious to liaise with local residents having leafleted local homes and invited residents to an informal discussion in the summer. Project Management Southwest state that the plans for a smaller development, largely of dormer bungalows, has been well received by local residents.

The town council agreed that issues previously raised had been dealt with and recommended that Cornwall planners approve the smaller development.

Churchtown Farm itself, behind the Cecil Arms, is to be developed into a home and offices incorporating the currently disused old barns, according to plans yet to be put forward.

### Press Secretaries & Correspondents

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Each year Saltash Baptist Church holds an annual 'Thanks Offering' collection, half going to some work overseas and half locally. This year the local offering has gone to a cause dear to many in and around the town.

Having heard from a neighbour that the St. Barnabas Hospital League of Friends is collecting for an ECG machine a church member put to the church meeting, and it was agreed that half of the annual collection 'a way of saying thank you to God for the gifts of the past twelve months' should go towards this. The church should be helping in every way possible to support the work of the local cottage hospital, it was agreed, as it is a vital resource that we need to keep. Accordingly a cheque for £688.75 was presented to the League of Friends.

Having also learned that the League can no longer use the hospital day room for fund raising events and are faced with a fee for hiring

other premises, the Baptist Church has also offered its premises free of charge not only to the League of Friends but for any other organisation raising funds to be donated to the League.

'Saltash Baptist Church feel very strongly that God is calling us to reach out to the local community and help in whatever way we can', a church representative tells us. As well as events of a Christian nature and the 'Alpha' course of introduction to the Christian Faith, the active church body has a thriving mother and toddlers group and a monthly 'meet and eat' gathering when the hall is opening to anyone to enjoy a meal and a chat.

Following the special seasonal success of last year's

Christmas celebration, Saltash Baptist Church is once again to welcome anyone who would otherwise be alone on Christmas Day, to a mix of singing, party games and of course a full traditional Christmas meal.

## Success for saltash.net student Sam!

A saltash.net student has enjoyed success in a prestigious Cornish architectural competition for students. Year 13 student Sam Sowden won second prize in the Royal Institution of British Architects (RIBA) Cornwall Work Experience Competition 2017. All students undertaking an architectural work experience placement in Cornwall this year were



eligible to participate in the competition, which required the student to produce a design for a structure to a particular brief. Sam chose to design a temporary outdoor performance area that could be suitable for Saltash, producing sketches based on a traditional Victorian bandstand with a nautical theme to represent the town's strong maritime links.

The competition was judged by two qualified Architects, assisted by eight undergraduate Architecture students from the University of Plymouth. In their comments they said that, 'All were very impressed with the overall standard and quality of submissions, showing innovation, good interpretation of the brief and a good standard of overall presentation.' The judges added that Sam's submission, 'was of a higher standard', putting him in second place.

Adam Killeya, Head of Sixth Form at saltash.net, said, "We think work experience is a very important part of students' education, and helps to prepare them for their future studies and careers. We're always proud of the feedback that our students receive and this prize shows that Sam really went the extra mile to get the most out of his placement."

Enjoy all the subtle sounds of Christmas

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