



SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

October 2011 - Issue 231

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Saltash Set to Remain in Cornish Constituency

Fears that Saltash would be merged into a 'Devonwall' constituency for parliamentary purposes have faded with boundary commission proposals recently received.

Last year the prospect that one member of parliament would straddle the Tamar to represent part of Plymouth together with Saltash and other parts of South East Cornwall provoked a massive rally on Saltash's Jubilee Green.

Our own MP Sheryll Murray joined with the current Mayor Adam Killeya and other MPs and civic

heads of various political persuasions in speaking up for "keeping Cornwall whole."

The news is not so good however, for those in the North of Cornwall equally eager to keep Cornwall whole. The Boundary Commission is proposing a new Bideford and Bude seat that would take in Launceston and Bude with

adjacent areas of Devon.

The reason is Parliament's promise to reduce the number of MPs from 650 to 600 with all seats having an electorate as close to 75,000 as possible. This figure would mean Cornwall could no longer continue to have six parliamentary seats but would need more than five, thus necessitating a joint "Devonwall" seat somewhere on the border.

Saltash and the surrounding area however, seem set to remain in the South East Cornwall constituency won by Conservative Sheryll Murray last year following the retirement from parliament of former Lib-dem member Colin Breed.

There will be marginal changes to the seat it is suggested, bringing in Fowey to the west and some rural parishes to the north. It is

also proposed to rename 'South East Cornwall' as 'Liskeard' constituency.

Councillor Adam Killeya who, as last year's Mayor led the local campaign to keep Cornwall whole told the Observer, "We are relieved that Saltash's political position in Cornwall is maintained but we still believe it is wrong in principal to cross the border anywhere."

Bridge Lane Closures

A worn out section of the Tamar Bridge carriageway damaged by heavy slow moving vehicles braking as they approach the toll booths was due to be replaced over a period of up to five weeks from 19th September.

It was scheduled to avoid the main holiday period and Plymouth's hosting of the Americas Cup World Series Sailing event.

While most work would be between 7 am and 11 pm seven days a week some quieter work might be carried on overnight.

It would be necessary to close the southern cantilever to cyclists and pedestrians, David List, the Bridge General Manager advised, so as vehicles could use it while lanes were closed to traffic on the main bridge structure. Traffic management plans would allow traffic to use the cantilever during the works and the plans aimed to ensure delays would be kept to a minimum.

Pedestrians, cyclists and mobility users would be carried by a free bus service between Saltash Fore Street and the Tamar Bridge car park in similar fashion to that operated during the prolonged bridge widening and strengthening programme.

While duration of the work might be up to five weeks it was hoped to conclude it within three to four weeks.

Celebrations for Brunel Primary & Nursery



Brunel Primary & Nursery became an Academy on 1st August 2011.
Full Story on page 4

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Essa Files

After the relaxation of August (for me as a teacher if not for all of those of you who are parents!) September saw everything cranking up again – not just at school, but in the world of local government too

September is when the Town Council starts thinking about our budgets for the year that starts next April, which means thinking about our priorities, but unfortunately also thinking about any other items that we might have to take on, like it or not. This time last year salt bins came into this category, when Cornwall Council decided that it would shortly stop providing them, and force town councils to either take them over or risk residents' safety. This year there is a nasty rumour going around, false I hope but true I fear, that dog bins might shortly go the same way with Cornwall refusing to provide them and shifting it to the Town Council. They are also looking at closing some of our few remaining public toilets and/or getting us to take some of them on (possibly along with much of the costs). At the same time it is getting increasingly frustrating that Cornwall Council is taking a very long time to get back to the Town Council on some very simple issues – a prime example being a small piece

of land on Grenfell Avenue. About 18 months ago the Town Council asked Cornwall to let us take over the land and turn it into allotments, at no cost to them. They consulted residents who overwhelmingly supported the idea. 18 months later Cornwall has still not got itself into gear to transfer a small piece of land for the benefit of the community, and with the support of local residents, Cornwall councillors, the Town Council and Uncle Tom Cobley and all. Very recently the Cornwall Councillor in charge of 'localism' came to visit and the Town Council gave him a bit of a hard time – he said that he understood our frustration and that he was going to sort it out. I've heard this before: hopefully this time it's true!

Adam Killeya

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CORNWALL COUNCIL
& our PL12 Community
For: Observer readers
From: Councillor Bob Austin
Essa Ward, Saltash

On The Buses!

No doubt you will have heard on the telly and read in the papers of Cornwall Council's decision on the concessionary fares.

You may not be aware that Cornwall Council was the highest concessionary contributor in the country and were subsidising 73.5% of the price of a standard single ticket, taking a massive £5.4 million out of the budget. Other councils in the South West are only contributing between 45% – 50%. This is a big gap and one we have to look seriously at and debate.

On the Council's side of the argument we have an ageing population, we are supporting green issues, trying to maintain rural transport connections, which is paramount to the connectivity of Cornwall, and also the economic situation with 'travel to work'. On the other side of the equation the bus companies are adamant that if a reduction to the Cornish services happens, then bus routes will be cut and one of the first routes in Saltash that will be affected is the Derriford Hospital route – which they feel is not being sufficiently supported.

At first the Council wanted to backdate its decision to reduce its subsidy to last April, but this was against Government legislation (a four month notice was required) and we have now agreed to start the new revision in April 2012 – this gives the bus companies a chance to review their finances and their plan of action.

It was also decided by Cabinet the currently supported bus network, together with any route which may no longer be commercially viable, be re-tendered, in November 2011. We would like longer contract periods to provide greater network stability for public transport users in the future and allow longer term financial planning for both operators and the Council. New contracts would commence in early May 2012 to coincide with the normal seasonal change in timetables. Also the Council will write to Cornwall's 6 MPs to request that they make representations to Central Government to amend the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme in order to require concessionary pass-holders to pay a flat fare for each bus journey taken, where appropriate.

Gas Works - Callington Road
Cornwall Council Highways, who licenses roadworks, and the contractors undertaking the work have been approached by Councillor Holley & myself to find out what the problems are and why it is taking so long to complete the job. One of the main reasons was that there was an industrial dispute with the previous contractors Morrison's, but this has now been sorted.

AMEY, the new contractors, are going to put two extra men on the job. In addition they will only do an absolute maximum 50 metre length of trench so cars can clear the section and also put men on stop/go boards at peak times.

The workmen insist they are working on weekdays and Saturdays (if necessary). Currently they are outside Longstone Park and within a week or so will be at the corner of Glebe Avenue and working down towards the Town Centre.

Tamar Bridge – Re surfacing - Reasons for hold ups

There is a significant amount of resurfacing and other maintenance work to carry out which cannot be undertaken in small sections. They have carried out minor patching works overnight for the last couple of years but this is not a cost effective or efficient solution. The current working hours have been implemented by taking into consideration the impact on traffic, overall duration of the works, effect on local residents and neighbours, cost and safety. The nature of the work means that once they have removed the existing surfacing material that section of bridge deck cannot be trafficked until the new surface is re-laid. This is a complex process which involves carefully removing all existing material to bare metal, then cleaning and repairing any defects on the surface, bonding four waterproofing layers to the deck, and then machine-laying the new asphalt, bonding it onto the waterproofing. It is critical that these consecutive layers are applied properly, a process that will take around 12 days for each half of the bridge deck. Whilst they realise that the work is causing disruption, it is unavoidable if they are to maintain a safe and efficient crossing. The bridge normally operates with four lanes. However, during these works the bridge is restricted to three lanes. The loss of this one lane will have an impact on traffic and this cannot be avoided.

The Tamar Bridge Committee apologises for any inconvenience caused whilst they carry out this maintenance work and they hope that you will understand that the work is essential. Please be assured that they are working very closely with their operations team and the main contractor to ensure the works are being completed as quickly as possible with minimal impact on traffic and residents alike.

Devonwall not involving Saltash – Phew!
The recommendation from the Boundary Commission has agreed five parliamentary seats for Cornwall, as well as a cross Tamar constituency that it wishes to call Bideford & Bude This will include areas such as Altonun, Bude, Camelford, Launceston, St Teath & Tintagel. Geographically this will be a massive ward and our hearts must go out to the MP who is going to take it on. These decisions are being made country wide and still rebounding around the House of Commons.

Well at least it has taken the heat out of the Plymouth/Saltash wall option - but then some people think this is still the best alternative – I will leave you with that thought!

“Getting the Message” for Museum Exhibition

“Please Sir!”, Saltash Heritage Museum's exhibition on local education through the ages is still proving a firm hit with visitors young and old. This will continue to the end of October but already next year's display is well into the planning stage. Getting the message, has been agreed upon as the theme with “communications” of every description being covered. The development of communicating skills through the centuries is reflected in the proposed title of the exhibition “Fire beacons to fibre optics.”

Subjects to be included include post, newspapers, signalling and radio. Many of next year's visitors may be amazed to learn the vital role that Saltash played in early radio communications. Transport generally will also be included as will telephones, telegraphs, - anything from mail coach to e-mails.

While Saltash Heritage will as ever be able to draw upon a large range of exhibits held in their store-room, any loans or donations that tie in with the general theme of ‘communication’ would be gratefully received. They can be collected if required and if loaned would be returned late in 2012. Pictures and photographs are always welcomed but even more so are ‘3D’ objects for exhibition.

Anyone willing to lend or donate is asked to call or visit the local history centre on 01752 848466 while it is open on Wednesday afternoon, Friday evening or Saturday morning or outside these times contact the Secretary on 01752 847800.

The exhibition will be set up early in the New Year and be open to the public from April to October 2012 alongside the Saltash Heritage permanent display of the Town's rich history.

SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...



Just before noon on September 12 there was a distinct buzz in Portcullis House as Members of Parliament queued outside the Boothroyd Room. It is not often that you see a long queue stretching almost the whole way around the walkway above the beautiful glass atrium which provides the central focus in the newest building on the Parliamentary Estate.

I joined the queue along with my office manager, Bob Davidson and we waited nervously with colleagues until we were allowed into the room to collect and sign for our pack from the Boundary Commission which would lay out the initial proposals for the new Parliamentary Constituencies. Would there be a new Constituency which would join Saltash with St Budeaux on the opposite bank of the River Tamar or Torpoint with Plymouth Devonport.

Cornwall MPs fought tirelessly to retain a coterminous Constituency and County Cornwall until the Bill received Royal Assent.

We all wanted the Cornish boundary to be fully respected but that is not now possible within the legislation that has gone through Parliament to reduce the number of seats. I am pleased that the boundary commission have taken the best possible decision within their remit.

I am pleased that common sense has prevailed and the crossing has taken place in the north and not in the south where the Tamar, as the county's historic

boundary, is at its widest and most prominent.

Indeed the Boundary Commission have said “ In proposing this constituency, we consider that the most suitable point at which to cross the boundary is the north of both counties, rather than traversing the River Tamar between Plymouth and Saltash, at which point the river, although bridged, presents a far more significant boundary between the two counties.” If you agree with the Boundary Commission do let them know.

I was surprised that the commission want to rename the constituency Liskeard from the more inclusive South East Cornwall. I appreciate that Liskeard is central to the constituency and the home of my office but I do think the current name should be continued to be used as there has not been significant change. If you agree with me you can make a representation to Boundary Commission for England, 35 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BQ or email reviews@bcommengland.x.gsi.gov.uk

The Boundary Commission have stated in the document “We are consulting on our initial proposals for a 12-week period, from 13 September 2011 to 5 December 2011. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to contribute to the design of the new constituencies – the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be when analysing all the views we receive.”

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FROM THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR...

Having had a bit of a quieter time in August, the Mayor's Diary is beginning to fill up with engagements right through to Christmas and Marilyn and I are looking forward to meeting more of you and enjoying the diverse range of interests and hobbies that you are involved with.

During the past month we have travelled further down into Cornwall on a couple of occasions, firstly to the re-dedication Service for the St. John Ambulance Visitation of the Priory of England and the Islands, held at Truro Cathedral and secondly, to the retirement of Lady Mary Holborow, Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall at the Eden Project. Both events were very well attended and we were pleased to be able to represent Saltash.

Later today, we are back in Truro Cathedral for the Royal British Legion 90th Anniversary Concert and really looking forward to that too!

Closer to home, we were invited to Ashtorpe Community Centre for the Duke of Edinburgh Awards evening and also the Saltash Camera Club awards evening. We received a very warm welcome at both and enjoyed them very much.

The guest speaker for the Duke of Edinburgh award evening was Debra Searle, a courageous young woman who had rowed single-handedly from Tenereife to Barbados over the course of three and a half months. She was an inspiration to us all and it was also wonderful to see our young people receiving their awards at both Bronze and Gold standard for their hard work and determination.

We were also extremely impressed with the photography at the Saltash Camera Club evening. The subjects were quite incredible

and so professional that it was difficult to believe that this is a club for amateurs!

And speaking of professional, the exhibition held at the Saltash Baptist church by the Brunel Quilters Association was a stunning display of needlework and imagination and a delight to see.

Saltash Rotary held a Real Ale Festival at the Union Inn on the waterside, the first of its kind for several years, I believe and although the weather wasn't too good, it was a very enjoyable weekend. As Mayor, I was asked to open the event by pulling the first pint which I then had to drink, of course, fortunately I wasn't driving!

We had the pleasure of delivering a bouquet to Betty and Harold Hosking who were celebrating their Diamond Wedding with their family and we were delighted to add our best wishes to their special occasion.

One of our other visits this month was to Saltash.net Academy to visit the year 7 pupils who were doing a project on rights and responsibilities. The children worked in groups and had put their ideas together which were very interesting. They asked us both questions and it was evident that they were engaged in what they were doing and happy to be learning. I was particularly pleased to be there as Saltash.net will be one of the recipients of my Mayor's Charity. We also had to smile when Marilyn was asked if she had married me because I had lots of gold, if only!

Talking of my charities, I held a Barn Dance at

Saltash.net which was attended by about sixty people and we danced to "Choughed to Bits". It was a very enjoyable evening and the profit raised will be distributed to my charities at the end of my Mayoral year.

The day after the dance was my Civic Service at the Saltash Wesley Church and although I was disappointed at the attendance from representatives from our youth organisations, I was delighted to see the Cubs and Scouts in attendance and indeed the Royal British Legion who organised the Standards and the parade. We had good attendance from the Town Council and Brian Whipp (our Town Crier) and his wife were also able to be with us on the day as were members from the Royal Naval Association, Sherryl Murray and visiting Mayor's from Torpoint, Liskeard, Looe, Bodmin and Launceston and other visiting dignitaries.

We were also delighted that Lady Mary Holborow attended as her last public engagement before her retirement the following day and I would like to thank her and everyone else who attended, for making the Service a very special one.

Finally, I hope you have noticed that our Fore Street pavements are looking much cleaner and brighter and that the seats have been painted. The floral displays are still looking good and, next on the plan is the painting of the posts and bike racks in the street. Saltash was voted the best town in which to live, we need to keep it that way!

Colin Oakes Town Mayor

Civic Service was Lord Lieutenant's Last Engagement

The Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, Lady Mary Holborow marked her last day in her role as Queen's representative in the County with a visit to Saltash.

She was among the guests of honour at the Mayor's Civic Service, held in the Wesley Church and led by the Minister and Mayor's Chaplain, Reverend Nicola Slateford. The Mayoress, Mrs Marilyn Oakes presented Lady Mary with a bouquet and a print of the town, wishing her happy birthday and happy retirement starting the following day. Lady Mary in reply spoke of her affection for South East Cornwall and for Saltash going back to her first visits in her capacity with St John's Ambulance in the 1960's.

The Civic Service was very much "a family affair" said the Mayoress, their son, Matthew who has recently joined the staff of Saltash.net.Academy having sung an anthem solo. The Mayor's Chaplain in her sermon spoke of appreciation of one's local community.

The Service concluded with the National Anthem and a spirited rendering of "Trelawney" after which the various civic heads, Saltash councillors and other worshippers joined the Mayor and Mayoress in a Cornish Feast in the Church rooms

Bus Bays and Parking for Fore Street to Change

Changes proposed for Fore Street will see bus bays moved with resultant changes for car parking and loading bays in and around the Town Centre.

At the foot of Fore Street the bus bay on the south side is due to be removed from outside the Co-op to lower down the Street, nearer Van Essa and Specsavers. An additional limited waiting area for car parking will be provided.

Opposite Plymouth bound buses will have an enlarged bay with resultant loss of limiting car waiting area.

At the top of the street the north side the Plymouth bound bus bay and loading bay would be replaced by a new bus bay with no loading zone.

Opposite the westbound bus bay would be varied slightly.

Off Fore Street a new

loading bay is proposed for Belle Vue Road outside Boots. The limited waiting zone opposite would be replaced by permanent no waiting from Fore Street to the car park.

Glebe Avenue also would have 'no waiting' zones outside the Wesley Church and opposite up to the bowling green.

The Chamber of Commerce has perused the plans and raised objection to the loss of loading bay in Fore Street and to the new loading bay in Belle Vue Road as being dangerously near the corner. They have calculated that overall there would be a loss of two or three parking spaces in Fore Street.

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Letter to the Editor...

I am writing on behalf of the Ferry 50 Festival sub committee to thank you for your recent editorial regarding the capturing of your readers' memories of the Saltash Ferry.

We have been delighted with the response and have unearthed many interesting stories and events. These are now being prepared for the Ferry 50 Festival at Waterside on Sunday, 23 October when everyone will have the opportunity to both hear and read of the affection that the Saltash Ferry still has in people's hearts - 50 years after its final crossing. Some of these memories might have been lost for ever had it not been for the help and support of The Observer; it is evident your paper is reaching out to many Saltash people - thank you.

Lynn Marsh.

Celebrations for Brunel Primary & Nursery

Brunel Primary & Nursery became an Academy on 1st August 2011. The opportunity to become an Academy was a result of our OfSTED inspection in November 2011 which graded the school as good with many outstanding features. Amongst the outstanding features is our Early Years department which comprises our pre-school, Nursery class and Reception class

The management and governors took this step after much research and with one aim in mind: what would be the best for the children in our school community and for their education?

Becoming an Academy will allow us to shape the curriculum and direction that the school takes so that we can get even better at meeting the needs of our pupils and give us even more opportunities to enrich the support for all the pupils.

As we settle down as an Academy this year parents and carers will see a gradual change, whereby we are able to develop the education we provide through, for example, more small group work and individual support for pupils, replacing equipment and enhancing our facilities.

Plans are already in hand for new IT equipment for the

children, further development of the playgrounds to enrich playtime, and build on our reputation for being a caring school by introducing a nationally acclaimed pupil support programme. We will also be looking to build up the resources we use for our International Primary Curriculum

To celebrate becoming an Academy we held a ceremony and the pupils all had a slice of our Academy cake

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Mayor and Mayoress Lead the Dance

St Pirans banner bedecked the hall of Saltash.net.Academy as the Cornish band “Choughed to Bits” warmed up and guests assembled for the Mayor’s Barn Dance.

The Mayor and Mayoress, Cllr. Colin and Mrs Marilyn Oakes were amongst the first to lead off in the dance and were joined by children, seniors and all ages in between, by sharing the fun, and following the intricate moves proscribed by the caller.

Amongst those seen skipping the light fantastic were Deputy Mayor and Mayoress Martin and Maggie Gee, former Mayors and Mayoresses

Bob and Jackie Austin and Derek and Maggie Holley, together with many members of Saltash’s citizenry out to enjoy an evening of uninhibited fun.

A pause was made for a well deserved rest, a Cornish pasty supper and raffle. Then it was on with the dance.

The evening was organised by the Mayor and Mayoress in support of the Mayor’s charity fund for local good causes.

Climb for Free at K3



Grand Opening of the Peoples Millions Big Lottery Funded Community Climbing Wall will take place at K3 Young People’s Centre on Saturday 5 November 2011 at 12:00 noon.

On Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th November **ONLY** there will be free climbing taster sessions at K3 Young Peoples Centre on the Big Lottery Funded Community Climbing Wall. The sessions will run from 1200 – 4.00 pm on both days and climbers of all ages (5 – 95) and abilities are welcome to come and try

the new premier attraction in Saltash. All safety equipment will provided by K3 YPC attendees are requested to wear trainers or climbing shoes if they own them

The coffee bar will be open for hot and cold food and drinks on both days from 1200 – 4.00 pm

Festival and Celebration of Music

The Sue Hooper Charitable Foundation is proudly in the throws of organising a Festival and celebration of music in aid of the Foundation.

The Festival struck off with a memorable air of “52 strings and a Bow”, which was an astounding success which featured virtuosos Peter Fisher (Violin) Dorothy Linell (Lute, Baroque Guitar, Banjo, Theorbo) and 15 year old local boy Charlie Hannaford (Electric Fender Guitar).

The next event “Last Night of the Proms” to be held at the Saltash Wesley Methodist Church on Saturday 8th October, will feature for the 5th year, National Champions, the Camborne Youth Brass Band, which attracts standing ovation every year prompted by Pomp and Circumstance, flags and hats all very patriotic!!

Then on Saturday October 22nd again at the Saltash Wesley Church the Trust will welcome the Hywel Girls’ Choir and Hywel Boy Singers

and the Tintagel Orpheus Male Voice Choir, this is the first time that the Choir have performed in Saltash and indeed Cornwall.

Audiences have already been treated to outstanding performances and the Foundation promises more wonderful musical treats in store.

In addition to the music celebration concerts - the Trust has been delighted that local award winning vocalist Flo Bonner (15 years and her sister Rose 12 years) is producing a CD to benefit the Sue Hooper Charitable Foundation.

Sue said today: “I am delighted that Flo and Rose are producing the CD which profits will benefit like minded young people. I have heard the songs and we are in for another musical treat.

Contact Sue Hooper Tel 01752 843073 – Tickets for the concerts are also available from Piglets 01752 844326 and Saltash News 01752 840480 (Fore Street – Saltash).

Exciting Times at saltash.net!

It has been a very exciting start to the new school year at saltash.net community school. As a result of becoming an Academy in April, the school was able to bid for a share of a Property Maintenance Fund made available by Central Government.

Just before the summer holidays the school heard the exciting news that it had been granted £622,000 to create a brand new floodlit all weather sports pitch and completely refurbish all of the changing rooms and toilets in the school.

The six week summer break provided the ideal opportunity for much of the refurbishment work to take place in time for the return of the students in September.

Other areas of the building and site have also benefitted from the school having more control over its finances as a result of becoming an Academy. All of the Music and Drama spaces have had a ‘face lift’ and there have been other significant improvements to Technology and Special Needs.

One final exciting development is in the school’s state of the art 14-19 vocational learning area. Over the holidays a high spec Video Conferencing facility was installed which was described by the suppliers as being, without doubt, the best in any learning institution in Cornwall and on a par with what the Higher Education students are able to access at Plymouth University.

2011-12 certainly promises to be another memorable year at saltash.net!

Conundrum Corner

Taking the initial letter of the one word answers to the following nine questions can you then re-arrange them to make a nine-letter word?

- 1 Which fish is the main ingredient of the dish Gentleman’s Relish?
 - 2 Which children’s TV programme featured the characters Zippy and Bungle?
 - 3 On which Moor might you be found baht’at?
 - 4 What colour is in the centre of the Royal Air Force roundel?
 - 5 Which river flows through the city of Cardiff?
 - 6 The Charge of the Light Brigade was an ill-fated British cavalry attack on the army of which country?
 - 7 Which of the Bronte sisters wrote the novel Wuthering Heights?
 - 8 What term in music is used for notes which are short, clipped and separate?
 - 9 What is the name of the respiratory organ found in many aquatic mammals?
- If you have enjoyed this little quiz each month why not get together with a few friends and come along to the Saltash Town Quiz? For full details give Len Maddock a ring on 651885 **Answers on Page 7**

Come and Make a Mess at Wesley

On the first Saturday of each month there is an open invitation to children and parents from Saltash to take part in Messy Church.

Organised by Chris Clark the Children and Families Worker at Wesley church the afternoon provides an opportunity to take part in all sorts of activities. This month the theme was harvest time which included making your own fridge magnets, finding out about trees and shrubs by tree rubbings, making animals out of vegetables, scarecrow making and so much more. There is an opportunity to enjoy a quiet area to meet and talk to one another or just relax. After all the activities Rev. Nickie Slateford involved everyone in a sing song, and a short chat. Finally, tea was served and this time, pizza followed by ice cream and a drink went down very well. Just tum up for a great afternoon between 4-6pm on the first Saturday of each month. Next one is 1st October 2011. For further information please telephone Chris on 07790 537911.

Over the summer, children at Wesley were given the opportunity to become “Secret Agents” for a week at an action packed Summer Holiday club run by a team of volunteers and led by Chris Clark. For five mornings from Monday 15th August, the children were treated to two hours of Secret Agent related crafts, games, drama, quizzes and activities based on the Bible story of Nicodemus the Pharisee – the ultimate secret agent.

Highlights included code breaking, team challenges, a huge parrot swooping back and forward on a pulley system, a giant pantomime dog and a Pet’s parade with live tortoises. The children were set regular sleuthing challenges with the winning team taking home a “secret agent’s” kitset each. At the end of the week a Fun Day was held in Saltash Wesley, featuring circus skills, giant bouncy castles, all age games, soak the Mayor and, of course, the pantomime dog. The week wrapped up with an all-age outdoor celebration service on Sunday 21st August, during which the parents and local congregation sampled many of the week’s activities for themselves. On the 2nd and 4th Sunday mornings at 9am Big Breakfast takes place at Wesley Church. Breakfast is provided followed by a short lively child and parent friendly time together in the lounge. The young ones enjoy stories and art work with church volunteers whilst Mums and Dads share a talk from whoever is leading on the day. Weekly services begin at 10.30 am. For more information on the above or Shell club, Youth club and so many more activities for all ages, to find out what is going on and who’s who please contact the website: www.wesleyweb.co.uk or ring Lidia or Jo on 845177 each weekday morning between 9 – 12

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Saltash Leisure Centre Celebrates 15th Anniversary

Saltash Leisure Centre will be celebrating its 15th anniversary on 5 October with a special fun day.

There will be activities for children and adults alike including 15 minute gym challenges, colouring competitions, popcorn machines, pancake making, games, birthday cake and a prize draw.

The leisure centre will also be offering fantastic one off membership deals including 15 months for the price of 12 on the all inclusive Ambassador annual membership and a trial membership of only £15 for 15 days.

Saltash Leisure Centre manager Lee Russell says: "During the past 15 years the Centre has enjoyed welcoming both regular and new customers to participate in the ever expanding range of activities offered. Being at the heart of the community, the leisure centre is proud to support local schools, clubs and suppliers and offers a range of services to the public. There really is something for everyone to enjoy, be it a relaxing swim or a vigorous workout or even if you are just looking for a

social catch up in a warm, friendly environment."

For details of the fun day, contact the leisure centre on 01752 840940.

Saltash Chamber 'Neutral' on May Fair Venue

Following the decision of the newly formed Saltash May Fair Committee to move the event away from Fore Street next year the Saltash and District Chamber of Commerce wishes to point out that it was neutral on this issue. Some of its members favoured May Fair remaining in Fore Street and some were opposed to it being held there. The Chamber supports any enterprise that it sees as likely to enhance business in Saltash in general and Fore Street in particular.

Saltash Observer helped Launch Sailing Day for Disabled

Four disabled young people enjoyed a day to remember yacht racing around Plymouth Sound through to the Saltash Observer and all thanks to our readers and friends supporting our charity fund raising.

For our eighteenth "Coming of Age" anniversary last year we organised a number of fun social events for our readers, advertisers and other friends to enjoy and to raise funds to help locally organised good causes.

As we started to distribute these funds our editor Mary decided to use her contacts as a Saltash Rotarian to give local young people with disabilities a day of excitement and as a keen sailor herself sought to offer them a day on the ocean waves.

Plymouth's Drake Rotary club then came to her assistance. For around twenty years they have been organising the "Princess Diana Pursuit"

doing exactly that, taking around fifty disabled people of all ages with carers for a fun day at sea. And once Mary spoke to them they were more than happy for her to arrange for several young people from the Cornish side of the Tamar to share the excitement.

So when the Deputy Lord Mayor of Plymouth, councillor Edward Delbridge started this year's "Diana Pursuit" two delighted Cornish lasses and two lads were among the crews of the seven sailing yachts and three cruisers setting sail from Queen-Anne's Battery. The Deputy Lord Mayor then joined Editor Mary and the



Photo Mary Crawford



Photo Mary Crawford

Observer Reporter Martin on a Princess cruiser half million pounds worth of maritime luxury, cruising around the sound. We followed the yachts as they heeled over in strong winds, watching the Americas Cup entrants practising in the same heavy winds. Plymouth's Oliver Colville MP was aboard another cruiser and

Plymouth Rotarians helped crew the yachts.

Despite strong winds and moderately rough seas all the disabled crewmen and women were clearly thrilled with their experience and did not want it to end. Especially so Kelly Pritchard, daughter of "Union Inn" landlord Brian, Kelly having helped her motor launch for part of the voyage. Back on shore the whole party returned to the Royal Western Yacht Club for pasties, ice cream and drinks. Cups were awarded to all racing boats and individual medals to all participants.

The event was jointly organised by Drake Rotary Club and the Royal Western Yacht Club to whom we give our thanks for a splendid day out for all involved. As they had already organised and paid for the event they were happy that if we gave up our time to participate and help they would make no charge, so enabling us to put the money which we had earmarked towards it to be put to another good cause of which we will advise our readers. Thanks also go to the Club members and other sailors and boat owners who allowed their craft to be used and to MDL Marinas for free berthing. Having awarded the cups and medallions to the tired by happy participants the Deputy Lord Mayor told the Observer, "It was a fantastic effort by the yacht club and Rotarians which clearly was enjoyed by all. They have all gone away with good memories of an outstanding day with hospitality second to none. I enjoyed the voyage on the Princess yacht even though the sea was somewhat bouncy!

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Parking Refund Plan Postponed

Plans to encourage shoppers into Saltash by offering a refund of one hour's parking fee to those using local shops have been postponed.

This is partially due to a disappointingly low number of Saltash traders willing to join in such a scheme, Cllr. Adam Killeya told the Town Council. It is also due to Cornwall Council's intention to introduce new parking ticket machines. It would break down the proposed system if the tickets were changed part way through and Cornwall Council has not been willing, Cllr Killeya advised, to put back the introduction of the new ticketing system in Saltash in order to let the scheme be introduced.

An alternative plan to boost local business by offering free parking for the whole of December, paid for by the Town Council, has received unfavourable response from Cornwall Council, Cllr Killeya revealed. Last year the Town Council paid for local shoppers to have free parking the week before Christmas, through the car parks iced over and were unusable for much of this time.

A street market in Saltash, planned for this September has similarly had to be postponed until possibly next year due to issues raised by Cornwall

Council over street closure.

Plans for a street clean have however gone ahead with power blasting of the pavements in Fore Street and around. The area covered has been reduced by 13% as it was agreed not to cover an area that is due to be dug up for gas works early next year. It was noted that Cornwall Council requirements are that two men carry out the work of power blasting the pavements with two "supervisors" watching. In Devon costs for such work are considerably less as the operators are able to carry out the work without two supervisors being paid to stand by and watch.

Hanging baskets, it was reported, have been placed by the Community Interest Company. It has been suggested that next year they might be bigger and hung lower to create greater impact.

Other Community Interest Company plans for the future include a talking bench for Fore Street and coverings for the Street by way of awnings or something more permanent.

Merlin Brings Magic to Rowan House Residents



Merlin the donkey was a welcome visitor to Rowan House Residential Care Home which sponsors the Ivybridge Donkey Sanctuary.

Rowan House residents especially enjoy the regular visits of the donkeys which clearly derive equal pleasure from the welcome as they stroll around the home.

This is just one of the activities organised to amuse and entertain the residents, ranging from the weekly 'pamper afternoons' to the monthly buffet lunches, to which families and friends are invited, and the popular 'fortnightly fry ups.'

Eighteen hours of entertainment every week is timetabled into the busy schedule with all residents welcome to join in any, all or none as they please. Exercise and dance is especially popular and the seniors are surprisingly agile as they perform the Village People 'Y.M.C.A.' dance routine.

Other occasional events are the twice annual visits from theatre groups, with a recent costumed 'Music of the thirties and forties,' also recently a cheese and wine party, and the eagerly anticipated November firework party, with the grand Christmas event already in the planning stage.

"From when we welcome our residents into their rooms, decorated to their choice, we ensure that there

is plenty going on for them if they wish to participate," says Resident Manager Sharon Smith. "We are very

proud of what we achieve to ensure a friendly, happy and lively atmosphere for all of our residents."

Tell us of Antisocial Behaviour, say Police

"If we do not know about anti-social behaviour we cannot act on it." Saltash police urged that any problems be reported straight away so that attempts can be made to resolve any such issue.

Saltash Town Councillors asked PCSO Mary Wells as to reported problems in Callington Road and were told that one complaint had been made. As to apparent problems in Pillmere no complaint had been received.

Residents at Janeva Court on Liskeard Road had raised issues concerning the adjacent Chapel Field and police were seeking positive ways to resolve these. Young footballers were being persuaded not to kick balls

against the fence and it was suggested that a proper goal be provided for them as an alternative.


Overall crime during August was slightly up on last year, 75 reported offences as against 74. There had been three burglaries from dwellings, six criminal damage to property and thirteen thefts of insecure items. There were four thefts from shops and ten damage to vehicles.

INNER WHEEL REPORT

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER
 In August members met at President Nancy Davy's home for our midsummer get-together. Nancy and Carol Couch produced lovely supper and a very pleasant evening was enjoyed by all.

On September 14th President Nancy and four Members attended Inner Wheel District 129 September meeting at Eagle House Hotel, Launceston. A few of us got a little bit lost in Launceston, but eventually got there and had an excellent lunch. District Chairman, Mary Doody chaired the meeting. The speaker was Major Dawn Mac Garvey from the Salvation Army who spoke about the Salvation Army and its work in Plymouth and the surrounding areas. Our club September meeting was held at China Fleet Club. Basically this was a meeting to plan our activities for the new Inner Wheel year. Nancy Davy took the chair and the raffle was won by Ann Davey.

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Ale, Music and Fellowship Flowed at Waterside Beer Festival

For those who know their Old Peculiar from their Fursty Ferret and can distinguish their Cocker Hoop from their Waggle dance the Waterside during the first Saltash Beer Festival at the "Union Inn" was the place to be.

Barrels of seasonal real ales from the South West and beyond were ready for seasoned real ale drinkers visiting Saltash and for locals eager to discover the pleasures of a traditional pint of 'living' beer.

A good crowd had already joined the organising Rotarians by midday on the Saturday when Mayor, Cllr Colin Oakes was due to draw the first pint. In doing so he warmly thanked Saltash Rotary Club for inviting himself and Mayoress Marilyn. "They are a lovely organisation and Rotary raises so much for various charities," he commented. He also commended Erme Valley Riding for the Disabled in aid of which the weekend, including a raffle with a variety of real ale prizes, was held.

Local Rotarian Brian Stoyel told the 'Observer,' "I am delighted that so many have come to the opening. I would like to thank landlord Brian Pritchard for all his help in setting it up, Peggy of Erme Valley Riding for her attendance and support, and the Mayor and Mayoress for attending. This is all part of Rotary's community effort to help the community."

There was a lively crowd of real ale aficionados all afternoon and evening and the wide variety of beers made an exceptional accompaniment to the fine foods on offer. Thanks are especially due to Timary Spice "taste of the Caribbean"



All Photos by...Mary Crawford

and T and D Event Catering for their support throughout the weekend.

A wide variety of music from soloists and bands changing hourly kept the crowd entertained and there was barely standing room on Saturday evening.

The Festival resumed on Sunday, supplies of real ale having been replenished by newly tapped barrels. The Festival with its music closed in time for participants to join regulars in enjoying the "Union's" ever popular Sunday night quiz.

Saltash was delighted to welcome Rotary's RIBI District Governor Maxine Stoyel who came over to wind up the weekend and carry out the grand draw. She invited landlord Brian's daughter Kelly to pick out the generous number of winning tickets.

Saltash Rotarians wish to thank all of those who worked to shard to make the weekend an undoubted success and look forward to welcoming all to an even better second annual Saltash Beer Festival next year.



Mayor pulls the first real Ale of the day



Kelly draws the tickets with RIBI Dist Gov Maxine Stoyel

Tourist sign by Tamar Bridge

A sign by the slip road off the Tamar Bridge welcoming visitors to Saltash and its points of interest is planned to encourage visitors into the Town.

A similar sign suggested for the A38 at Notter Bridge has been refused by Cornwall Highways.

The slip road off the bridge however is a "B" class road, the proposed sign is to be placed on land owned by the Tamar Bridge authority and the Town Council is accordingly pursuing the installation of the sign.

Observer Telephone Numbers
07971484872
or 01579 345699

Rotarians Watched America's Cup Final

Day in Style

Saltash Rotarians were invited to join up with Rotarians from Plympton and other clubs, at an exclusive site behind Queen Anne's Battery, overlooking the sound, Thanks to the generosity of Dr Paul Yarnley, who opened his house and Gardens to Rotary and friends?

There was a lovely B B Q lunch, with delicious home made desserts.

It was a great day out while raising money for RYLA and other Rotary causes, Saltash club ran the Splat the Rat amongst other fun games to raise money for their club.

Saltash Rotarians Beryl and Keith with Rose (Keith's daughter) having a practice splat at the rat, (he got away this time!!)

Conundrum Corner Answers

1 Anchovies 2 Rainbow 3 Ilkley 4 Red 5 Tart 6 Russia 7 Emily 8 Staccato 9 Gills
Nine-letter word: Registrar



Photo by...Mary Crawford

Footpath at Antony Passage is Public Road, Enquiry Informed.

A long running dispute as to whether a public right of way runs round the front of an Antony Passage property has now been extended as to an argument whether a public highway there should be re-instated.

A vital link between the end of the public highway at Antony Passage and the public footpath that leads up steps and across fields to a lane near Shillingham has been a contentious issue since the path running in front of the boathouse was closed off by the property owners in around 2007. It has since been re-opened as a "permissive path" only.

However, many local residents have claimed to have used it for the continual period of twenty years or more that would have made it a public right of way. Cornwall Council accepted this and granted a Modification Order

in 2010 confirming it as a right of way.

Two objections having been submitted on behalf of local residents a public enquiry was opened into the issue. The object of this, Inspector Helen Slade who presided, advised, was for her to decide whether the evidence disclosed a public right of way which was not recorded and which should be recorded. It was not to decide whether it would be desirable to have a right of way.

However, evidence only recently disclosed based on the 1929 'handover map' of highways from St Germans RDC to the Saltash Borough Council was alleged by Cornwall Council's Legal Officer Vanessa Davis to indicate that there was not

just a public footpath, but a public byway open to all traffic running in front of 'The Boathouse' to the former Lime Kiln Quay adjacent to the steps at the start of the footpath.

Solicitor for the objectors Mr Farthing objected that he had not had the opportunity to examine this new evidence and sought an adjournment.

Accordingly, after a number of local residents had given oral evidence of use of the path during decades from the 1950's onward, the Inspector agreed to adjourn the Public Enquiry until 14th March 2012.

The case for and against the existence of the public by-way will be argued at that time.

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Cider Making at Botus Fleming Invokes 'Spirit of Autumn'

A traditional pleasure of the 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' is the crushing of the lush cider apples while watching the slow oozing of the juice that is to ferment into the farmhouse cider savoured by centuries of Cornishmen. We had previously walked the frosted fields around Botus Fleming one starlit Winter night creating a cacophony of sound to scare evil spirits from the orchards in the ancient tradition of wassailing.

This we described in your February 'Observer.' Now editor Mary and reporter Martin returned to the orchards one mellow September Sunday to discover that our efforts had been effective. The trees were totally boughed down with a rich harvest of apples ready for the plucking.

As we foregathered around the press a fifty year old tractor spluttered into action and was belted on to power an apple crusher. A team of us was kept busy feeding the sackfuls of apples into the crusher and tipping the resulting pulp into buckets.

Meanwhile, your reporter Martin joined the team

members turned the two handles to bring down the press and crush the cheese ever lower while the trickle of juice became a gush and then a torrent.

Bodmin Moor

A century or more ago each Cornish farm would have its own cider press or "cheese wring." The crazily piled rocks high on Bodmin Moor are so named from a resemblance to the bulging "cheeses" which we watched give out their juice while two teenagers flexed their muscles to turn the tightening handles and ensure the press squeezed out each last drop.

Traditionally the remains of the cheese would be fed to the livestock to ensure that none was wasted. There is also an old belief that a piece of rotting meat added to each cider barrel aids fermentation. Fortunately, Chris assured us that the yeast of the apple skin blending with the pulp needs no additional aid to produce the strong cider for which the Tamar Valley was long renowned.

Our efforts were well rewarded when we broke off to enjoy the feast laid out on their lawn by our hosts Elaine and Chris. Pasties, scones, jam and cream and cake were washed down with apple juice and the finest of last year's cider brew.

Enjoy the feast

When the cheese was piled as high as we could reach the press was brought down upon it. The teenage crew

Sated with good food and drink we walked the orchards smelling the sweet scented crushed apples and listening to the hum of the drunken Autumn bees while the fitter of the young people present began to build another cheese to press.

The September sun glowed through a golden afternoon as we were attended upon, as Keats described, by the Spirit of Autumn who "by a cider press with patient look, watchest the last ozzings hours by hours."



All Photos Mary Crawford

Autumn's cider

We were again joining around thirty friends, family and other guests of Chris and Elaine Nicholls who come together each year to gather the apples and celebrate making the first of the Autumn's cider.

Church bells pealed out across the fields and a deep Autumnal sun shone on us as children and teenagers through to seniors all scrambled below the trees to gather the "dropsies" that were to start the cider press rolling.



Eight pints a day

Hodge's Tenement, where we were working, still preserves its circular granite trough and wheel, the cider from which slaked the thirst of past generations of farm workers. A generous allowance of eight pints a day or more helped supplement the meagre wages of local labourers.

Today's brew however, was produced by a nineteenth century cider press manufactured by Workman and Sons of Slimbridge, Gloucestershire and bearing a plaque boasting of prizes won for its cider making at a Royal Show in Plymouth in 1896.

assembling the "cheese." The cider press was covered in straw walled around its sides while the crushed apples were poured into the middle. Our sticky hands were kept busy pressing down the pulp and covering it in layers of straw. The process was repeated as the "cheese" (as it is traditionally called) grew ever higher on the cider press. A trickle of juice kept the younger guests busy speedily changing buckets and bottle as they rapidly filled.

When the cheese was piled as high as we could reach the press was brought down upon it.

The teenage crew



Saltash Wesley Craft Fair

Saturday 15th October

The Wesley Church
Callington Road, Saltash,
10am-3pm

OVER 50 TABLES WILL BE DISPLAYING AND SELLING LOCAL CRAFT WARES: -

Art, Bags, Beads, Cards, Christmas Decorations, Crochet, Decorated boxes, Glass products, Haberdashery, Healing oils, Jewellery, Needlework, Photographic prints, Soft toys, Usborne Books, Woodwork, and many more.

All profits from the event are for the benefit of Charity. Light refreshments will be available throughout the event.

Everyone Welcome

FERRY 50 FESTIVAL ASHTORRE ROCK, WATERSIDE, SALTASH

Programme of Events

Telephone 01752 844255

Email: lynnsmarsh@aol.com for more details

Fri 14th October... Saltash Cine and Video Group presents

The 50th Anniversary of the last Saltash Ferry & First crossing of the Tamar Road Bridge. **Tickets £3.00**

Wed 19th October... Bruce Hunt:

The Saltash Ferry & Waterside. **Tickets £3.00**

Sun 23rd October... Festival Fun Day. **Free**

Wed 26th October... James Meadows Rendel:

Father of the Floating Bridge.

Nigel Overton, Plymouth Museum. **Tickets £3.00**

Thurs 27th October... Fish & Chip Supper for 50 people

With Entertainment from The Larrick Lads.

Tickets - £10. Must be ordered in advance from

Lynn Marsh on 844255

Wed 2nd Nov... Tamar Bridge the first 50 years!


David List, Manager - Tamar Bridge. **Tickets £3.00**

All events start at 7.30 pm unless otherwise stated.

Tickets and further information available from Lynn Marsh

Tel: 01752 844255 or lynnsmarsh@aol.com





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