

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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October 2016 - Issue 295

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The Duchess Formally Opens the Blue Plaque Trail



It was a day to remember for the volunteer stewards, committee members and others who had assisted in creating and developing Saltash Heritage when they welcomed Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester to their thirtieth anniversary celebrations.

The Duchess was introduced to all of those present before mingling with them and showing a keen interest in the Society and what it has achieved. The Duchess and her Lady in Waiting Lady Sarah McCorquordale with Deputy Lord Lieutenant Mrs. Ellen Winsor enjoyed lunch in the Guildhall as guests of Heritage before moving out into the street where a St. Piran's flag shrouded the Blue Plaque commemorating Victorian Town Sergeant 'Nandie' Keast, the first such plaque on the new 'Blue Plaque' trail which she was invited to inaugurate.

The Duchess called on the Mayor's daughters Emmie and Aya, who had previously presented her with a posy, to help her unveil the plaque and formally open the trail.

After thanking all present for a 'wonderful welcome on this sunny day', the Duchess continued to congratulate all involved in the organising of the Blue Plaque Trail. 'I hope that many famous and less famous people may be remembered in this way', the Duchess concluded.



Saltash Groups Share Celebration with Royal Guest

Several Saltash organisations were delighted to welcome a Royal visitor to help them celebrate a variety of notable anniversaries and inaugural openings.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester landed by helicopter and was driven firstly to Saltash Guildhall where Saltash Heritage committee members and volunteer stewards at the popular local museum were celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of their organisation which itself celebrates and preserves the town's rich history. She paused to unveil the first of the plaques commemorating local historic personalities which mark the newly laid out 'Blue Plaque Trail'. The Duchess and her entourage then took lunch in the Guildhall before strolling in the September sunshine to the Baptist Church. Here she admired the amazing and unique 'Saltash Chronicles' the embroidered history of Saltash from pre-history to turn of the 21st Century that surrounds the walls of the church and which pays tribute to the skills of so many local needle persons and other helpers.

From there the royal progress continued down to Mary Newman's Cottage

continued on page 2

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KALAN KWAV

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Two debates continue to take place at County Hall which might affect you. The first is the Governance Review which is a posh title for how decisions are made - I have made my position clear so won't labour it - I favour a return to a committee system rather than a cabinet of ten making the important decisions. An interesting recommendation that has come forward is for another tier of governance involving others apart from councillors; this is fine in principle but I think we are over-governed as it is. At least it will give Laurence from Radio Cornwall more fun.

Another recommendation is that Cornwall Council should get closer to the people and listen more - hello! - do I see a pig up there flapping madly? Anyway despite many of us and certainly the other three Cornwall councillors railing on about this fruitlessly for ages I suspect that this will be just more lip service. I have been constantly disappointed about the attention given to residents from the far-flung reaches of the county and whether this recommendation will make a difference I just don't know. Despite many people's views Cornwall Council does many things very well in the face of constant government cut-backs, but one thing it has not done well is talk to people - it has been very difficult to get meetings in Saltash although the current leader John Pollard has arranged one or two up

here. I will tell the leader and cabinet my views but Cornwall remains Truro-centric: I won't be popular there.

I have also been constantly disappointed about the numerous consultations that have come out and continue to erupt regularly - generally I feel their results and people's comments have been ignored, usually the grounds for that have been financial, and to be fair there is a point there. Nevertheless consultations, for example parking consultations have been given little weight. Here you go, a consultation will take place about charging for parking on Fore Street and in all the other towns. I am not a betting man but if I were I would lay money on the county-wide results being that residents don't want it but El Parking Supremos in county hall (the cabinet) will impose it anyway. I have already had debates with County who seem to think that we will be taken in by the rationale for this charging being to improve the throughput of cars in the street rather than the hidden one - to get more cash in. I actually think people would respect honesty here and say upfront "this is to raise money". Yes, charging would move more cars around but I think more people will shop elsewhere, so unless you tell me otherwise I will oppose it. Won't be popular there either.

The other debate includes how many councillors there should be. All I can say is that I



CORNWALL COUNCIL

and our PL12 community

For Observer readers
Derek Holley
Cornwall Councillor, Saltash East.
dholley@cornwall.gov.uk

could not cover any more ground without totally ruining my home life, and I know this applies to my Saltash colleagues. However I remain unsure about the rest of the county - towns are umpteen times busier than vast swathes of countryside for a variety of fairly obvious reasons and so I think there is a case for reducing the number of those countryside councillors - I know - I won't be popular there.

Carkeel roundabout has started, there will be disruption and we will just have to get used to it. On the other hand please talk to us as it proceeds. Never, ever assume that the experts know it all - remember the lining fiasco on the roundabout earlier this year - horrendous queues from the north and it was down to us Saltash people to propose a simple change that solved it instantly. I am reassured at the moment by the people in charge (Cornac, the county-owned company who have the contract to do it for Highways England) but we will monitor it.

Lastly I am really pleased that the Core, the young people's centre behind Cornwall College on Church

Road is doing well, especially since Cornwall dropped all their youth work. One of the things they are doing well is specialised sport such as the climbing club using their special wall (I have an interest here as a long-retired climber from North Wales...still got my rope and gear though!). Then there is the boxing club which is doing well too, and like many folk I see that sport as a terrific discipline for young people. However I am writing this because the Core runs a cafe in the day time and need some volunteer help, for example over the lunchtime period. Good fun and you will help not just young people but Mums and Toddlers and anyone else too. Please ring Charlotte on 07837 610 274.

I try to be organic in the garden but had to give in and spray once on the cabbages, simply because I have never seen so many Cabbage White butterflies around: the little rotters almost demolished the crop. I am a Christian and if I get to heaven I am going to have a word with the Almighty about the better ordering of his insects! *Have a sunny autumn!*

Victoria Age 9 Promotes Budding Business



One of Saltash's youngest entrepreneurs was busy exhibiting and selling her wares in the open air market in Lower Fore Street during the 'Love Saltash' arts festival.

Royal Visit

continued from page 1

where the Duchess could admire the work of the Tamar Protection Society in maintaining this medieval town house and creating a period style garden.

The walk concluded on Waterside where the Royal party mingled with the professional and volunteer youth workers at Livewire as well as some of the young members and learnt something of what the youth project has achieved over the seventy years leading to the anniversary that it is currently celebrating.

From Waterside the Duchess of Gloucester boarded a craft which was to take her to rejoin her husband the Duke up the Lynher River where they were to visit HMS Raleigh.

Victoria Ryland is aged just nine but has already built up a thriving business live and on-line selling colourful hand painted pots. Victoria is trading as 'T's Pots', her name being generally shortened to 'Tory', she explained to us.

She first painted a pot for her teacher at St. Stephens School and the teacher was so appreciative that she was encouraged to do more, 'Mum put them on facebook and people kept buying', Victoria told us. So far she has been building up capital but she intended to set up a stall at Looe during its music festival where she would donate part of the profits to the Lifeboats.

Meanwhile she has already become the youngest member of the Saltash Chamber of Commerce and Industry, her grandfather Peter Ryland being Chairman.

Chamber Chairman Peter Ryland Keeping us updated...

What a pleasure it was for me last month when the members of the Chamber accepted the membership of my daughter-in-law and my granddaughter into the Chamber. My granddaughter at 10 years old is by far the youngest member of the Chamber and her T's pots business is thriving. Three generations in one Chamber must be a record.

The Chamber covers businesses of all sizes and for all ages with membership ranging from the one man band to a business with well over 100 employees. Most of the businesses are purely local businesses, others sell to the wider national/ international market. Some are retailers others are craft manufacturers, some are in the service industry and others have a charitable/community background. But despite this complete variation the success of Saltash as a base for their activities is essential whether by providing employment to the community or ensuring the needs of the community are met by the products/services they provide. However, all businesses have different aspirations and the Chamber tries to give the support that they require. We have therefore recently agreed to affiliate, not merge, with Cornwall Chamber, in addition to our existing affiliation with Devon Chamber, in order to give our members access to as much help as possible to help their businesses.

The Chamber is now becoming more active and last month helped in the Arts and LOVESALTASH festival. Feedback from retailers etc. in the town centre proved positive as far as footfall in the town. With the town centre being the heart of the community any improvement in the footfall is of benefit to the town as this helps trade in the town so that we can still have a vibrant town centre. There is no doubt that the town centre is not booming but with the wide range of trades therein it proves popular without the need to cross the bridge to our big neighbour Plymouth.

However, we are always looking at ways businesses can be improved and any ideas from the people of Saltash and the wider PL12 area are always welcome. If you have any thoughts then visit the Chamber website/Facebook page.

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Saturday: 12:00noon 8:45pm

Sunday Lunch: 12:00noon - 3:00pm

Sunday Evening 6:00pm - 7:45pm

Watch the Observer for menus & more information on Events for Christmas & The New Year

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Mayoral Matters...

Farmers have been busy gathering in their crops. Saltash churches and community groups have celebrated harvest festivals and Saltash schoolchildren have been singing about 'broad beans sleeping in blanket beds'. With so many good things around us, we have much to be thankful for. This time of abundance brought the message from Saltash Foodbank in to particularly stark relief... In their presentation to Town Council, Foodbank representatives told coun-cillors that 3237 mouths have been fed by Foodbank since they started up their service. What a sombre statistic. But a heartwarming statistic was that 28,443kg of food have been donated by our caring Saltash community.

Our community is vibrant as well as caring. Both of these aspects were praised by the Duchess of Gloucester, who spent time in our town in the beginning of September. After meeting with volunteers from our Saltash Heritage Museum the Duchess walked over to the Baptist Church, where she was visibly captivated by the impressive Saltash Chronicles Embroidery. Moving on to Mary Newman's cottage, she spent time with the volunteer gardeners and stewards before stepping in to the completely different world of Livewire. Everywhere she went, she talked with Saltash residents, obviously interested in their stories. And the golden thread running through all the stories was a sense of community.

I reckon this sense of community will be evident at Kalan Gwav, a new Festival being organised by a team

from Saltash United Football Club, Girlguiding Saltash and Saltash Town Council. It'll be held on Warfelton Green in the evening of 5th November and will give Saltash people the opportunity to enjoy a safe firework display in the company of friends, family and scarecrows. Do enter the Kalan Gwav Bake Off with your favourite apple product! Entry is free, and the winning recipes will be printed in a special booklet together with pictures of the Festival. Entry for the Scarecrow competition is also free - just make sure you submit an entry form to the Guildhall or the Football Club by 5pm on 21st October.

Soon after Kalan Gwav, the season to be jolly will be upon us, and Saltash Town Council will be organising the annual Christmas Festival. In the evening of Saturday 3rd December, the Saltash Town Band will once more lead the town in musical celebration of the Christmas season as the town's Christmas lights are switched on and lanterns made in schools and community groups are proudly carried up Fore Street. Father Christmas will be having a busy weekend because on Sunday 4th December he will be at the Waterside for a special evening service around a giant Christmas tree, hosted by SWRA and Saltash Town Council.

From Harvest to Christmas and at all other times throughout the year there is plenty going on in our town. Saltash is a community for all seasons.

Cornwall & Town Councillor
Mayor of Saltash
Hilary Frank



Fore Street Defibrillator May Save Lives

Lives could be saved through a defibrillator installed in the heart of the town's shopping centre by Saltash Rotarians as part of their service to the local community. It was 'an important moment for Saltash', said Mayor Councillor Hilary Frank as she and her Mayor's cadet Jack Phelan took down the veil and uncovered the equipment installed in the wall of Bloom Hearing Specialists. The Mayor thanked Bloom for agreeing to house the equipment as well as Frontline Emergency Equipment who had installed it into the building and Saltash Rotary for providing it for the town. She also paid tribute to her cadet Jack Phelan whose presentation to Saltash Rotary on the potential life saving equipment had inspired them to have it installed in the town centre.

In the event of someone appearing to suffer cardiac arrest the first action should be to call 999. Then, if two or more people are available one should attempt heart massage while the other goes to Bloom and collects the defibrillator which will be released automatically. There is a built in voice which will talk through the action required to apply it to

the patient and is likely to ensure that life can be saved before an ambulance arrives.

Rotary President Brenda Samuels noted how fifteen year old Jack Phelan's presentation to Rotary concerning his own plans to fund a defibrillator at the Fire Station encouraged Rotarians to pay to place another defibrillator in the town centre. Through Rotary Foundation

Funds and especially the collection from Santa's Sleigh they had purchased and, thanks to Bloom Hearing, been able to install it.

Rotary would continue to support Jack who is near to achieving his target for a defibrillator at the Fire Station. Mrs Samuels also thanked Saltash Town Council for funding the first year's maintenance costs.



Hopper Bus Trips

October/November 2016

Wednesday 12th October
Tavistock Goose Fayre
09.00am £5.50

Sun 16th October
Sunday Carvery Lunch
Porthbyan Hotel Looe
11.30am £5.00 Plus Food

Tues 18th October
House of Marbles &
Trago Newton Abbot
10am £6.50 HoM Entrance fee

Sun 30th October
Rugby - Exeter Chiefs v Bath
(Note booking closes 15th Oct)
£10.00 plus entrance fee

Saturday 5th November
Bridgewater Carnival
15.00pm £15.00

Saturday 12th November
Surfer/Walker Bus
to Watergate Bay
Telephone for details
8.30am £10.00

Monday 14th November
High Tea
(Details to follow)

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Sat 29th New Southern Jelly Band (Bar)

November 16

Sat 5th Opium (Bar)

Sat 12th Swampdogs (Bar)

Sat 19th LMNOP (Bar)

Sat 26th Banana Thieves (Bar)

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

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Christmas is Coming to Saltash

Christmas school term is well under way, the nights are growing longer and all too soon the festive season will be upon us. Christmas is a very special season in Saltash as the town goes en fête each early December to welcome in that special time of year.

This year promise to be as good or better than ever with not only a packed programme of events in the town on Saturday 3rd December but for the first time, special seasonal celebrations at Waterside the next day, Sunday 4th December.

All the seasonal favourites will be back on the Saturday when Fore Street will close to traffic but will be lined with stalls in a Christmas Street Market promising to be better than ever. There will as ever be a variety of entertainments to

suit all ages and families will be encouraged to walk the pedestrian friendly street and see what Christmas ideas our friendly independent shops have in store. The lantern parade, the open air community carol service and the grand switching on of our super festive lights will feature as always in a packed programme – see your next, November, Observer for more details.

A special traditional Christmas will be brought to the Waterside on the Sunday. A Christmas tree, provided by Saltash Town Council and decorated by Saltash Waterside Residents Association will be the focus of an outdoor carol service by the riverside. We hear that Saltash Rotarians have even arranged a special visit from Father Christmas who will be distributing gifts for youngsters. Parents who wish

Why not enter the Great Kalan Gwav Bake-Off? There are 4 categories: Apple Pie; Apple Cake; Apple Preserve or Chutney; and Signature Apple Dish. Just bring along your entry to Saltash United Football Club on Warfelton Green between 3pm and 4pm on Saturday 5th November. Winners will be announced that evening.

If baking isn't your thing, then you could try making a scarecrow. Entry Forms need to be handed in to the Football Club or Saltash

to ensure that their children receive a gift are asked to organise this and place it in advance in 'Just Be'. Again look out for more information on the Christmas fun in store in our next issue.

KALAN GWAV

5th November 2016 5pm – 8:30



Saltash United Football Club, Girlguiding Saltash and Saltash Town Council invite you to an evening of apples, merriment and fireworks! Come along and help re-establish the ancient Celtic festival of Kalan Gwav that celebrates the end of the harvest and the beginning of winter. Make a loud noise at the inaugural Essa Wassail, munch toffee apples, enjoy music from local talent and ward off winter chills with hot food prepared by Girl Guides and Footballers.

Guildhall by 5pm on Friday 21st October. Preliminary judging will be carried out on 26th and 27th October, and the Top 10 scarecrows will be transplanted to the Town Centre on 30th October for the public to cast their votes. There are no rules, really, but please include some straw somewhere – it wouldn't be a scarecrow otherwise! And bear in mind that your scarecrow may be transplanted to the town centre, so make sure he (she?!) is sturdy and no bigger than 5 foot (150cm). The winners will be announced at the Kalan Gwav Festival and their photos will be included in a special booklet that will also feature the winning recipes from the Great Kalan Gwav Bake Off together with photos of the Festival.

Children of primary school age can enter the scarecrow fancy dress competition or press apples to make juice. Bring along some apple pips and Saltash Environmental Group will show you how to plant and grow your own apple tree. The Festival will finish with a magnificent bang with fireworks orchestrated by the company that delights the crowds at the annual firework display in Callington.

Kalan Gwav is Cornish for 'first day of winter'. Come and enjoy a heart-warming start to winter on 5th November from 5pm at Warfelton Green.

Happy Birthday to Alan who Kept the Spitfire Pilots Flying



A friendly and welcoming face at the Ashtor Community Centre, Alan Kelly recently celebrated his 90th Birthday.

A 'Hampshire Hog', Alan spent the war years at Chilbolton Down near Andover repairing and maintaining the Spitfires that helped win the Battle of Britain. His parents ran the local inn where Alan met Pam his wife and they have since enjoyed 63 happy years of marriage. They moved to Cornwall 27 years ago and to Saltash 17 years ago. They have a daughter Sharon, son Sean and recently welcomed their great granddaughter Seren Luna into the world.

We on the Observer wish Alan a belated Happy Birthday and all good wishes for many more to come.

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What's on!

Monthly quiz night – Cash prizes and bonus picture round

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Traditional Sunday lunch 12 -3pm

Booking strongly advisable to avoid disappointment

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Coming Up...

Sat 29th Oct: Halloween Party 9pm

Sat 5th Nov: Fireworks Night – Chili, Hotdogs & Burgers

FREE Sparklers for the kids & Geat Firework Display
(in the top garden from 5pm)

Fri 11th Nov: The Kingstons – Stompin Ska Band

Tues 15th Nov: Psychic investigation eve with Mark Hartshorn

Find out which locals still visit the pub and who is the 6ft shadow behind the bar!

Tickets £10 including food 7.30pm food for 8pm start

Fri 23rd Dec: The Hungry Bears from 9pm

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F: www.facebook.com/yeoldebullers/

W: www.bullersarmslandrake.co.uk/index

For further events we may have

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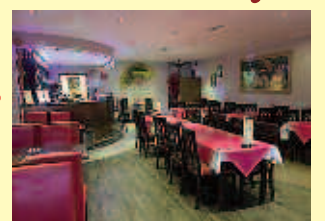
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Murder Mystery in Saltash

Burraton Community Players return to the stage at Burraton Community Centre with the seventh of their popular murder mystery evenings...

MURDER IN THE READERS CIRCLE

Members of a local readers circle convene for their regular monthly meeting in a local hostelry. Little do they realise that they are to find themselves embroiled in their own mixture of mischief and mayhem and who would have guessed how many of their number harbour deep-seated motives for...murder!?

Featuring several new members of the group and some well-established stalwarts, the evening offers members of the audience a chance to test their sleuthing skills and identify who is behind the grisly deeds.

The performance will take place at Burraton Community Centre Grenfell Ave Saturday 22nd October - 7.30pm

Ticket prices include a Free Pasty

Tickets on sale at "Piglets" in Fore Street For further details contact Leigh Hughes on 01752 842109

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Autumn Festival to Remember on Fifth of November

As the Autumn nights darken the skies above Saltash will light up to an ancient Celtic celebration destined to bring fun and festivity to the town in early November. Kalan Gwav is the Cornish festival that in the counterpart to Celtic festivals in Wales and Brittany traditionally marking the end of the harvest and the start of Winter.

To be held on Saturday 5th November it will be held at Warfelton, in the geographical heart of the town where last year a firework display attracted vast numbers more than those anticipated. To build on this the town is to host an event beginning during the day with a host of fun activities for all the family.

Kalan Gwav was also known in Cornwall as Allentide and was associated with apples, given to family and friends as tokens of good fortune. The Saltash festival will also have an apple theme and include a Wassail, a noisy event when apple trees are decorated with toast and drums and saucers are banged to scare evil spirits and ensure a good harvest. There are a number of traditional Wassailing songs and

workshops will be held to compose an Essa (Saltash) Wassail.

Local organisations will be invited to run apple themed stalls, such as apple bobbing, sell products and hold competitions for apple based chutneys, cakes, pies and other products. There will be music and children's entertainment and a Scarecrow Trail. Saltash Children and adults are encouraged to create scarecrows, the best of which will be displayed in Fore Street the week before the event and moved to Warfelton field on 5th November. The festival will culminate in fireworks soaring above Saltash to mark the start of Winter. It is planned to produce a booklet after the event with pictures, apple recipes and lyrics of the Essa Wassail, all aimed to help instil community pride and reinforce Cornwall's Celtic heritage.

This, it is hoped, will become added to the existing well anticipated and well loved annual celebrations that help make Saltash such a friendly and vibrant community.

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Letter to the Editor...

My wife and I wish to offer our heartfelt thanks to all the kind people who helped her after a fall in Saltash Fore Street on Saturday 10th of September. We would especially like to thank the two ladies who stayed with her until she was taken away by the ambulance, also the young lad who ran down to the car park to find me. It has certainly restored our faith in human nature.

My wife has had to have her hip replaced, but is now on the mend and looking forward to coming home.

Thanks again Carl and Mavis Langdon

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Music and Ales Flow at Sixth Saltash Beer Festival

Good music, good fellowship and above all a wide selection of good ale, the three ingredients were in abundance at the Sixth Saltash Real Ale Festival at the 'Union Inn' organised by landlord Brian Pritchard together with Saltash Rotary.

An all weather marquee kept drinker's dry, or the outside at least, as they supped such Cornish specialities as Penpoint Shipwreck and Cornish Crown. From over the border came Devon Dumpling, Tavy Porter and Otter Head while the strongest of all Hunters Full Bore, your intrepid reporter remembered from last year, should be alternated with lighter ales. Around a dozen ales were there to be sampled.

There was live entertainment for the full weekend of the festival, again of a varied genre to please all tastes. Blues were to the fore and included the Third Age Blues Band and the A1 Greener Blues Band. Folk rock enthusiasts enthused to Rustic Road and all appeared to enjoy local soloist Vince Lee and the ever popular Tom Anfield. Flood, a Saltash based band played all their own original music to popular acclaim, as did the Tim Bliss Band.

By way of contrast and equally enjoyed were the Burraton Choir and the Plymouth Ukulele Players.

A hot food wagon outside proved well patronised as many made a special occasion of sitting back (or standing back as the Saturday evening progressed and the bar filled) to sample the various ales and varied musical styles.

Saltash Rotary was pleased again, for the sixth consecutive year to work with Brian in organising the fund raising event. They organised a highly successful Grand Draw, the prizes being drawn on the Sunday evening by Mayor Councillor Hilary Frank. Proceeds were to be shared between Saltash Rotary, for their various causes that they support, and Erme Valley Riding for the Disabled, a cause especially dear to Landlord Brian for the help that they have afforded his daughter Kelly.

SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...



Last month I popped along to a very wet beer festival at the Union Inn in Saltash to support the local Rotarians. The Festival ran over Saturday and Sunday and I would like to pay tribute to all of those Rotary volunteers who gave their time to raise money for so many local and national charities. One of the local Charities they are supporting at present is Riding for the disabled.

The Boundary Commission for England published the Initial proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in the South West. The rules for this set of boundaries were set out in 2011. At that time I argued strongly that we should keep Cornwall whole and that no seat should cross over between Cornwall and Devon. Unfortunately I lost that argument and the legislation was laid with the priority being given to ensuring that all seats across the country are of equal size to give each elector an equal say in who runs the country. Our population in Cornwall is currently such that a cross over seat with Devon was unavoidable no matter how undesirable this was.

In the Boundary Commission initial proposals they have kept the name South East Cornwall and all constituents remain in the current seat with the exception of around 1,100 electors in the Luxulyan Parish. I would like to re-assure these constituents should the boundaries change in this way that I will continue to represent them to the best of my ability in Parliament and to help them with their issues right up to the time of the next General election.

As this would make the South East Cornwall seat too small they have proposed that the Altarnun and Stokeclimsland

Divisions of Cornwall Council be added to the South East Cornwall constituency adding around 5,500 electors. This will give a total electorate of just over 71,000.

Whilst I continue to be unhappy that we have a cross over seat I do believe that the Boundary Commission have made the more sensible option of not crossing in the South where as they say in their report that the river, "presents a far more significant boundary between the two counties".

We have also seen the introduction of a new five. The Bank of England periodically replaces notes to introduce the latest new security features and stay ahead of counterfeiters. It also means that we can feature new characteristics. They have decided that our next £5, £10 and £20 notes will be printed on polymer, a thin flexible plastic, because polymer notes last longer, stay cleaner and are harder to counterfeit than paper notes. It will not be until May 2017 that the paper £5 notes will cease to be legal tender and will no longer be accepted by shops.

I was pleased to learn more about the Royal Life Saving Society UK's vital work to help to prevent tragic deaths through drowning during the two weeks that I returned to Westminster. Sadly, there have been a number of fatalities around Cornwall this summer. It is important that we all support their campaign #StopDrowning. Please make sure that you respect the water when visiting our beaches and riverbanks.

I also supported the Sport & Recreation Alliance's Get Your Kit On campaign in Parliament. Grassroots sport and recreation plays such an important role in health and wellbeing, including here in my South East Cornwall constituency.

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New Hopper Hits the Road

The opportunities to offer a community bus service to the communities of Saltash and surrounding areas have been doubled following the long awaited delivery of a second Hopper Bus.

In accepting the keys of the bus from Steve Hudson, delivery driver from G M Coachwork of Newton Abbot who adapted the vehicle for service to the town, Mayor

Hilary Frank said, 'The Community Interest Company plays a vital part in the beating heart of the community. A regular bus service to Derriford hospital which they now hope to achieve with this second vehicle, is something that the community has sought for a long time and I wish them all success in this venture.'

In acknowledging the excitement of receiving the new bus CIC Chair Peter Thistlethwaite paid tribute to the bus which had already served the community for a number of years, and thanked all of the volunteer drivers and others who had kept it running. 'We hope to pull off a new regular service to Derriford by the end of October,' he anticipated 'The first few months will be the testing time. It is a community bus and we want the community to use it'.

The intention is that one of the buses will be running the Derriford hospital service. The other will continue to be available for hire by local community groups and individuals as well as the extremely popular excursions to local destinations, offering enjoyable days or half days out and most of which prove to be sell outs.

The new bus, which will



soon be a familiar sight on Saltash roads, holds sixteen passengers, or twelve and a wheelchair, and is fully disabled friendly. It was provided through the Department of Transport Community Minibus Fund, through which an application was made eighteen months ago and the Saltash Community Enterprises PL12 paid for it to be painted in local livery and put on the road. The official handover at the China Fleet Club was followed by a cream tea for volunteer drivers and others involved in its acquisition.

For Hospital Bus, Join the Club

A bus service of four or five return trips to Derriford hospital would assist those working at the hospital as well as patients and visitors, Peter Thistlethwaite Chair of Community Enterprises PL12 has told the town council. It would also create four new jobs, for three drivers and an administrator.

The town council has agreed to recommend that the scheme receive £5,000 start up costs as well as a further £ 5,000 to underwrite possible initial losses, as reported elsewhere in your 'Observer'.

It is anticipated that the new bus service, due to commence once the second 'Hopper' bus had arrived in the town, will also include outlaying parts of the town as well possibly as villages around. It will therefore also serve to bring people into Saltash town centre and add to

footfall in the Fore Street area.

The licenses to permit a regular service would require prospective passengers to become members of a 'travel club' in order to ride. However membership would be free and could be instantly granted, 'like membership to a night club' as one councillor pointed out.

It is hoped that the regular service could commence as soon as October and timetables would be made widely available to promote it.

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Garden is Given to Saltash's Special Students

Students at saltash.net school's Trematon Zone, which caters for secondary school pupils with a variety of complex needs, had an exciting surprise when they returned for the Autumn term. Last term they had been writing to a number of local businesses asking if they could help out with supplying a new bench and parasol for their garden which had fallen into sad neglect, or with some vouchers to help towards the cost. 'We no longer have anywhere to sit and enjoy our break times and lunchtimes as this is an important part of our social life and social skills development', said Thomas in his letter.

To their delight Trago and Tesco supplied them with vouchers while B & M kindly donated garden furniture. Even more excitingly Endsleigh Garden Centre not only gave vouchers but also sent a team of twelve people in total who over five days effected a complete re-landscaping and planting of the garden area.

Mayor Councillor Mrs Hilary Frank with her consort Shojiro formally opened the garden and chatted with the special needs students, who come from all over South East Cornwall to this specialist zone, about the duties of a Mayor. She was introduced to all of the students as well as to Mollie the Zone's King Charles Spaniel and Millie and Milo, the rabbits. She also met and thanked members of the

Endsleigh garden team who had effected the transformation. Ms Lucy Gomer, teacher in charge of the area resource base was able to outline how the Zone had been effective in helping improve the lives and future opportunities of some of its students.

The Endsleigh team were given letters of thanks from some of the students. 'Our garden was very boring when we first came', said one. 'It was a lovely surprise when we got back'.

Lovesaltash Arts Festival Proved a Great Success

Joy of Driftwood supported the Lovesaltash festival, pictured here with the Mayor's Consort & the little Mayoresses enjoying watching the professional artist Vicki Archer. See more in the November Issue



Making Monsters

Jake and Archie, make dinosaurs in Maitlands Estate Agency with the aid of Crafty Crowd while on holiday from Huddersfield, staying with Nan and Grandad in Saltash

Keith Rawlings happily painting outside Patricia Ann's

Essa Files

It has been some time since I wrote about parliamentary boundary changes in my column, but this month they are back. You may recall that back in 2010, as then Mayor of Saltash, I set up the 'Keep Cornwall Whole' campaign, which fought against the idea of a cross-border constituency between Devon and Cornwall. Our campaign, which included a 500 strong rally on the Waterside, was unsuccessful in that the law which made a cross-border seat basically inevitable was passed. However, our campaign did make a contribution towards the eventual delaying of any changes based on the new rules, meaning that Cornwall kept a full six seats for the 2015 election.

Now though the Boundary Commission has produced new flawed rules we opposed, which proposals, based on the same will again mean a cross-border

seat. From a strictly narrow Saltash point of view the Commission have recommended the 'good' option of a crossing in the North, proposing a constituency of 'Bideford, Bude and Launceston' rather than, quoting directly from their report, "traversing the River Tamar between Plymouth and Saltash, at which point the river, notwithstanding the bridge, presents a far more significant boundary between the two counties."

The fact that Saltash appears to have escaped sharing an MP

with Plymouth however does not alter the point that a cross-border seat is a really bad idea. It's not a question of being nationalistic, anti-Devon or anti-England - it's a terrible idea for Devon as well as Cornwall. The history, culture and economy of the two sides of the Tamar are very distinct: yes, those differences are particular huge in the south of Cornwall where we also have a huge difference in settlement patterns not to mention a ruddy great river, but forcing any part of Cornwall to share an MP threatens the interests of all of Cornwall. We already get a poor deal on government funding, and will inevitably lose much of the European funding that partly makes up for this. Having to share representation can only make this situation worse resulting in an even worse deal for Cornwall.

Money aside it's a question of identity - Launceston, like Saltash, is unabashedly Cornish and proud of it, right down to its distinctive pronunciation of its own name. The idea that pure arithmetic, which is what the new rules exclusively focus on, can totally overrule community or identity is absurd and dangerous.

So, as much as you could argue that because Saltash has 'escaped', at least for now, we might be better advised to shut up about boundaries and just be grateful that our town isn't being hit, I won't. The cross-border seat, wherever it happens, is wrong and we should show solidarity with our northern neighbours by continuing to fight it.

Note The full proposals can be found on boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk. South East Cornwall, the seat in which Saltash sits, is recommended to gain Stoke Climsland and Altumun prishes, but otherwise remain unchanged.

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