

# SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

*Your only truly "local" newspaper ...*

October 2024 - Issue 388

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### THE SANTA FUN FROM 14.30

### OR THE MAGICAL LANTERN PARADE AT 18.00

This event is hosted by the Saltash Chamber of Commerce and made possible by grants from the Town Council and Scrapstore



## Brunel School Saltash...

wants your plastic takeaway containers,  
tupperware boxes and old reusable drinks bottles

Brunel Primary and Nursery Academy in Saltash has teamed up with the Recycling for Charity project, to take part in a contest with recycling experts TerraCycle, to win a new playground with a frame made from 100% recycled materials including recycled plastic food storage containers and lids, takeaway tubs, lunch boxes, reusable plastic drinks bottles including baby bottles and sippy cups.

Ali Humphreys, Recycling for Charity project lead, encourages people of Saltash to bring these plastic tubs and bottles and drop off at either: Brunel school reception, Monday through Friday Saltash Town Library, in the side garden, located adjacent to the school Saltash Scrapstore 89 Fore Street.

Headteacher Darren Woolner said: "TerraCycle is an innovative recycling program that transforms waste into valuable resources. This initiative not only reduces waste but also encourages communities to actively engage in sustainable practices."

"At Brunel Academy, we are thrilled to take part, demonstrating our commitment to environmental stewardship. As part of this initiative, our school is competing to win new playground equipment, and we need your help!"

All members of the community are invited to take part and help the school have a chance at winning a new playground. Anyone who has donations should take them to Brunel school reception, Saltash Library or Saltash Scrapstore.

To support Brunel Primary and Nursery Academy's recycling efforts, please visit [www.south-hill.co.uk/charity-recycling](http://www.south-hill.co.uk/charity-recycling). Alternatively check out the local Facebook page for recycling: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/recycling.for.charity>.



Ali Humphreys from the Recycling for Charity project delighted at the first pick up from Brunel school .... A full bin of plastic takeaway tubs, food storage containers & lids, lunch boxes, plastic drinks bottles, baby bottles. Drop off your items in any condition, broken, stained, miss matched tops and bottoms all accepted.

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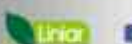
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# Town Messenger

Working for the People of Saltash

News from Saltash Town Council  
Konsel an dre Essa



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Email: [educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk)

## Housing Department

Telephone: 0300 1234 161

Email: [info@cornwallhousing.org.uk](mailto:info@cornwallhousing.org.uk)

## Social Services Department

Telephone: 0300 1234 101

Email: [children@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:children@cornwall.gov.uk)

## Social Services Department

Telephone: 0300 1234 131

Email: [adultcare@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:adultcare@cornwall.gov.uk)

## Highways Department

Telephone: 0300 1234 222

Email: [customerrelations@cornwalllimited.co.uk](mailto:customerrelations@cornwalllimited.co.uk)

## Transport Department

(Schools Transport)

Telephone: 0300 1234 101

(Bus Pass) Telephone: 0300 1234 222

Email: [schooltransport@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:schooltransport@cornwall.gov.uk)

## Roads, Transport and Parking

Telephone: 0300 1234 222

Email: [roadtransportandparking@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:roadtransportandparking@cornwall.gov.uk)

## Waste Department

Telephone: 0300 1234 141

Email: via contact form on website only.

## Cormac Solutions

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## Fly Tipping:

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*Town Messenger  
news is supplied  
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## Cornwall Councillors/ Wards

### Saltash Essa ED

Cllr Hilary Frank  
[cldr.hilary.frank@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.hilary.frank@cornwall.gov.uk)

### Saltash Tamar ED

Cllr Sheila Lennox-Boyd  
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### Saltash Trematon & Landrake ED

Cllr Martin Worth  
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### Cornwall Councillors

Cover such services as:

Housing – Education  
Social Services  
Highways  
Waste & Recycling  
Tamar Bridge

## From the Mayor of Saltash

So, on the 28th of September this year 50 or so residents met at Waitrose for a five-mile hike “beating the bounds”.

You might wonder what that is all about? It's an ancient tradition where the people of Saltash walk the boundary stones, bouncing little boys on their heads on the stones! However, these days, and in recent times it's the Mayor that's been bounced three times on the stones, but thankfully not on the head!

Martin Lister, a local historian led the walk from Waitrose down to Botus Fleming and on to Modinham quay where barges came up the Tamar from Plymouth, with their wares of fruit and vegetables, also horse dung

## Meet Your Councillor Sarah Gillies Tamar Ward

As a member of Saltash Town Council for Tamar ward and long-time resident of Pillmere, it is great to see the work of the Service Delivery Team in the area and the redevelopment of the play parks on Grassmere Way and Honeysuckle Close.

I am also Vice Chair of the Town Vision Sub Committee and it has been a real privilege to work alongside the Chair, Town Clerk and Committee to bring together the first Business Plan for Saltash Town Council. The plan incorporates and puts at the heart of our decision making six key strategic priorities. The areas, that I am particularly interested in seeing develop are climate emergency strategies, and Health and Wellbeing, especially the



scraped off the streets of Plymouth to be used on the fields around our town.

There were many interesting facts given to us along the way about the pubs, Botus school, and various houses and the uses. At one such house Martin was telling us about the history of the cottage much to the amusement of the residents who had just moved in and



mental wellbeing of the community, part of which is the introduction of Chatty Benches around the town providing a safe space and sources of support.

In addition, it is great to participate as a member of the Friends of Victoria Gardens project and see the ongoing progress that is being made to this jewel in the Town Centre.

It was exciting to be member of the connectivity working group, seeing the huge success of the transport trail day and the ongoing success of the Saltash Ferry to Royal William Yard, creating a waterway network from Saltash to Crennill.

had no idea about the history of where they were living.

If you have not visited Botus Flemming church it's well worth a visit, they still have the stocks that they used to put the local villains in, and inside the church there is a memorial to a crusader and another to a pirate. We were also welcomed by the members of the parish with delicious cake and tea.

We then had an amble up to the Croft and then were ably escorted across the busy road by members of the Rotary

Club. Then over the fields around the back towards Notter bridge. There, buses took us to Saint Germans railway station, where we boarded the train to Saltash and had a delicious cream tea at Isambard House (railway station).

It wasn't a hike, but more of an amble, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves including the dogs.

It was so popular, and people were so enthusiastic and interested in the history, that we will probably try to

make it an annual event.

All Members of the Town council are busy now working on our budgets, ready to set next year's precept (Saltash's portion of your council tax). A huge amount of work goes into this process, not only for the staff, but for all councillors trying to do what is right not only for people's budgets, but also for the good of the town.

Please remember that all Town Council meetings are open to the public. You can

see the meeting dates on the Town council website. Agendas are usually published a week in advance. If you would like to ask a question, you can put this forward 24 hours in advance.

I'm out so much at the moment, Mr P has decided he'll see me in December, when it's a bit quieter (he wishes)

*Warmest Regards to you all  
Councillor Julia Peggs  
Mayor of Saltash 2024-25*

## Your Town Council & Wards

### Saltash Essa:

1. Cllr Richard Bickford  
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2. Cllr Rachel Bullock  
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3. Cllr John Brady  
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4. Cllr Matt Griffiths  
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5. Cllr Jon Foster  
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6. Cllr Sheila Lennox-Boyd  
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### Saltash Tamar:

1. Cllr Lisa Mortimore  
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4. Cllr Julia Peggs  
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6. Cllr Jean Dent  
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### Saltash Trematon:

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2. Cllr Brenda Samuels  
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4. Cllr Yates  
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### Mayor:

Cllr Julia Peggs

### Deputy Mayor:

Cllr Rachel Bullock

### Town Clerk:

Sinead Burrows  
T: 844846  
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**Saltash Town Council, The Guildhall 12 Lower Fore Street  
Saltash PL12 6JX Tel: 01752 844846  
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## Crowdfunder

Quite a few years ago it was brought to the Town Councils attention that there were names missing on the war memorials in Saltash. The task was given to Peter Clements (a local historian) to ensure all the missing names were correct, and if there were any more to add.

A great deal of work has gone into this project not only by Peter, but the Town Council working group, checking for name duplications, and a way forward to remember those Veterans of Saltash who sadly lost their lives in conflict.

Two Cornish granite seats were decided upon, to be placed in St Nicholas and Faith burial garden, along side the other two memorials.

Historically, all war memorials have been funded by public subscription, and this is the case today. If you would like to donate the link is

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/saltash-borough-war-memorial> or you can scan the QR code below:

We hope that the memorial seats will be in place for Remembrance Day 2024.

A very fitting tribute.

Councillor Julia Peggs

Mayor of Saltash 2024-25



## Saltash Town Council Awards Certificates of Appreciation

At the Full Town Council meeting held on Thursday 5 September the Mayor Councillor Julia Peggs presented certificates of appreciation on behalf of Saltash Town Council to Jo Grail for her services to the Saltash community as Chairman of PL12 and Rose Edwards for her services to dementia residents in the town as part of Memory Box PL12. The Town Council thanked them for their longstanding work with the community. The Mayor of Saltash

Councillor Julia Peggs congratulated Lola Tambling on her outstanding achievement in representing Great Britain in the 2024 Olympics and wished her well for future competitions.



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## Chamber Chairman Peter Ryland Keeping us Updated

At the Chamber meeting on the 14th October 2024, we welcomed 2 new members. Dawes Accountants and Westcountry Fabrications. The start of the meeting was the AGM, all Officers were re-appointed but when this formality was out of the way there were several matters which were concerning members.

Firstly, was the impact of the imminent works to the Saltash Tunnel on the town with long queues of traffic blocking various roads in the town which will inevitably have an impact on business. For the businesses on the industrial estates the concern relates to the ability to access their units by suppliers and the egress for their own deliveries. In the town centre businesses were of the opinion that traffic regularly queuing up Fore Street would deter customers from coming to the town centre. I have agreed to take up the issue with National Highways to see what mitigation can be put in place and whether traders can be compensated for loss of trade. As a post meeting note, I have an offer for a representative from National Highways to come to a Chamber meeting and discuss the matter.

Secondly, was the question of car parking. The Chamber has strived over the years to make the cost of parking cheaper for customers. Tracey from the Bookshelf said that, in her opinion, that the scheme where customers could get the cost of parking for up to 2 hours redeemed was the most successful. However, it was acknowledged that with many people now paying on the App it wasn't so easy to implement

such a scheme, but I have agreed to do some research to see what can be instigated.

Thirdly, the question of cash availability at the two remaining ATMs in the town was raised. It seems that on a regular basis the machines ran out of cash and, although we are becoming a cashless society, this caused great difficulty for some sectors of the population who rely on cash. I agreed to take this matter up with the Banking Hub to see if there is any chance that an ATM could be installed there – although they had said, in the past, that such was not possible. I would also look at other possibilities.

Fourthly, the condition of the industrial estate highways was raised. The Chamber congratulated Samantha Hammond of Westcountry Fabrications on her initiative to have planters on the verge sides of Gilston Road. It was understood that this had got the approval of Saltash Town Council and Samantha hoped to instigate such in the near future. However, members were concerned as to the poor parking of vehicles and the restrictions this placed on accessibility for deliveries throughout the estates. The Chamber agreed to support any initiatives which helped the situation.

## Pete's Point of View

When I first started to write this column back in August 2023, the intention was to focus on noteworthy and praiseworthy events and happenings in the local area. But a lot has changed since then, especially in the last three months or so. Now what seems to be of greatest concern to local residents are decisions being made in Westminster, which have the potential for profound

### Town Council Urges Residents to Support CIC Organisation

Saltash Town Council are urging residents to support Community Enterprises P12 (CEPL12) with their SOS 'Save our Services' campaign.

The campaign is raising awareness and funds of the vital work the organisation does in the town. The organisation needs to raise vital funds in order to continue to operate its services. This includes the Community Kitchen, Fridge and Larder, Memory Box and Community shop. The services are at the heart of Saltash and help support residents every day.

The Mayor of Saltash Councillor Julia Peggs says "CEPL12 is part of the fabric of Saltash and provides essential support to a wide range of people. Please consider helping in any way you can, whether it's a donation of food for the kitchen, donating any change you have or volunteering your time. Get in touch with them in if you can help."

Anyone wishing to support can find out how to donate or volunteer at [www.cepl12.co.uk](http://www.cepl12.co.uk)

consequences in respect of the elderly and vulnerable throughout Cornwall. I cannot find it in myself to disagree with the critics who claim there to be unashamed hypocrisy in that those who are comfortable in accepting many thousands of pounds in freebies, are also those who will preside over spending cuts affecting not only our senior citizens, but also causing concern and potential headache to relatives of those who will miss out on the Winter Fuel Payment.

We have been told that there is to be an end to 'austerity' but also warned of spending cuts and higher taxation. Is there a perceivable difference? They say that a rose by any other name would smell just as sweet, but in this instance, what is being talked about is smelling offensively pungent.

On a slightly more positive note, I have often praised the community spirit that is to be found in Saltash, where the volunteering element must surely be above the national average. I admire and thank all those that give their free time as volunteers in a variety of organisations. But I also have concerns at the number of salaried positions within some very important organisations, nationally and locally, that over the years have been replaced with volunteer positions. Whilst this might seem to have some

appeal, the fact is that these organisations are now vying with each other to attract those available volunteers, leading to a shortage of sufficient numbers who can find the time to become involved in the voluntary sector. If you have some time to spare, there are certainly charities and organisations in Saltash who would value your time and assistance.

On a definitely more positive note, Saltash Rotary Club have been very active in the local community, with the flower boats around the Town looking quite exceptional during the summer, whilst work continues on the previously neglected flower boats at the station, those having a lick of paint recently, in readiness for planting of shrubs, which may already have happened by the time you read this, or may be imminent. The club has also successfully raised funds working in partnership with Ashtorre Rock, selling bacon rolls, cakes and pastries at recent events held there, including gig racing and the Model Club Exhibition. These funds will be used to support various charities and good causes. I'll be back next month, in the meantime do take care and stay safe. **Pete Samuels** *Any views expressed are personal views and not that of any organisation with which Pete is associated.*

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## Essa Voices

### Your Healthcare, Your Voice!

Many of us have unsettling experiences of healthcare these days. The stark reality is that without comprehensive change, the situation is likely to worsen. Cornwall's population, for example, is growing and ageing rapidly: over the next 20 years, we expect an increase of around 83,000 people, with an 87% rise in those aged 85 or over.

As a councillor, I recently joined Cornwall Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. I've been actively involved in the Saltash Health Action Group so this felt like a natural step. I'd like to share a message the Chief Medical Officer of the Integrated Care Board gave at a recent meeting: he stressed that the NHS is "changing to better meet the needs of

people in our community," emphasising a shift towards community-based care.

This direction aligns with updates the Saltash Health Action Group has received from Derriford Hospital, where there's a strong push to bring 'Care Closer to Home'. The hospital is actively exploring various options, including offering blood tests in Saltash.

A recent independent review of the health service by Lord Darzi highlighted critical conditions, with growing waiting lists and declining national health. The government has initiated a 'national conversation', inviting ideas for a 10-year Health Plan - you'll be able to share your suggestions via the online platform change.NHS.uk, launching early next year.

But before that, you have a chance to influence healthcare locally. Together with my fellow Trustees of St Barnabas Hospital League of Friends, we are committed to transforming the charity into a healthcare advocate. We aim to leverage



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

community strengths and resources to enhance local care. Please join us at our Annual General Meeting on 18th November at 2:30pm in the Day Care Room at St Barnabas to hear how you can get involved.

With the government declaring that one of the three significant shifts it will deliver in healthcare is 'hospital to community', it is the right time to get stuck into transforming unsettling healthcare experiences into stories of care and support, right here in our community.

## Saltash U3a

Roger Grace, a member of Saltash U3a, gave a most interesting talk at the September meeting. He spoke of being a sailor in the Royal Navy, having been drafted to HMS Norvik for his National Service.

In 1956 the ship sailed to the Monte Bello islands off the north west coast of Australia where the Ship's Company was to witness the explosion caused by the detonation of the atomic bomb. When the day came to go out to witness the bomb detonation the men had no protective clothing, only their shorts and tee shirts to wear. They had to face away from the explosion and close their eyes while covering them with their hands.

When the largest bomb exploded the flash was so bright that he could actually see the bones in his hands. Roger joked that he glowed in the dark. Roger added that although tests were carried out it was reported that the bomb had not affected anyone witnessing the explosion.

A lot of men experiencing cancer died between 50 and 60 years of age and many children of the witnesses were born

deformed. No proof was available for verification.

Roger continues to be part of the charity LABRATS, which helps families affected by the fallout from the bomb. Roger's personal account of this experience gave members much to consider.

### Free Parking in Cornwall Council Car Parks

It will be free to park in all Cornwall Council car parks and to travel on the Truro Park & Ride for three dates in December, including Small Business Saturday. All Council pay and display and pay on exit car parks, as well as the park and ride, will be free on two Saturdays in December - 7 and 14 and on Monday 23.

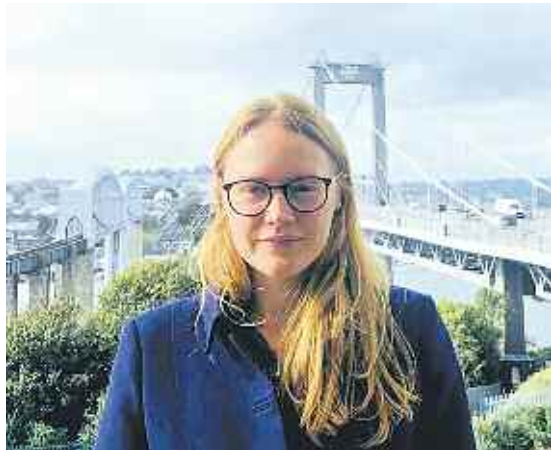
The Council is once again supporting Small Business Saturday, a national initiative now in its 11th year, highlighting small business success and encouraging consumers to 'shop local' and support small businesses in their communities.

Martin Worth, Cornwall Council cabinet portfolio holder for customers, said: "Small Business Saturday is a reminder to us all about the importance of supporting the high street and local businesses.

"And if you're not able to make it to your local high street this Small Business Saturday, this year we're offering two additional free parking dates in the run up to Christmas.

"You might take up the offer of parking for free in one of our car parks, but if you want to leave the car at home, our bus network continues to offer great value with single journeys costing just £2.

If the car park is one of the 'pay on exit' car parks, you should take a ticket from the entrance barrier as usual. When leaving the car park, please insert your ticket into the machine by the exit barrier. If you have only parked on the free parking day, the barrier will open to allow you to exit. If you have stayed for longer than the free parking day, any additional parking fee will need to be paid for before you drive up to the exit barrier.



### Anna Gelderd MP Voices Public Concern

### Over Proposed Tamar Tolls Increase at Public Inquiry

*South East Cornwall MP, Anna Gelderd, Calls for Inquiry to Consider Broader Economic and Social Impact of Tamar Tolls*

Anna Gelderd MP for South East Cornwall has issued a statement at today's public inquiry regarding the proposed increase of the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry tolls. As a vocal advocate for local residents and businesses who rely on these crucial services, Anna has held several meetings with stakeholders since her election, listening to the concerns of South East Cornwall.

The MP recently launched an impartial survey to gather feedback from residents and businesses on the current and proposed toll charges. The survey received close to 900 responses about the impact and financial burden of the tolls and showed a clear and overwhelming sense of dissatisfaction and frustration from locals.

Anna Gelderd MP said: "What I'm hearing from constituents is loud and clear—these toll hikes hurt us. The Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry services are lifelines for many in South East Cornwall and this increase will hit families, workers, and local businesses hard. Local infrastructure must serve all our residents and I urge the inquiry to consider the broader economic and social implications of the tolls on local residents and businesses."

Anna Gelderd MP highlighted the additional strain to budgets caused by the tolls, noting that many residents have no alternative but to use the Tamar crossings. Over 75% of survey respondents estimated that they spend between £100 and £500 a year on the tolls,

creating an unfair barrier for locals needing to access employment, education, or healthcare services. The MP also stressed the importance of maintaining existing services, including the vital Torpoint Ferry service. Gelderd has made clear her position on the proposed increase to the tolls: "I've listened, and I will keep fighting your corner by opposing this toll rise. This is a complicated situation, and we also need to look for a longer-term solution that protects our community from future toll increases and maintains current services. It's time for a fairer approach." Anna Gelderd MP has pledged to remain actively involved in discussions regarding the toll system, pushing for a fair outcome for South East Cornwall residents and businesses.

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# Mayor is ‘Bumped’ as Bounds are Beaten



Photos Rachel Bullock



and were led by Martin Lister who gave informative and sometimes amusing glimpses into the local history of the locations through which they passed while discovering the five old Saltash Borough boundary stones. The town crier John Foster read out a nineteenth century proclamation at the first and last stones and volunteers including mayor, deputy mayor and walk leader Martin Lister were bumped on several of the stones in accordance with tradition.

Botus Fleming church, with its crusader knight's tomb, was opened for the walkers and local parishioners kindly supplied refreshment in the church hall nearby.

Tales of old cherry orchards, copper mines, proposed railway lines, smugglers were among those related by Martin Lister who also remarked how Saltash parish is almost entirely surrounded by water with just half a mile of land boundary around the former Holland Inn separating Clerks Lake and Cocks Lake which mark the northern boundary.

At Notter Bridge Inn there was time for brief refreshment before the buses took the walkers on to St Germans station. The southern boundary of the parish was travelled by train and upon arriving in Saltash the bound-beaters went straight into Isambard House, the former station building for a sumptuous cream tea and cakes. As the walkers relaxed to enjoy this the Mayor on their behalf thanked the ladies who had prepared the tea, Saltash Rotary Club for acting as marshalls on the main road crossings and Martin Lister for his commentary. Several participants were suggesting that this might be an annual occurrence.

The revival of an ancient tradition resulted in a quirky day out walking the Saltash footpaths and lanes for around fifty walkers and a number of their dogs.

The Beating of the Bounds used to be carried out in most parishes during past centuries and around Saltash it continued to be done every seven years well into the nineteenth century. Traditionally parishioners, led by civic leaders and the parish priest, walked around the parish noting the exact boundaries and markers along the way. Young boys would be 'bumped' against the markers to impress upon them their location to be passed on to future generations.

Following a successful and enjoyable 'beating' in 2022 Mayor Julia Peggs and Deputy Mayor Rachel Bullock decided to repeat the event and soon all tickets were sold out. A small crowd assembled at Carkeel on a sunny September morning

## 20th Anniversary for Parkrun

Saltash runner, Mike Wilton has recently been helping the charity 'Parkrun'. He has been volunteering at his closest Parkrun in Central Park, Plymouth since July 2023.

Parkrun, is a free weekly timed 5K (3.1 miles) community event which people can walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate. As all Parkruns were about to celebrate their 20th anniversary. Mike approached the Central Park team and asked if they would mind if he could help them mark the occasion.

On Saturday 5th October 2024, Central Parkrun had Pilgrim Pete, the Plymouth Argyle Mascot there to start the Parkrun. In addition to this, the Plymouth Raiders basketball team were also very supportive.

Their mascot Foxy, along with a team of Cheerleaders taking part in the run. They also supplied another team of Cheerleaders, to support everyone. Dartmoor Sea and Rescue team also were in attendance, with four of their team running with a stretcher.

The day before the celebrations, Mike was interviewed by John Acres on BBC Radio Devon. With the



help of this, 570 people took part, which was a new record for the Parkrun, in Plymouth.

This included 91 first timers at Central Parkrun. Of these 45 were brand new Parkrunners who had never done a Parkrun before.

The complete event was filmed by ITV West Country News.

If you are interested in getting involved in Parkrun, full information is available on the Parkrun website.

Parkrun happens every Saturday at 9am and is totally free. .

## Every Coffee Morning Makes a Difference

Residents, volunteers and Staff at Abbeyfield Saltash held a very enjoyable coffee morning while raising a grand sum of £84.26 for Macmillan. Donations from thousands of Coffee Mornings, big and small, help raise vital funds to support the 3 million people in the UK living with cancer, from the moment they are diagnosed, throughout treatment and beyond.

## And Mother Makes Five!!!

Appearing as special guests at the Saltash Town Band's charity concert recently, the colourful local, regional, national and internationally acclaimed, Saltash based GraceNotes Acapella chorus, under the musical directorship of very experienced and talented Heidi Walsh was a great hit with the appreciative audience.

The women's four part harmony chorus sang a range of popular and harmonious songs such as: In My Life, Shallow, Hallelujah, I See the Light, Beauty and the Beast and Can you Feel the Love - to name but a few.

The reason for the GraceNotes outstanding success is not only the superb guidance, direction and musicality of their director Heidi, but also the uniqueness of also featuring Heidi's 4 talented daughters who all sing principal roles within the choir; making 'Mother Makes 5' a delightful and rare arrangement; arguably never seen in any UK Chorus.

Heidi has been singing barbershop since she relocated from the USA to Saltash some 30 years ago. Before that she was an avid Handbell ringer and sang in a variety of music groups, including a quartet that arranged all their own songs. Once in England Heidi quickly became a member of Brunel Harmony Chorus and was assistant MD for over 26 years. She took over as Musical Director in 2016 and helped to modernise and rebrand the chorus as GraceNotes Acapella. Heidi is currently the Head of Modern Languages at Plymouth High School for

Girls where all her girls have or are still studying. Heidi has been running clubs such as Belleplates and an Acapella group for over 16 years. Heidi has been involved in music in some form her whole life and is passionate about sharing it with others.

It is clear that Heidi is delighted and proud that all 4 of her daughters share the same love of singing and said that she feels it a privilege to be able to share a hobby with them as well as a lot of fun! Moreover, Heidi said that it also brought the family closer together. Additionally, Heidi stressed, of the wonderful activity to share with an absolutely amazing group of women, who she likens to her extended family. The sisters are: Megan, who is currently a secondary school Art Teacher, aged 26 and has been singing with the chorus since 2016.

Heather, aged 23, who is training to be a primary school teacher, joined in 2017 - both she and Megan sing the highest harmony part. Elise aged 18, who is taking a year out before studying to become a Doctor also joined in 2017 with her sister Heather - Elise sings baritone. Lily aged 16, and is currently in year 12 studying A levels was the last to join in 2018. She also sings baritone. Heidi said that the girls always came to see her singing when she was a singer in the original Brunel Harmony Chorus. She added that they have always been very musical, playing instruments, playing bells, singing in school choirs and performing in numerous Page2stage productions over the years. But their love is definitely singing. Indeed, Heidi echoed that when she took over GraceNotes as Musical Director it was only a matter of time before they all joined in.

Megan, Heather, Elise and Lily have all sung in Heidi's Acapella choir at different stages at Plymouth High School for Girls where Heidi still teaches.

GraceNotes Acapella whose main objects are performing, competing, coaching, musicality, socialising, fundraising and education for the local community, is once again attending the National Barbershop Convention in the coming weeks.

Sue Hooper

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## Five Easy Ways to Tackle Poverty in your Community

With 14.4 million of us living in poverty in the UK, there are people facing crushing financial difficulty in every community, including our own. Adults. Pensioners. Children. If, like us at Christians Against Poverty (CAP), you're not okay with this devastating reality we're living in, then here are five ways that you can make a difference.

### Contact your MP

Following the general election, your local MP has now had time to settle into the new term. It's a great time to ask about their priorities and plans for the next few years. Use the following questions to start a conversation about poverty:

What local organisations are you supporting to help tackle poverty in our area?

What specific actions are you planning to take to reduce poverty in our area?

### Support your local CAP centre

CAP is committed to fighting poverty through free, face-to-face debt help and financial education. If you or someone you know is struggling with their finances, contact me direct as your local debt coach – [timsquires@capuk.org](mailto:timsquires@capuk.org)

### Raise your voice on social media

Social media is a quick and easy way to share the things that matter to you and encourage others to pay attention. Not sure what to say? Follow CAP UK on X, Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube and LinkedIn for ready-made content that you can share.

### Donate to a local food bank

We hope that one day we won't have a need for food banks in the UK, but right now it's a vital service that many rely on. If you're fortunate enough to be able to afford everything you need at the supermarket, consider adding a few extra bits to your trolley to donate to your local food bank.

### Check in with your circle

Unfortunately, people often feel ashamed or embarrassed to talk about experiencing poverty. Financial difficulties can hit any of us, for all sorts of reasons, and nobody should have to go through it alone. There may be people in your circle who you don't realise are struggling, so check in with your neighbours, friends, family members and colleagues and, where necessary, point them in the direction of the help they need. There are lots of brilliant, free sources of support available, including CAP. To find out more, visit [capuk.org/help](http://capuk.org/help).

### Sources

14.4 million people in the UK living in poverty: Department for Work and Pensions, Households Below Average Income, 2022/23

## Give us your Home for the Homeless



Photo Mary Crawford

The problem of homelessness is ever increasing nationally and locally, prompting what Saltash Methodist minister Jonathan Budd admits to being an 'audacious' solution to a drastic problem.

'We can and do offer the homeless food, clothing and washing facilities', former county councillor and lay Methodist Derek Holley told the Observer. 'But then we have to tell them that we are closing, and they must leave in order to put up a tent on waste ground or find a doorway to sleep in. What they really need and what we cannot offer at present is a warm home where they can sleep and prepare meals.'

A small group of concerned persons including Jonathan Budd and Baptist minister Tim Parkman after discussion as to how to respond locally to this national problem have launched an appeal for local people to donate their homes to the homeless. 'If we had say two four bedroomed houses or one large seven bedroomed property, we could take homeless people off the streets and help restore their dignity and self-worth while seeking a long-

term solution', those who attended the launch of the campaign at Saltash Wesley church were told. Any donated properties would be looked upon to provide long-term temporary housing. The Saltash based organisation would act as intermediary with a specialist organisation then taking over the administration of the properties.

Homelessness is generally a result of mental health issues, family breakdown or alcohol or drug addiction, this last often following family breakdown, explained Derek Holley. Once a home has been found other issues can be tackled.

'We know this to be a long-term plan but we cannot just continue to push these people on and many of them have local roots', added Derek.

Anyone who would be willing to consider passing on a property to a charitable cause such as this is invited to contact the Wesley church via [office@wesleyweb.co.uk](mailto:office@wesleyweb.co.uk) or speak directly to the Methodist or Baptist ministers. The Observer is pleased to support this plea to help the homeless and would be pleased to hear direct from anybody considering offering such shelter to those in need.

## Sustainable Saltash

*A regular column on changes Saltash residents are making to confront climate and ecological breakdown*

At Saltash Baptist Church, we believe in the importance of caring for the environment, which we see as a precious gift. To reflect this commitment, we are launching an exciting new event in Saltash. This initiative brings together local traders, creators, and organisations focused on sustainability, offering a space to celebrate and promote eco-friendly living. The event will take place on 23rd November, from 10am to 4pm, at Saltash Baptist Church. We invite those who create and sell locally made, sustainable products to join us in sharing their work with the community. This event will also provide a platform for environmental organisations to raise awareness of their important initiatives.

The event is part of our church's broader journey toward earning the Silver Eco Church Award, having already achieved the Bronze Award. We are passionate about continuing to grow our role as stewards of the environment and look forward to hosting a day filled with like-

minded individuals eager to showcase their sustainable creations.

For traders, stalls are available for just £10, payable on the day. Local environmental organisations can book a free space to display their work. Visitors can enjoy refreshments, and if the weather is pleasant, our beautiful garden—featuring stunning views—will be open for all to enjoy. The event is fully accessible, with local parking, train links, and bike parking available for convenience.

Our vision is that this event will grow into a well-known occasion in the Saltash area, drawing together people passionate about sustainability and encouraging a shift toward more environmentally-friendly living. Supporting local makers not only bolsters the local economy but also helps reduce transportation emissions by promoting nearby production and craftsmanship.

In addition to hosting this event, Saltash Baptist Church is committed to taking practical steps toward environmental sustainability. As part of this commitment, we are working toward achieving the A Rocha Eco Church Silver and Gold Awards, which recognise churches that actively engage in caring for creation. This autumn, we are taking a major step by installing solar panels, helping to reduce our reliance on non-renewable energy sources and

lowering our carbon footprint. We are also making improvements to our heating system, ensuring greater energy efficiency and minimising waste.

Through these actions, our church hopes to lead by example, showing how faith-based organisations can contribute meaningfully to sustainability efforts. By reducing our environmental impact, we aim to inspire both our congregation and the wider community to take part in a shared responsibility for caring for our planet.

We look forward to welcoming everyone on 23rd November to a day that celebrates the importance of local, sustainable initiatives. Whether you are a trader, an environmental advocate, or simply curious to learn more, we hope you will join us in supporting this important cause. Together, we can make a positive impact on both the local community and the environment.

**The Creation Care Team,  
Saltash Baptist Church**

*This column is a conversation starter for our whole community. If you have comments on the subject, ideas of your own or suggestions for future content, please do get in touch at [sustainable.saltash@protonmail.com](mailto:sustainable.saltash@protonmail.com)*

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## Tamar Reflections

### Forder Reflections

Saltash has so many wondrous areas and views of breathtaking beauty and boasts numerous historical reflections of times past. Many I have mentioned in Tamar Reflections over the past years.

/In particular, I refer to the beautiful settlement of Forder. I have reflected upon the picturesque area of Forder on several occasions and there are countless more stories to tell.

Forder, situated on the outskirts of Saltash is located in an area of outstanding natural beauty from all corners of its tiny hamlet and takes us into the countryside, hosting Antony Passage, Shillingham, Trehan and Trematon.

#### Forder Lake/Creek

Forder is the pathway to a variety of views of Forder Lake - often referred to as Forder Creek; where beauty spots of the surrounding fields, woodlands and hills can be seen; with HMS Brecon majestically moored in the distance at Jupiter Point. Brecon is still in use for recruits' training purposes from HMS Raleigh; and there are skeletal hulks hauntingly resting within the mud and silt with their own stories to tell; many that I have written about in Tamar Reflections in the past.

#### 'Marigold'

Furthermore, the famous Victorian yacht 'Marigold' which the famous late actor David Niven sailed, was lovingly restored to its former

glory beneath Forder Viaduct over an 11 year period - and completed in the early 90's. I well remember watching from the upper roadway over the years whilst the restoration was being undertaken and completed.

#### Trematon Castle

Approaching Forder from Burraton Coombe, visitors can catch a magical glimpse of Trematon Castle on the distant hill. Neighbouring Trematon Castle is a Motte and Bailey construction dated from soon after the Norman Conquest. I have of-course covered Trematon Castle in previous issues of the Saltash Observer too!

Forder Lake is a tidal inlet off the River Lynher and is an integral part of the village life with its colourful boat moorings and walkways into Church Town Farm Nature Reserve, woodlands and historically named fields leading into ancient St Stephens and Wearde.

#### Forder Community and Conservation Association

Forder Creek, which is abutted by local inhabitants who help care for the village and its surrounding natural environment, under the auspices of the Forder Community and Conservation Association (FCCA), which is a registered charity, and of which I am the proud Patron. Moreover, a small group of Trustees, supported by other villagers, supporters, volunteers and the wider populace, guard the village of Forder and the surrounding areas jealously, and oversees the village preservation, protection and conservation. Indeed, if the little Forder waterways could reveal some of its intriguing past history,



'Atalanta' moored at Forder Creek between 1949-1957

many more books would have been written about this tranquil and enchanting place. **Nurse Edgecombe – 'Atalanta'**

I know that my late friend Elsie Edgecombe, who was often warmly referred to as 'Nurse Edgecombe' - would have been an ideal person to write in more detail about her family's time living on their yacht on the banks of the Forder Creek.

Some years ago, I asked Elsie to write down a short account of her time living in Forder on their yacht 'Atalanta' during 1949 – 1957.

Elsie said that her and her husband Jack (Edgecombe) bought the yacht after hearing about it by Jack's cousin the well-known and respected authority on local history and affairs the (late) Jack Crosley. Jack Edgecombe and his father Reg refurbished the interior, and Elsie and Jack on completion went on board to live when their eldest, Liz was a month old.

Elsie said that the yacht could sleep 10 and had a tiny galley with a very large primus stove with 4 burners on top, which was more than adequate for cooking food.

Water and electric she said came from Jack's workshop on the quay. Elsie and Jack were moored just below the then Forder Chapel (now a residency). The 'Atalanta' was very

roomy and Elsie and Jack held the children's birthday parties on deck. In addition Elsie said that they very much enjoyed crabbing from the aft end of the yacht with many of the village children invited to join in.

Elsie said that with Jack going on *Discovery II* in 1957 as the ship's carpenter, she was unable to cope with the yacht and all the work that was needed to keep it in good order; so as a result they bought a cottage in Forder 'Claremont.'

#### Yacht Damaged

Sadly, the prospective buyer for 'Atalanta' in trying to undertake some restoration work, banged and chipped away at the hull of the yacht whilst Elsie was out all day - and Jack was at work and no one was overseeing the work. Consequently a hole was made in the yacht below the waterline. All the possessions and treasures on board were removed quickly with help of friends and neighbours in the Forder Village as the tide was coming in very fast.

The Saltash Fire Brigade pumped water out and the hole was plugged!

#### 'Claremont'

Sometime later Jack went to sea Elsie said, and her and by then their two children Liz 8 years and Patrick 5 ½ years moved into 'Claremont'. About a month afterwards, Elsie said that she was going for a post as District Nurse – S.R.N. – but she couldn't find her official General Nursing Certificate, so she went back on board 'Atalanta' and found her Victorian writing box in the cupboard. The paperwork she said was very damp, but at least she found it intact, albeit very mildewed!

The 'Atalanta' was by this time in 1957 due to the damage, not fit for purpose and was sold for scrap.

But Elsie was able to reflect upon 8 wonderful years on board the yacht within the Forder Creek. Her and Jack were eventually able to purchase a 14 foot motor boat to cruise up and down the river, which she said was wonderful!

#### Later years

I occasionally visited Elsie when she moved to lower Burraton some years later. Elsie was hard working and a stalwart of Saltash and a much respected District Nurse and community volunteer within local worthy organisations. I also remember Jack well, who loved to paint local scenes of interest. I sometimes bump into Liz as we share similar interests in bygone items and artefacts. Patrick I have only met on rare occasions.

## More Drama for Forder as Lorry is Firmly Stuck

A drama unfolded at Forder Village on the outskirts of Saltash when a delivery lorry got firmly stuck in a narrow lane at the bottom of Castle Hill, writes Sue Hooper.

The large Boon transport HGV vehicle was wedged between an old and important period house and a hedge in the lane on Monday morning September 30th and was not moved until Wednesday October 2nd.

Seemingly, the vehicle was transporting 40 tons of seeds to a local farm when it took the wrong road to its destination and met its demise in the ancient Forder village.

Thanks to recovery personnel, the cargo was eventually removed from the vehicle and the lorry cab was also removed before the operation to recover the trailer could proceed.

Roads were diverted and around 30 homes in the village had their power switched off while the clearance took place, with the lorry finally being freed more than 48 hours after being trapped.

The Devon and Cornwall Fire Service and Police made valiant endeavours to ease the situation, but the sheer size and weight of the trapped

## Thanks to Local Haulage Firm

Saltash Town Council would like to thank Radland Haulage who have kindly offered to install the town's Christmas tree in Victoria Gardens and remove the tree in January, all free of charge.

The installation will take place in Victoria Gardens on Thursday 7 November 2024 with removal scheduled for Monday 6 January 2025.



Grateful appreciation and reflections of times and folks past and present who helped and still help shape our lovely town and exceptional natural environs. Thank you one and all! Sue Hooper MBE Former Mayor of Saltash and Freeman of the Town Tele 01752 843073 Email: suehcf@msn.com



Photograph courtesy Viv Courtney-Crabb

lorry made their attempts impossible.

Eventually, it was the same salvage Company from Truro - Macsalvors Plant Hire –that had rescued a trapped lorry in 2007 that once again saved the day by lifting the trailer over the abutting garage and gardens and with great precision placing the trailer onto the road.

The 80-tonne crane lifted the trailer part out of the lane after a nail biting air borne operation.

Local resident Viv Courtney-Crabb said that the driver stayed with his vehicle for the whole of the time and slept in his cab.

Viv continued that the caring villagers provided him with food and drinks and did all they could to help him during his dramatic ordeal.

This tight fit drama was televised and reported in local and national media and once again brought excitement to the otherwise sleepy village of Forder.

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## Just Thinking Aloud

I'm told by a regular reader that I haven't had one of my rants for a while, so let's put that right straightaway. On the bus on Fore St the other day I looked out to see someone who was pressing his left forefinger firmly to the side of his left nostril whilst leaning forward. Having reached said position, he violently expelled the contents of his right nostril directly on to the pavement before carrying on his merry way. Disgusting! He is not a rare being, though. Have you noticed sportsfolk spitting freely mid-match? Urgh!

Anyway, I am going to spare you my current reflections on politics local, regional, national, international and mondial. I don't know about you, but I feel that it is all becoming just a tad hysterical,

so for the time being I am concentrating on silent prayer and the occasional quiet expletive, hoping that my God will forgive me the latter. But being the sinner that I am, I cannot promise carrying on being "holier than thou" next month. Succumbing to temptation is too attractive, and snarky comments about those who do not share my leanings do attract the inner Bob.

Do you remember school exams? I seem to recall such events as much less demanding than the stuff our twenty first century young people have to suffer. Apart from weekly Friday afternoon mental arithmetic tests with Mrs Seaton in the 1951 top juniors, for which the winner (usually me) was awarded two ounces of dolly mixtures, I only had to suffer the 11+ once, four or five subjects at "O" Level and three at "A" Level. Certainly none of these depressing Sats, obscene numbers of GCSEs and pressure cooker "A" Levels which so alarm and upset so many Saltash families.

Arriving in Saltash in 1975, we soon met lots of folk, and some of them even became

quite friendly in time. I think I first came across Barbara Spring, her husband George and their children through my work at Saltash Comp, universally known as "Wearde School" in those days. Barbara was an unreconstructed old-fashioned Liberal, forever trying to make Saltash a better place for us all to enjoy – and she worked hard at it – I think as a town councillor for a good while, including a year in 1992 as Town Mayor. I know for certain that she was desperately keen for us to have a proper bookshop, hopefully on Fore St. Wherever she now might be, I hope she knows that her wish became reality. Tracey opened our Bookshelf in 2018, and when lots of shops keep changing hands, Tracey and her gang are still at it in 2024, offering books, puzzles, cards, small gifts, plus eats and drinks. I am especially impressed by their books for early readers up to early teens, and by the number and variety of my friends whom I meet there. No, this is not me being bribed – Tracey advertises elsewhere in your Observer.

Bob Munro

## Public Show Hailed Outstanding Success

Saltash Model Club, which is deservedly gaining increased popularity and interest, recently hosted their annual public show at Ashtorre Rock, Saltash, and was hailed once again to be an outstanding success. The stunning show was opened by Saltash Mayor, Councillor Julia Peggs, accompanied by her husband consort Geoff Peggs.

There were, as always, intriguing entries by members into their annual competition, and the train was the winner of the 'Neglect and Decay' competition which was won by Alex Warren.

The overall competition winner this year for gaining the most points over the Club's season was Ben Crouchen (Pictured) his trophy was presented by the Club's chairman David Parsons. The exhibition showcased dozens of outstanding displays which included military and civilian vehicles, sci-fi, RC aircraft and vehicles and a fascinating model railway display.

The show took place on Saturday and Sunday October 5th and 6th and attracted hordes of enthusiastic people with a special interest in the quality and skills of model making.

Refreshments were served by the Saltash Rotary Club and Ashtorre Rock on both days of the exhibition. All of the £250 proceeds from entries were donated to the town's stone Memorial Benches to be installed at St Nicholas and St Faith WW1 and WW2 Memorials' site. The benches will honour the 77 fallen soldiers of both wars, whose names are not inscribed on Saltash War Memorials. Saltash Model Club was established over 8 years ago to allow modellers of all disciplines and skills to meet on the last Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm at Ashtorre Rock. Further, there are workshops on the remaining Wednesdays of the month from 6pm. There is an open forum to discuss kits, and ongoing projects, tips and advice. Please refer to the Saltash Model Club website and Face book pages for further information.



Pictured: Saltash Model Club overall winner Ben Crouchen A £250 cheque was presented to Cllr Jean Dent towards Memorial Benches

## Important Healthcare Changes on the Way?

In the next three months important things will be happening which should deliver new options for patients wanting local care services.

The Healthcare Action Group has been told that extra GP/primary care appointments may soon be made available to supplement the 2 Surgeries; that more blood testing will be available here in the town; that better coordination of hospital discharges and follow-up services is taking place; and that even a mobile X-Ray service aimed at people who have had falls at home is being considered.

The Action Group is also awaiting new detailed proposals for "care closer to home" from Derriford Hospital, which we hope will include not only the blood testing, but more local clinics providing face-to-face appointments and follow-up in the most used specialties. Finding suitable space will be a key issue, and obviously St Barnabas Hospital is being explored.

Turning now to charitable work to supplement NHS care in the community, it has been decided that the long-established League of Friends of St Barnabas Hospital will reveal at its Annual General Meeting next month proposals for the charity to widen its scope and change its name accordingly. A very well-attended consultative event took place at the end of last month, with enthusiastic support and valuable suggestions for this new way forward. About 20 new supporters signed up. New Trustees have also been appointed, and the charity will

of course work in collaboration with the Action Group. These changes will ultimately need the approval of the Charity Commission, but the endeavour for healthcare needs to be met more flexibly in the town itself now has great momentum.

The renamed charity will need supporters from the community to help run its activities including public events and fund-raising, and it will need donors who can provide it with gifts in cash, wills, and property.

The Trustees are inviting new supporters and donors to come forward now. Interested members of the public are welcome at the AGM on Monday, November 18 at 2.30pm at St Barnabas Hospital when fuller details will be presented for approval.

If that date is difficult, email [patient.voice@icloud.com](mailto:patient.voice@icloud.com) or phone 07813 890416 with your views and offers.

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