

Inside this issue Full Programmes for The May Fair Weekend & The Royal Albert Bridge 150th Anniversary Celebrations

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

April 2009 - Issue 200

Incessant trumpet of trade; armoury of fearless truth without fear or favour ...



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DOUBLE CELEBRATIONS WILL MAKE A WEEKEND TO REMEMBER

When the annual Merriment of May Fair combines with the very special one-off celebrations to mark the 150th anniversary of Saltash's world renowned landmark, the Royal Albert Bridge, a weekend to remember is guaranteed.

Saltash May Fair is a well-loved tradition dating back to the Queen's Silver Jubilee year, 1977, after which it was decided that the community spirit that this engendered should not be

allowed to be lost. This community coming together to celebrate the beginning of the Saltash summer was last year acclaimed by many as the best for years if not forever. And the good news is that for 2009 the May Fair committee has built upon this bringing back most of last year's popular events and attractions throughout the town and adding even more.

And just as the fun of May Fair dies down on Saturday afternoon the scene will shift to the historic Waterside where the

bridge will celebrate its birthday with a party to which one and all are invited and with the exciting array of evening events ending in fireworks.

Then on the Sunday the traditional May Fair programme will continue as ever in the morning while back on the Waterside the fun will be building up with a Victorian fun day including a grand steam fair and, we are assured, a visit from Queen Victoria herself.

The fun will continue into May Bank Holiday Monday, Mar 4th, with a re-enactment of the opening of the Royal Albert Bridge by the Prince Consort, Prince Albert together with live music, dancing, and suitable refreshment.

Open up your Saltash Observer to discover more of the delights and events in store over the Bank Holiday weekend from the 2nd to the 4th May. Saltash will surely be the place to be and a copy of our packed programme produced in your Observer will be essential reading in order to ensure that none of the fun and festivities over this very special "once in a lifetime" weekend are to be missed.

LAST CALL FOR "SAVE A STROKE"

A final reminder – on Saturday 18th April you could save a life – your own.

"Save A Stroke Day" offers a unique annual opportunity for Saltash residents to spend a relaxing few minutes sitting back while a professional team tests your blood pressure in the comfortable surroundings of The Hearing Room or Boots Chemists in downtown Fore Street.

Life's pressures mean that the threat of a debilitating or even life-threatening stroke is an increasing risk. But modern medical advances mean that the risk can be minimised with advanced warning. Over the last two years while most of those who called by sent away reassured, some were given positive advice as to how changing their lifestyle could save the risk of a stroke while a few were advised as to visiting their doctor as a matter of urgency.



"Civic dignitaries at the Saltash Mayor's Charity Ball including the Mayor of Torpoint, Deputy Lord Mayor of Plymouth, Mayor of Saltash, Mayor & Portreeve of Callington, and Chair of Caradon and their consorts."

Pictured above: The Mayoral Guests in the picture are from L to R: Tina Crago (Mayoress of Torpoint), Cllr John Crago (Mayor of Torpoint), Janet ... (sister of Deputy Lord Mayor of Plymouth), Cllr Mary Aspinall (Deputy Lord Mayor of Plymouth), Margaret Holley (Mayoress of Saltash), Cllr Derek Holley (Mayor of Saltash), Cllr Rick Lumley (Mayor & Portreeve of Callington), Cllr Paul Adams (Chair of Caradon), Sue Lumley (Mayoress & Portreeve of Callington), Kim Adams (Wife of Chair of Caradon)

Photo by kind permission of Bernard E Melling

Saltash Rotary have been delighted at the growing take-up of the free blood pressure testing over the last two years and this has attracted regional media interest. This year an increased number of professional testers at the two venues between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. will ensure that even with the ever-growing numbers expected none of them should have to wait more than a few minutes. These could be the best spent few minutes of your life.



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ASSET RICH, BUT CASH POOR?

Equity Release could unlock some cash for you.

Equity Release is now fully accepted as a safe and proven method of releasing some of the money tied up in people's property. It continues to grow apace with ever more products entering the market and is fully regulated by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) to ensure safeguards are maintained. The main reason is that most people are asset rich, but cash poor. In other words, people are rattling around in a property which is worth a considerable amount, yet they are struggling with their income, especially now with the low level of interest rates. In my experience, most clients are misinformed about such schemes and do not actually know how they work. They are often scared off by 'bad news' stories. These schemes now have a strict code of conduct and most subscribe to 'SHIP' which stands for Safe Home Income Plans. SHIP offer a raft of guarantees which gives the client the peace of mind they need. In the past Equity Release was most commonly used to maintain or improve people's lifestyles in their retirement, with home improvements, new cars and holidays generally topping their wish list. People felt, justifiably, that having worked hard all their lives to pay off their mortgage it was now time to get a return on their investment. Equity Release has evolved so dramatically over the last few years that it is now possible to take enough money out to satisfy all your immediate needs, at an age that you are still young enough to enjoy it, and leave enough in reserve for your future requirements and which you can drawdown on as you wish. This method is called, for obvious reasons, 'drawdown', and now accounts for over 50% of the Equity Release market. More recently, parents have been using Equity Release to help their children with a deposit to get on the housing ladder, and couples divorcing are reducing some of the inevitable stress by raising the financial settlement from their house, thus enabling at least one of them to stay in the family home. Generally speaking, you need to be at least 55 years old

to apply. Equity Release is now more flexible than ever before and interest rates, fixed for life, are averaging around 6.5%. In some cases you can repay all, or part, of the loan with no penalties, which means they can even be used instead of personal loans. Equity Release can also be instrumental with Inheritance Tax Planning. Some clients decide to pass some of their estate onto their children now rather than wait until they pass away so that they may benefit now when they could really do with some help when they are still relatively young.

Last, but not least, Equity Release can be used to purchase a care fees package, either for help in your own home, or to pay the fees of a residential care home. These are just a few of the many uses of Equity Release, the list is pretty endless. If you feel that you would like to know more about how these schemes could work for you, and to see if you could benefit, please let me know I will give you a free, no obligation, meeting at which all the options available to you can be explained clearly and in plain English. Basically, you will have all the information you need to make an informed choice.

SALTASH TO HOST 2009 GORSETH

Saltash has the honour of providing the venue for the annual Gorseth, the gathering of Cornish Bards, which will take place on September 5th.

However, the traditional Proclamation of the Gorseth will also be held in Saltash on Saturday morning April 18th, with a procession of Bards starting from Saltash Guildhall at 10.30 to Victoria Gardens, where the actual Proclamation ceremony will be made.

Saltash will also provide the new Lady of Cornwall, Alice Holloway-Neville, and her attendants, who will take part in the ceremony.

ON THE BOARDWALK

The Waterside area of Saltash could be enhanced by a boardwalk on which residents and visitors could promenade while overlooking the activity on the river.

The Saltash Waterside Residents Association as well as the Gateway Community Interest Company are currently considering an idea for such a boardwalk which could start at the granite steps adjacent to Saltash pier. Consultation will take place with local residents before such a plan is advanced.

As yet there is no funding in place for such a scheme.

PASSENGER NUMBERS CONTINUE STRONG RISE

Rail passengers using Saltash Station continue to rise at well above the regional average. The latest figures to the end of December showing a dramatic 50% increase from the previous year. Projected total journeys for 2008/09 now stand at around 50,000.

These figures are based on ticket sales rather than actual footfall and are generally used by rail companies. Richard Bickford from the Saltash Rail Users' Group said that 'these figures are fantastic and most encouraging, but probably hide those that still find themselves unable to pay for a ticket because they commute to one of the local Plymouth stations, and because there are a few people who still buy tickets to or from Plymouth which means we lose

their passenger count.' The Rail User Group would like to encourage all to make sure that where they can they book to or from Saltash, normally for long distance journeys it will make no difference to the overall cost.

For those that still go into Plymouth when catching a train to London then why not give it a try from your town? Three direct trains to and four direct return trains from London Paddington every day. These High Speed Train services are the ones that will always be most under threat and the only way to keep them is if usage continues to grow.

Mr Bickford also commented that 'We are not just looking for more regular long distance travellers, although they are vital to secure our long distance services, but just as important are daily commuters to Plymouth. Daily commuters will find that if the times fit then there is no cheaper, quicker or more comfortable way to commute, you may even find yourself as I generally do doing a two way commute to Plymouth by High Speed Train for less than £1.50 per day!'

To encourage more Saltash to Plymouth commuters to give the train a go, the Rail Users' Group are offering a limited number of subsidised weekly tickets for just £7. You will get unlimited travel between Saltash and Plymouth for Seven days with easy options to continue if you desire. To give the train a go then call Richard Bickford on 01752 841119 or email secretary@srug.org.uk

LOCAL MONEY IS WORTH MORE



Several studies recently have demonstrated that money spent in local shops and businesses has between five and twenty-five times the benefit for the local community compared with spending money in businesses that have their headquarters outside the immediate area.

As part of the plan to bring new life to the town centre and promote activity in the whole PL12 area the Saltash Gateway Community Interest Company (CIC) is launching a Saltash - PL12 Card covering the town and surrounding areas. Similar schemes are already running in the West of Cornwall but this is the first one in South-East Cornwall.

The SALTASHCARD entitles the holder to discounts or special offers in a wide range of shops and services in the area - everything from a florist to a bookshop, hairdressers to gift shops. We expect to expand the number of businesses taking part over the weeks before launch, also hoping to include businesses other than retail outlets and would encourage all to be innovative in their approach to encouraging us to spend more money in the local economy.

Cards will be available on Sat 25th April in Fore Street and then at the May Fair and from the Guildhall and some participating outlets following the launch - look for the logo. There is a small fee of £2 for the card to cover administration and continued promotion which should be quickly recovered as you use the card. Many shops are offering a 10% discount, so spend just £20 and the card has paid for itself. Anyone can buy a card - ideal to give to visitors to encourage them to explore the delights of the area. Cardholders will receive a

monthly email update with details of special offers and news from the traders supporting the scheme. By participating as a trader or customer you will be helping both yourself and your local community.

The scheme is being supported by both Saltash Town Council and the Saltash Chamber of Commerce. If your business would like to join the scheme then please contact town councillor, Richard Bickford on 01752 841119.

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CORNWALL COUNCIL UPDATE

News from your County Councillors
Joyce Mepsted and Bryan Preston

Our New Council
Cornwall County Council and Caradon District Council no longer exist but all these services, services that affect our daily lives, are now under the responsibility of our new Cornwall Council (the unitary council that combines the work of the two previous councils).

There were four local launches around the county and the one in Saltash was held in our new One Stop Shop in the Library and was officially opened by our Chief Executive Officer, Kevin Lavery, who was made welcome by Bryan and Joyce. There were many representatives from the authority - the Fire Brigade, Children's Centre, school, Leisure Centre, Registrar's Office and, of course, the Library as well as our partner organisations present such as the police, health and CAB. It is interesting to note that Cornwall County Council has been in existence for exactly 120 years having been started on 1 April 1889 and the new Council taking over on 1 April 2009.

As part of the "localism agenda" to bring the Cornwall Council closer to the local community One Stop Shops have been created within local Community Network Areas. Our Community Network Area includes Saltash, Torpoint, the Rame peninsula and St Germans. Our One Stop Shop is in the Saltash Library where you can pop in with any questions or queries about council services and you will be helped by our friendly, helpful staff. We are also delighted to announce that the library will now be open all day on Wednesdays. Please come in and meet us! Our staff will always be pleased to advise. And, don't forget, we will continue to hold our surgeries on the first and third Saturdays as usual. See you there!

Congratulations

Hayley Rayner, a student at saltash.net community school, was elected last month as a Member of the Youth Parliament (MYP) for South East Cornwall. The results were announced at an event for young people at County Hall Truro, with excellent speeches from all the candidates outlining the issues

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of importance to young people in the county. Many congratulations Hayley!

Calling our Parents

Our school, saltash.net, has two vacancies for parent governors. If any of you are interested in applying to be a governor you will find it a very rewarding role to get involved in. You will be supporting our school, students and staff who all work so very hard to give our young people the best possible chance to a good education and prepare them for a worthwhile future. Please get in touch with the Chair of Governors for an informal chat and find out more - Kate Waghorn 845058.

Free Swimming!

More of us are becoming more health conscious and are really trying to make a difference to improve our healthy lifestyle. If you are over sixty why not pop along to our Leisure Centre and enquire about free swimming sessions for the over sixties? It is a wonderful opportunity to improve your level of fitness and is suitable for all abilities. Regular exercise at your own pace will soon tone you up and improve your sense of wellbeing! Good luck!

Children's Bus Fares

Cornwall Council is looking to set up a pilot scheme to extend the "children's fare" to all students up to 19 years of age with a view to assessing the possibility to roll it out across the county and eventually, when the budget allows, to introduce free bus travel for all pupils attending education.

Community Grants

Earlier in the year we announced the introduction of the Cornwall County Council Member Community Grant Scheme. We are pleased to announce that our joint grant of £6,000 has now been distributed to eleven worthwhile projects with local community groups. Those who were successful were St Stephens Church Hall £1,000, Saltash Festival Lights £313.13, Bishop Cornish Education Centre £ 375, Brunel 150 Celebrations £900, Second Saltash Scouts £1,000, St Stephen's Borough AFC £104.50, Forder Community Christmas Lights £210, Churchtown Farm £750, Saltash Art Trail £388.63, SRUG, Saltash Rail Users Group £513 and ASK (Action for Special Kids) £445.40. We were delighted to help so many of our local organisations who are supporting activities in our community.

We welcome your questions and comments. Please contact us
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MURAL UNVEILING AND CORNISH TEA CELEBRATE ASHTORRE'S COMING OF AGE



Pictured The Mayor and Mayoress Derek and Margaret Holley along with Lynn Marsh and Artist David Whitley

It was 18 years ago this St. Pirran's Day that Cornish folksinger Brenda Wootton formally opened the Ashtorre Centre at the heart of the town's Waterside.

Built around the Ashtorre rock that formed the foundation for the town, the centre has since then continued to serve its purpose or bringing the Waterside community together as well as hosting a wide variety of events for the town. It continues to be a popular drop-in centre where one and all can enjoy refreshments in pleasant riverside surroundings indoors or on the sun terrace above the old ferry landing stage when fine. To celebrate the coming of age a party was held with the Mayor and Mayoress Councillor Derek and Mrs. Margaret Holley invited to join in eating fine Cornish

pasties and saffron cake.

The Waterside was traditionally associated with its host of shop windows lining Tamar Street, then known as Picklecock Alley all arrayed with fresh locally caught shellfish. Though they have long gone they now live again through a vivid reproduction of one such shellfish shop window portrayed as a mural outside the entrance to the Ashtorre Centre. The Mayor, as part of the 18th birthday celebrations, unveiled the mural painted by David Whitley, the local artist responsible for the much admired mural that covers one wall of the nearby Union Inn.

The Ashtorre Centre continues to celebrate its own anniversary by being at the heart of a variety of events organised for this year's 150th anniversary of the Royal Albert Bridge which towers above it.

WATCH THOSE ROAD CLOSURES!

With so much going on over the Bank Holiday weekend large areas in and around Fore Street as well as in and around the Waterside will be closed to traffic for some or all of the weekend.

Those in particular who live in the areas likely to be affected, or have important reasons to visit those living there, are warned that they should take especial notice of the road closure planned. An updated schedule of closures is published in this month's Observer on pages 5 and 11.

FROM THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR...

Taking coals to Newcastle ! That's what it is when you ask people in Saltash to help raise money! There are so many groups and charities helping others already! Anyway here goes. My charity fund-raising this year is for the Saltash District Scouts and Guides and if anyone in these last few weeks of my Mayoral year can help raise some funds or donate some money to this cause I would be very grateful. If you can, then please tell the Guildhall on 844846.

A thank you straight away to all those who supported the Mayor's Annual Charity Ball, firstly for coming and secondly for raising a good amount for the Charity on the draw. My apologies again to those who wanted tickets but were unable to come because of the 150 limit. However a draw like this would not have happened but for the kindness of personal and many business sponsors like Air South West, Plymouth Flying School, Waitrose, Lidl, Able Printers, Deltor Printers, Fred Rogers of Sanfords, Dream Doors, Isambard Kitchens, the Bookshelf, Kellys, China Fleet, Florabella, Glow, Paul Quick Insurance, Hennings, Newells Travel, Pengellys and K2 Youth Club. Thank you all. Please support these good local companies and groups.

And now to gardening: one of our disappointments this year is not getting enough allotments for local people. Can you supply a plot of land, perhaps part of your garden which you cannot manage? Through the Council we can put you in touch with keen gardeners and supply you with a simple legal agreement form for the two of you, including for example, a hand-back clause with a time built in. We have some plots already underway but need far more. This could be the ideal way to maintain some of your garden! There is nothing quite like sitting in a chair watching someone else garden on a hot day! Please ring the Guildhall on 844846.

However linked to that concern for the major parks is our concern to stop the infilling of the smaller green spaces in Saltash. I do not mean the tiddly pieces but the significant smaller areas which make the environment better, provide close-to-home play areas for youngsters and improve the scenic backdrop for many streets. The counter, valid argument is that we need to build more homes, particularly

Still on green spaces it looks increasingly likely that we will be calling on you, readers, to help us preserve the main parks and green spaces around the Town. At the Town Council we are very concerned that these essential areas are under threat. The problem is that by the time you read this column the ownership of these parks will have devolved to the new One Cornwall Council; previously the parks were in the control of the late Caradon District Council, over which we in Saltash had much more influence. The worst scenario is that those elected to serve Saltash on the new One Cornwall Council may have to debate and convince other councillors from for example, St Ives or Camborne, not to sell off and build on Saltash's green spaces! So it looks as if we will have to apply for Village Green status for all of the main areas before this happens. This means collecting evidence from many townspeople that they have used the areas freely for at least twenty years. A by-the-way: do you know that if you regularly walk or use open spaces then you statistically reduce the risk of various illnesses and diseases and probably prolong your life...I don't mean enthusiastic jogging or power-walking, I just mean visiting and strolling...amazing, but I hope it makes the point about our valuable green spaces. I know all this is right because I read it in New Scientist, a terrific magazine I take each week!

However linked to that concern for the major parks is our concern to stop the infilling of the smaller green spaces in Saltash. I do not mean the tiddly pieces but the significant smaller areas which make the environment better, provide close-to-home play areas for youngsters and improve the scenic backdrop for many streets. The counter, valid argument is that we need to build more homes, particularly

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BEATING THE BOUNDS IN SALTASH

Saltash Town Council is reviving the ancient tradition of "Beating the Bounds", that last occurred in 1979 for the Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations. Perhaps it is appropriate that as Saltash becomes a One Cornwall unitary Community Network Area this year, albeit with Torpoint, that the ceremony and walk will be revived - on Saturday May 23rd. Walkers will start from Carkeel at about 10.30, and beat the bounds of Saltash at Moditonham Quay, at Botus Fleming, near the Holland Inn at Hatt, and finish at Notter Bridge. The current Mayor, and maybe some who remember the 1974 walk, may be "bumped" on boundary stones along the way.

Since much of the Saltash boundary is water, walkers will be travel from Notter to St Germans by bus, and the day

will be completed by a charter cruise along the Lynher and up the Tamar, finishing about 6.30pm.

The cost of the day will be £12 to £15, depending on the number of people wishing to join in the tradition. Walkers will need stout footwear and a packed lunch, and the walk of just under 5 miles is rated as Moderate. The bus will also be available to ferry walkers from Alexandra Square to Carkeel, and possibly from Hatt to Notter for those who may want a shorter walk.

Cllr Joe Ellison says: "We are really excited at the opportunity to revive the tradition of the Beating of the Bounds, and it should be a truly great day out, culminating in a pleasant early evening cruise along the beautiful Lynher and Tamar valleys".

Numbers will be restricted to 120 (for the cruise boat), and the connecting bus will make as many journeys as need be. To register for Beating the Bounds, walkers should contact the Town Clerk at the Guildhall, Lower Fore St, Saltash - tel 01752 844846 or email townclerk@saltash.gov.uk

affordable homes. On balance though I think that there has to be a line drawn somewhere or a policy made, that enough is enough and we cannot lose any more. What do you think? Have a nice spring!
 Derek Holley Saltash Town Mayor

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SALTASH MAY FAIR



Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd May

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ALL THE FUN OF MAY FAIR PROMISED TO BE THE BEST EVER

A weekend to remember – that is the promise for May Bank Holiday weekend when Saltash will be given over once more to revelry and celebration from the Waterside, up through the town to Longstone Park. Something for everybody is the promise and a real fun-filled family day is guaranteed. With so much going on the message is to come early and stay late so as not to miss out on any of the fun.

Saltash May Fair had its beginnings in 1977 when the Queen's Silver Jubilee was fervently celebrated in the town. The whole town came together with such an overwhelming community spirit that it was universally agreed to make such celebrations an annual event.

So the idea of May Fair was born in 1978 and has been an eagerly awaited part of the Saltash social calendar ever since. Some of the best loved events are very much a traditional part of the weekend, many of them dating back to those early days. Other events have been added over the years as new members of the hardworking committee have brought new ideas to bear.

Last year's May Fair was acclaimed as being one of the most enjoyable and successful ever with a wide range of entertainments and activities spread throughout the town. A hard act to follow, it would seem, but a glance at this year's exciting programme indicates that May Fair 2009

shows every sign as being as good if not better than last year's.

So, with particular attention being given to family entertainment on Saturday in a specially prepared picnic area at Victoria Gardens between the events in Fore Street and Longstone Park, there is all the more reason to buy the ingredients for picnic from Fore Street's shops or stalls and stay around for the day.

And while visiting the array of stalls lining Fore Street do not forget the wealth of largely family owned speciality shops behind them. Many of our shops make a particular effort for May Fair, some specially decorating their windows for the event. Saltash is especially fortunate to have such an excellent variety of independent shops but they do depend on support from Saltash shoppers if we are to retain the spirit of a lively and thriving town centre. Those who may usually do their main shopping elsewhere why not take the opportunity of May Fair to stroll behind the stalls



and see what shops the town has to offer.

The action-packed programme promises what may well be acclaimed as the best May Fair ever, with the committee busy building on last year's success. Unfortunately several of the committee members will be

unable to serve next year due to other commitments or to moving away from the area. If you enjoy May Fair and would like to help ensure its continuing success as a community event, why not consider joining the committee? Since they are able to build on so many years of experience the members promise that the work

is not over onerous and it can be great fun. If you would like to consider this just speak to one of those who are wearing this year's committee badge. Meanwhile the Saltash Observer's message is, support May Fair, come along to share in all the wealth of entertainment – and have fun!

SUGGEST A CITIZEN FOR AN AWARD

Each year Saltash is proud to acknowledge the achievements of two of its citizens, one aged 21 or under.

The "Citizen of the Year" tradition began at a Saltash Rotary dinner in January 1980. On that day Dick Read presented to the Mayor, John Bryant, a solid silver cup to be called "The Rotary Citizen Of The Year Cup".

Mr. Read said that he and his family had never been in a happier community than Saltash and he wished to give the town a lasting token of his thanks for ten most enjoyable years. He asked if the trophy could be presented during the May Day celebrations and so it has been ever since that year.

Many of our most renowned citizens, and some of those who have previously been little known despite the substantial work they have done for the town, have been proud to accept the award. The only stipulation is that the award cannot be given to a current Councillor. Consideration, when choosing the recipient, is given to a period of service to the town, not simply an act carried out the previous year.

Last year's winner was Mrs. Joanne Baskott who has, over the year since receiving her award, continued to be especially active in helping organise this year's May Fair as well as the town's art trail. In particular she is currently busy organising, as a feature of the art trail, a "dock dung" seat for

Fore Street ornamented with china and other fragments and on the beaches and fields around the town where "dock dung" from Plymouth and Devonport was spread about. We will be reporting further upon this in a future "Observer".

Following the enthusiasm for the awarding of the "Citizen Of The Year" cup it was decided to make a separate presentation to a "Young Citizen Of The Year". Anyone can put forward a nomination for a young person aged 21 or under who has been especially active in the town.

A third award traditionally made on the Saturday morning of the May Fair is the "Peter Stephens Best Performance Cup". During his year of office the current Mayor will always have attended a wide variety of entertainments put on by our talented townsfolk and the awarding of the "Peter Stephens Cup" is the opportunity for him to select one particular performance that stands out during his year of office.

Anyone wishing to put forward a nomination for "Citizen Of The Year" or "Young Citizen Of The Year" is invited to contact the Mayor through the Town Clerk in Saltash Guildhall on 01752 844846.

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Picture above Andrew Carmichael with wife Marlise (right) Daughter Jody and Son James, at the Hearing Room head office in Saltash

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FAMILY FUN FOR OLD AND YOUNG ON MAY FAIR SATURDAY

All the old favourites, many of last year's special events repeated by popular request, and in addition some exciting new attractions, all are promised for an action-packed Saturday in Saltash.

It is well worth coming early to share in the vibrant atmosphere of expectation as our bright-eyed young people gather to join the Parade of Youth. This year they will follow on behind an imposing civic procession to the music of the Laura Youth Band as they all proceed down Fore Street to begin the day's fun and festivities.

Fore Street, closed to traffic for the day, is usually already filling with early bargain hunters visiting the array of colourful stalls, many of which are manned by members of local organisations some raising funds for good causes. There is always a wide variety of entertainment and of good things to buy ranging from books and bric-a-brac to home-made produce, perhaps to be enjoyed during a picnic in Victoria Gardens.

There is also always an excellent variety of street entertainment and live

music. This year's May Fair committee has been fortunate to obtain an exceptionally fine range of first class musical entertainment.

Playing a variety of popular covers Dr. Soul and the Plastic Sturgeons will be knocking out some "sweet soul music" to get everyone



Mayfair 08

"barefootin". This ten piece soul band has an exceedingly talented brass section, dancing backing singers, Hammond organ

and the self-proclaimed "coolest front man on the planet!"

By way of contrast two sets of high quality jazz are promised from "Harry And His Quartet" performing live in Fore Street. "Awesome", "Maestro" and "Tasty Tenor" are just some of the words used to describe saxophonist Harry Fulcher who will be leading the band.

Especially welcome back to Saltash will be Wreckers Morris, the lively mixed order morris side whose varied and ever evolving assortment of dances ranges from traditional to new. This friendly bunch, based at St.

Dominic, will no doubt be looking for some audience participation.

The younger element will no doubt gravitate to Longstone Park where once again members of Livewire, the Waterside based youth music project for those aged 13 to 20, will be performing a "Rock In The Park" from midday onwards. Some of the acts performing this year will be The Quantize, Courting Summer, Funky Crime and New Theory. We are also promised acoustic sets by Dan Irving and Libby Patterson. Some extra surprises and special guests are promised so all fans of live modern music can lay back and enjoy the special festival atmosphere.

This year, for the first time in Saltash, we have a promise of something exciting and new direct from Cornwall's own Eden Project - den building! Having proved an exceptionally popular attraction at Eden last summer this will give children and adults of all ages the opportunity to join in the fun with ropes, tarpaulins, sheets, blankets, bits of rubber, bamboo and nets in order to build a wide variety of unique dens in Longstone Park. One of the first official engagements of our newly crowned May Fair Princess, together with her attendants, will be judging the best name for the den building due to take place at around 3 that afternoon.

Meanwhile between the lively stalls in Fore Street there will be a wide variety of entertainment including jugglers, trick cyclists, and hair braiding.

With so much going on it might well be good to take a

break and relax. The ideal place to do so is Victoria Gardens especially around midday when one and all can enjoy the fun of a family picnic a hog roast vying with refreshment available from the Morris Huggins tea rooms. Picnickers will be entertained by music from the Saltash town band as well as the Valley Voices Choir who will sing a range of songs from the Baroque period to the present day. The very youngest of those out to enjoy May Fair are invited to bring their teddy bears and enjoy a traditional Punch and Judy show with one and all finding out how "That's the way to do it".

The packed programme of entertainment comes to an end at around 5.30 p.m. giving May Fair revellers time to wander down the hill to the Waterside where an equally exciting programme of events to celebrate 150 years of the Royal Albert Bridge will begin at 6 p.m.

The committee is especially grateful to Saltash Town Council since without a generous grant from their festival fund the fun of the May Fair tradition could not continue. For more information visit www.saltashmayfair.co.uk. The especially designed website had already received almost 11,000 hits by mid-March, a clear indication of the interest already mounting for the town's very special event.

May Fair Volunteers

Everything that makes May Fair 2009 a great event for the people in the town is organised by a small group of local volunteers.

Whilst many months of planning help to make May Fair happen each year it is only made a success with the help of others who can spare a few hours of their time. Perhaps you could help by being on hand to ensure that everything runs smoothly and safely throughout Fore Street, Victoria Gardens or Longstone Park on Saturday.

If you think that you can make a great event even better by helping for just a few hours, please contact the May Fair secretary through the May Fair website at www.saltashmayfair.co.uk.



Photo Courtesy of Marc Edmonds

SUNDAY IS RUN DAY

Athletes from all around the South West, and sometimes beyond, will be gathering at the foot of Fore Street on Sunday morning for what is renowned as one of the most gruelling half marathon courses in the country. They always appreciate encouragement so why not come along and cheer them off?

And if seeing off the marathon runners has given you the urge for, perhaps, a more gentle run all the family are welcome to participate in the traditional May Fair "Fun Run". This year it is sponsored by Saltash Sports and consists of a two mile gentle run around the town's streets starting from the foot of Fore Street at 10.15 a.m. This is non-competitive, intended purely as all good fun, and since "everyone's a winner" certificates are traditionally handed to all of those who complete the course.

Visit our website for all the details of the May Fair
www.saltashmayfair.co.uk

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Hardings Hike

Hardings Hike begins at 2.00pm on Sunday from Alexandra Square, passing Saltash's historic Guildhall on Lower Fore Street, and along Alexandra Road to the 12th Century Church of St Nicholas & St Faith, before heading to the Essa Club.

Beside the Essa Club is the Marble Alley which we walk through and up Fore Street, crossing at the mini-roundabout at the top into Victoria Gardens and cross into Longstone Park. From Longstone Park, we make our way back to Fore Street and begin walking down the near side of the road. Having reached the bottom of Fore Street we follow the road around to the left, where you will come across Brunel's Bust. We head back to Lower Fore Street, past Saltash Museum and Local History Centre, Elliott's Stores and the Guildhall. Carry on down the hill until you reach a small grassed area beneath the Tamar Road Bridge, where you will find an artwork called "Back to the Drawing Board" by father & son team Gary & Thomas Thrusell.

We then walk along the short mulched path into Huntley Gardens, a tranquil pocket garden created from a patch of waste ground beneath the Royal Albert Bridge and through a brick archway onto Silver Street, before turning left. After a few steps you will see the "Hanging Gardens of Saltash" - a tropical paradise, again created from a patch of waste ground by local residents. At the end of Silver Street, we turn left onto the bottom of Culver Road and to the left for a few yards until you have the Union Inn on your right.

Walk around the front of the Union to the next

building, the Saltash Livewire Youth Project and on to the Waterside public house. Turn around now and walk back to the green, beside the almost life-size copy of JMW Turner's iconic painting of Saltash, named "The Ferry, Beach and Inn", and the Saltash Town Pier before reaching The Boatman public house and we carry on along the waterfront, in the direction of the Bridges spanning the Tamar.



Mayfair 08

We then turn around and make our way back around the waterfront to Albert Road, at the junction with Silver Street. At Albert Road, facing uphill, we turn left into Culver Road. Walk gently uphill for about 200yds, and on your left you will find Mary Newman's Cottage. We will carry on up the hill to Saltash Baptist Church, cross the railway bridge, and turn right to the Railway Station, which overlooks the two bridges. From the end of the platform you get excellent views of both the Royal Albert Bridge and the Tamar Road Bridge.

On leaving the Station, turn right towards the Two Bridges public house, turn left up Albert Road for just a few yards and at the crossroads turn right onto Alexander Road, and make your way back to the Guildhall to complete Hardings Hike for 2009.

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Saltash Half Marathon

Entry forms are now available for the Saltash Half Marathon, which forms part of the town's May Fair 2009 celebrations.

Due to take place on Sunday 3rd May, the run is organised by local club Tamar Trotters, and is known in running circles as one of the hardest events of its kind in Cornwall. St Austell Brewery will continue sponsorship of the Saltash Half Marathon for Tribute, their flagship ale brand. Saltash May Fair also includes a 2 mile fun run, sponsored by Saltash Sports, with entry available on the day. Both races have an entry fee.

Bill Phillips from Tamar Trotters and member of the May Fair Committee said: "Having the support of a big local company is a great help to us in continuing to improve the Half Marathon and make it one of the best running challenges in the area."

Excellent facilities are available to the runners and the course offers a traffic free start/finish area and covers a well marshalled single lap route on town and rural routes, with some good hills and views over the Tamar Estuary. The race starts at 10.00a.m. and is open to individual and team runners with nine prize categories, including the first runner to break the course record of 1:13:14, set in 2006.

Anyone interested in running in the Half Marathon should visit the Saltash May Fair website at

www.saltashmayfair.co.uk

or the Tamar Trotters website at www.tamartrotters.co.uk

to download their entry form.

*I am very pleased to be associated with the
May Fair, and wish the committee a very
successful weekend.*

*Please make sure you bring the family along
and support them. Editor Mary Crawford*

Acknowledgements & Thanks

We would like to express our thanks to the following:

Local police force (full-time & Specials), Fire Service, St. John's Ambulance Cornwall, Dr. Jackson, Nurse Gwynn, Caradon District Council, the Highways Agency, Speedy Prints Saltash, Saltash Camera Club, Saltash Video Group, Ashtorre Rock Community Centre, Saltash Bowling Club, Saltash Chamber of Commerce, Cottons Taxis, the May Fair Princess & Attendants, the Town Crier Brian Whipp & his wife, Mary Crawford from the Saltash Observer, & all our wonderful entertainers.

Special thanks go to all the organisations who held events over May Fair weekend, including Livewire, Tamar Trotters, Eden Project.

"Thank you" to the businesses who have sponsored May Fair in these lean times, including Saltash Sports, Mike Nottage Woodwind Repair and the Eden Project - your contributions make a huge difference! also the businesses who sponsored the Programme in this Paper. A special thank you to Saltash Town Council, the Festival Fund grant has really helped May Fair happen; & to all the organisations and individuals who have helped with this year's May Fair, including Mary Crawford & the Saltash Observer.

Lastly - thanks to the people of Saltash for supporting the event!

Regards

Peter J Stephens ISM

HISTORIC HIKE AROUND THE TOWN

"Hardings Hike", in which townfolk are invited to enjoy the glorious countryside around Saltash, is a tradition as old as May Fair. It was founded by the Mayor who presided over the Silver Jubilee celebrations in 1977, Vic Harding.

This year however, since it coincides with the special celebrations arranged for the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Royal Bridge, a historic hike around the town is planned instead.

This will also be an opportunity to promote the "Audio Guide Trails and Tales" which it is hoped will be launched at around the same time.

Led as usual by Observer ace reporter Martin Lister the walk will commence at around 2 p.m. on the May Fair weekend Sunday starting from Alexandra Square, behind the Guildhall. The walk, which will proceed up Fore Street to Longstone Park, then under the Royal Albert Bridge, and down to the Waterside where there will be a feast of entertainment going on. It will give the opportunity to take a "new look" at some of Saltash's historic features. The walk will include a glance at Cornwall's only "Green Dragon", its "Time Warp" grocer's shop, the "Hanging Gardens of Saltash" and a rare example of a medieval town home.

And for those who are disappointed at missing out on the traditional country walk, one and all are invited to join in the "Beating of the Bounds" on the 23rd May starting from Carkeel and separately advertised.



ASHTORRE'S BRUNEL BRIDGE CELEBRATIONS 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROYAL ALBERT BRIDGE, SALTASH

Dates for your Diary not to be missed

Saturday 18th April 7.30pm

It's QUIZambard Kingdom Brunel - a big screen quiz night. £3 per head; teams of 4, 5 or 6. Bring your own tipples and nibbles. More details, tickets or entry form e-mail lynnsmarsh@aol.com or 'phone 01752 844255 or www.whysguy.co.uk

Friday 24th April 7.30pm

150 (Or Thereabouts) Little Known Facts About The Royal Albert Bridge. Thomas Bowden has been a fan of both the Royal Albert Bridge and Brunel since the age of 4. Now over half a century later he has written his second book about the Bridge to coincide with the 150th Anniversary of the opening on 2 May 1859. Whilst doing the research, facts came to light which have been unconnected for over a century yet together they tell a different story about the structure. Some of these facts will be revealed when Thomas gives his presentation about the Bridge - £3.00

Saturday 25th April 2.30pm & 7.30pm

Good Old Days from Touchwood Musical Theatre Co - £3.50

Saturday 2nd May From 6.00pm

Outdoor celebrations at Waterside, Saltash - Steam Engines, Lantern Parade, Sail Past, Fireworks, etc

Sunday 3rd May From 10.00am

Victorian Fun Day - outdoor celebrations at Saltash, Waterside - Steam engines, stalls, miniature steam train rides, Queen Victoria visits and tells stories, Punch & Judy. Model railway exhibition at Ashtorre Rock

Monday 4th May 1.30pm

A re-enactment of the opening of the Royal Albert Bridge by HRH Prince Albert will take place on Saltash Railway Station. This will be accompanied by military music, choral singing and atmospheric dancing, together with refreshments.

Sunday 10th May pm

Victorian Tea Party including a talk about Queen Victoria from Councillor Mrs S Hooper, MBE. £5.00

Saturday 16th May 7.30pm

Music & Mirth - Bronwen and Ken Speare and Company - £4.50

Tuesday 19th May 7.30pm

HRH Prince Albert; the unacknowledged authority behind Brunel's Saltash bridge - Bill Myers - £3.00

All events take place at ASHTORRE ROCK, Waterside, Saltash unless otherwise stated

For more details, tickets and up-to-date information contact Lynn Marsh on 01752 844255 or lynnsmarsh@aol.com

ROYAL ALBERT 1859 BRIDGE 2009

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PRINCE ALBERT WILL RETURN TO RE-OPEN THE BRIDGE

It was one of the most glorious and celebrated days in the long history of Saltash. None who were there on that historic day in May 1859 would ever forget the pageantry as Prince Albert crossed the Royal Albert Bridge to officially open it and be greeted by the Mayor of Saltash.

Well, it is happening again! On Bank Holiday Monday 4th May "Prince Albert" in the guise of well-known local actor Ken Speare will be welcomed to Saltash by the Mayor, Councillors and Town Clerk all in full regalia.

All of this has been timed to take place on the station platform at Saltash starting at around 2 p.m. that afternoon.

A search through the archives has revealed the original speech made by Prince Albert as well as the Mayor's welcome and reply, all of which will therefore be authentically reproduced on that day.

This will be followed by the unveiling of a monument on the station platform.

Entertainment will be provided by The Geraldine Lamb School of Dancing with a live band and by singers organised by Mrs. Bronwen Speare. Fittingly for the day there will be May pole dancing on the station.

At the conclusion of the re-enactment ceremony the public will be invited to cross from the "down" platform to the "up" platform and mingle with Town Councillors and performers to share refreshment at the conclusion of what promises to be a truly historical event.

AND THE CELEBRATIONS CONTINUE...

The exciting events planned for the Royal Albert Bridge's birthday over the May Bank Holiday weekend may all too soon be over but the celebrations will continue.

Indeed to get you into the mood there are some Brunel and Victoriana related events still coming up prior to that weekend.

There may still be time for you to get together a team (or just turn up) for "Quizambard Kingdom Brunel", a big screen night to be held at the Ashtorre Centre on the 18th April. Quiz teams of between four and six are welcome to arrive by 7.30 p.m.

Learn more fascinating facts about our famous bridge from its lifelong fan Thomas Bowden who will be sharing some of the little-known facts that he has gathered while doing research for his second book on the bridge. He will be speaking at Ashtorre on Friday 24th April at 7.30 p.m.

The real music hall atmosphere of the late Victorian and Edwardian era will be recalled at the "Good Old Days" being presented by Touchwood Musical Theatre Company on Saturday 25th April with a matinee at 2.30 p.m. and an evening performance at 7.30 p.m. again at Ashtorre.

After the Bank Holiday weekend relax with a period Victorian tea party in the afternoon of Sunday 10th May. Mayor Elect, Mrs. Sue Hooper MBE, will be present and will be giving a talk about Queen Victoria. And for some more fun "Music And Mirth" on Saturday 16th May at 7.30 p.m. in the same locale promises an evening of lively entertainment.

There is much more right through May and June, watch your Observer for further details.

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VICTORIAN THEME TO DAY OF STEAM FUN AND FROLIC ON WATERSIDE



Pictured The Mayor and Mayoress have a sneaky preview at the Victorian Costumes made up and prepared by the quilters at Ashtorre ready for the celebration weekend.

Come early and stay late is again the message for May Bank Holiday Sunday, 3rd May, if you do not wish to miss out on any of the fun events organised for your delectation to celebrate our Royal Albert Bridge's 150th birthday.

Those who were fortunate enough to be early in booking for a walk over the Royal Albert Bridge and have been given a place will already be around perhaps breakfasting at Ashtorre in order to see the exciting preparations for an action-packed day ahead.

From 10 a.m. a Victorian fun day to equal, or surpass, that enjoyed while celebrating Brunel's own birthday a few years ago will be continuing all day at the Waterside.

It will be enhanced, we are promised, by a visit from Queen Victoria herself who will be relating tales from her long reign and hopefully proving that she can in fact be amused.

Steam engines including, it is hoped "Alfred" or "Judy" from the Bodmin and Wenford Railway as well as steamrollers and other historic vehicles will be on show. The very youngest visitors will be offered their own miniature steam train ride and will also be able to enjoy a traditional Punch and Judy show. Meanwhile all can share the fun of a Victorian fair with stalls and entertainment galore.

It is hoped that as many as possible will enter into the Victorian fun theme by coming in costume. Contact Lynn on 01752 844255 for

help with this.

Help would also be appreciated for stewarding in order to assist the young people of our Air Cadets and Fire Cadets who have already kindly volunteered. And especially appreciated would be anyone wishing to throw themselves fully into the fun by appearing as a Victoria pasty seller, "Simple Simon's Pieman" or a chimney sweep! Again please contact Lynn.

Do not forget during the excitement of the weekend that the Brunel Bridge photographic competition remains open, for details again contact the above number.

A fantastic amount of work has been put in by the small Ashtorre Committee to ensure a truly amazing weekend for one and all. They would like to thank Saltash Town Council and Cornwall County Council for funding to help make it all possible. They would also like to thank Isambard Kichen & Interiors and other businesses who have helped to support the celebrations through publicity and are continuing to do so throughout the summer. Now all is under way to guarantee, with the support of the people of Saltash, a weekend to remember.

The Mayor Say's Come Down and Enjoy the 150th Celebrations with the Family

The Royal Albert Bridge is simply a part of Saltash. It cannot be missed and helped form our town.

The 150 Celebrations also cannot be missed. Look at all that is on offer ...and mostly based about one of my favourite spots: Ashtorre and the Waterside. You must come down with the family to these events going on all this month and especially in the evening after the May Fair (don't miss the fireworks). Be part of history at the station on the Sunday morning. As well as that, interesting events continue on through May and into June! Thank you to a great committee for putting this all on!

Derek Holley,
Saltash Town Mayor

BRUNEL IS BACK

A familiar figure in and around Saltash during the 200th anniversary of his birth, Brunel is back in town to join in the beginning of the celebrations for marking the 150th anniversary of his final masterpiece the Royal Albert Bridge. Isambard Kingdom Brunel, the alter-ego of our own Malcolm Down was among those at Ashtorre when it marked its own anniversary, its twenty-first birthday and coming of age..

AN EVENING OF RIVERSIDE REVELLERY FINISHING WITH FIREWORKS

As the fun of May Fair Saturday fades away Saltash will begin to celebrate its biggest birthday bash for fifty years.

The town was en fete on May 2nd 1859 to mark what was arguably the biggest day in the town's rich history, the Royal opening of the Royal Albert Bridge. Now the hardworking team at Ashtorre have sought to ensure that Saturday May 2nd 2009 and the remainder of that weekend will prove equally memorable.

The evening celebrations will commence at around 5 p.m. very fittingly with a grand parade down from the town to Waterside led by the sumptuously uniformed ceremonial band of the Devon & Somerset Fire Brigade. If all goes well the celebrations may be opened by the whistle of a steam train due to cross the bridge at that time, schedules permitting.

What is promised is an evening of revellery on Waterside with entertainment for all and, it is hoped, plenty of participation. Wreckers Morris will be joining the parade while for those who favour more modern music Livewire will be open to

showcase talented young local musicians offering contemporary music with acoustic funk rock.

A period feel contemporary with our Birthday Bridge will be introduced by a Victorian re-enactment camp joining with the number one depot of the Royal Garrison Artillery from Crownhill Fort. We cannot say more of what they plan but we are assured that it should be spectacular and fun.

Equally spectacular should be the grand sail past organised by the Commodore of the Saltash Sailing Club with yachts dressed overall firing flares and hopefully escorted by members of Saltash Canoe Club.

Back on shore there will be a variety of stalls many offering food and drink for those enjoying the array of entertainment. "Western Approach" will be bursting into music to entertain all and it is hoped that one and all will be led into an open air Victorian dance as the evening culminates in a Grand Starlight Ball. The Brunel Bridge "steam theme" will be enhanced by lantern lit steamrollers and hopefully a visit from locomotive "Judy" or "Alfred", we must wait and see... Chairperson of the organising committee Lynn Marsh promises that she has a few surprises in store. She also hopes that as many visitors as possible will get into the period mood by donning Victorian costume, she has some available and can be contacted on 01752 844255. She is also hoping for volunteers to help create lanterns and balloons for a grand lantern parade, those of an artistic bent willing to help are asked to contact the same number.

And by way of spectacular conclusion at 9.15 p.m. the Royal Albert Bridge will celebrate 150 years of life by being the backdrop to a fantastic firework display. Police permission has been given to close the road bridge so that the fireworks lit along it will be a once in a lifetime experience for all down on the Waterside to share at the conclusion of what should be one of the most momentous days in Saltash's proud history.

BRIDGE WALKERS INVITED TO WATERSIDE BREAKFAST

This being the first opportunity offered in twenty-five years to walk our historic Royal Albert Bridge it is hardly surprising that it attracted vast interest. Indeed around nine hundred residents have sought to participate.

Unfortunately restrictions by the Railway Authorities mean that only the first four hundred to apply can be accommodated. Those not selected however can take heart as it is hope that a similar walk may be organised for them later in the summer.

To fit in between train services the walk will start early on Sunday morning in small escorted groups from Saltash station. Those participating are asked to check out on road closures planned for the day before considering where they could park in the town.

Walkers will return over the road bridge and are then invited to collect their certificates and subsequently celebrate their achievement with a special breakfast on offer at Ashtorre, set directly underneath the Royal Albert Bridge and with its panoramic views. From here the walkers can watch last minute preparations for the excitement of the Victorian fun day ahead.

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'Aroma Therapy'- Coffee Mornings to Help Your Local Hospice

May marks the launch of the St Luke's Hospice Big Coffee Mornings campaign, which will see many of the Hospice's enthusiastic supporters hold a coffee-themed event in order to raise much-needed funds.

Hundreds of people will get together to hold Coffee Morning parties in their workplaces, clubs, pubs and a whole host of other venues to raise vital funds for St Luke's Hospice. Fundraising Manager, Hayley Dann, said: "Don't be limited by your imagination. What about holding a Fair Trade coffee morning or 'coffees from

around the world', an auction, raffle or quiz?"

Hayley added: "Don't feel limited by the time - why not start early with bacon rolls and coffee or finish late with coffee flavoured cocktails? Most importantly, remember to raise funds for St Luke's and have fun along the way!"

If you would like a pack, which contains advice and more ideas about holding a St Luke's Big Coffee Morning, please contact the Fundraising Department at St Luke's Hospice on 01752 492626 or email at events@stlukes-hospice.org.uk.

Saltash U3A

The Chairman, Mike Scott, welcomed two new members at the start of the March Branch Meeting. He had sad news for all those present when he announced the sudden death of the treasurer, Stella Symes. Stella's contributions to the branch and to the Literature Group, of which she was a member, will be sadly missed, and a short period of silence was observed to recall our own personal memories of Stella. Viv Lillie will take on duties of treasurer until the committee elections in September.

The visit to the Launceston branch Study Day was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended; special mention was made of the exceptionally interesting speakers who took part. The rest of the business section of the meeting was taken up with news from the different activity groups. The Discovery Group had made a tour of the Citadel in Plymouth where they been informed of its interesting history. The next visit will be to Pinewood Gardens, St Austell on 2nd April. The Theatre and Film Group will be meeting on March 19th at the Maurice Huggins Room to plan their future program. Amy Farnworth is hoping to start a Scrabble Group; all those interested should contact Amy on 844666.

The Art Group announced that they would be exhibiting their work at Saltash Library in September and hoped that this would promote U3A to all retired and semi-retired men and women in the area. There are still people who are not aware of the opportunities offered by the organisation. New members are always welcome.

Following a tea break, Pamela Magill gave a talk on "A Taste of the West Country". Pamela, who has worked in the Publicity and Entertainments Department and is a Tour Guide for Plymouth, reminded the audience of the wide range of products locally accessible. Constantly being offered out-of-season food by the supermarkets, we should be aware of the many exceptional products right on our doorstep all the year round. Not only did members learn of the many items available, but Pamela provided interesting facts on the history of many of the producers, illustrating her talk with a number of slides.

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BOUNDARY COMMISSION CONFUSES SALTASH WARDS

One quarter of Saltash will shortly find itself living in St. Stephens Ward for the purposes of electing Town Councillors and living in Burraton Ward for the purposes of electing County Councillors.

Another quarter of the town will be in the reverse position of being in Burraton Ward for the election of Town Councillors and St. Stephens Ward for the election of County Councillors.

This muddle has been created by the Boundaries Commission who simply made a mistake in reversing the descriptions of the two existing Wards. However since Parliament has approved the changes there is nothing that can be done, the Town Council has been advised.

Further confusion has been added by the fact that boundary changes have moved some houses from one Ward to the other so that they will be in different Wards altogether for the purposes of Town Council elections and County Council elections. The fact that such elections in future would be likely to take place on the same day will cause untold confusion, the Town Councillors believe.

Once Parliament has approved the boundary changes "Only typographical errors can be corrected", the Town Council has been advised.

"This is a major typographical error", Town Councillors believe, and they have written to local Government Minister John Healey expressing their concerns.

They were advised that the situation is Torpoint is even worse where Torpoint East and Torpoint West have been accidentally reversed by the Boundaries Commission.

BURRATON "RAT RACE" IS LIFE THREATENING

There are two or three near misses every week as traffic speeds around a narrow residential road in order to avoid Burraton traffic lights. One of these close misses involved a near death experience for a former Mayoress of Saltash, Saltash Town Council was told.

Taylor Road was built in around 1962 as a narrow residential street before lights had been placed at Burraton Cross, Mr. Barry Brooking told the Town Councillors. Since then traffic volume had increased considerably in Saltash as elsewhere and increasing numbers of local commuters sought to "dodge" the lights by speeding around Taylor Road endangering local motorists and pedestrians. He himself had been driving with his mother and turning into a private drive when faced with a close encounter with a speeding van.

His views were supported by around fifteen letters received from local residents.

A site meeting had been held by local Councillors earlier this year and the Police were well aware of the situation, it was confirmed. County Councillor Joyce Mepsted advised that while there was no funding in the Cornwall County Council highways budget to implement any action during this year she would seek to ensure that the matter was investigated within the coming months and action be recommended.

The Town Council agreed to invite a representative from Cornwall Highways to attend a further site meeting.

"In Landrake it took the death of a school crossing keeper to ensure that action was taken. I hope that another fatality will not be necessary to provoke action in respect of Taylor Road", commented Mr. Brooking.

SNACKS SOLD FOR SWANS

The swans of Saltash Waterside are clearly a great attraction and many, young and old, enjoy feeding them.

However this could in many cases be a mistaken kindness. Certain foods given to them are unsuited to swans and accordingly the Saltash Waterfront Residents Association has recently had a leaflet printed giving advice as to the feeding of the swans and in particular where this should take place. Local residents are anxious to ensure that the swans are fed only on the foreshore and are not encouraged to wander across the adjacent green and the road. White bread in particular is not recommended.

Local publicans are also keen to keep the swans healthy and are accordingly selling suitable "swan food".

It is noted that "Gordon the gander" is still a familiar figure around Waterside and still evidently identifies himself with the swans who are his constant companions.

PILLMERE RESIDENTS' VIEWS SOUGHT ON BUSES

All residents on the Pillmere estate will be asked whether they want their bus service to come further into the estate than it does at present and if so where it should turn.

However, such a survey will be postponed until the roads on the entire estate are adopted by Cornwall Highways.

Citybus, who provide the current service, will be asked if their number 26 service can go further down to the bottom of Dartmoor View. Also local bus operator William Cotton is to try taking a bus down further onto the estate and report back on the success of this at a future meeting of the town's Industry Commerce Transportation & Tourism Committee.

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THE "ROYAL" REGATTA THAT NEVER WAS....

Following confirmation of Royal patronage of the Saltash Regatta 2009 from the Duke of Cornwall, the Town Regatta Committee applied to the Queen for restoration of the title "Saltash Royal Regatta". This title is engraved on the 1909 Prince of Wales Cup awarded annually to a race for HMS Raleigh crews, and appears as late as a 1948 programme.

However, the Ministry of Justice has just replied to the request and regrettably declined to designate the event, to be held this year on July 4th and 5th as a Royal Regatta. Furthermore, the letter reveals that Saltash has never been authorised to use the title "Royal" and that requests for use of the title have also been turned down in 1966, 1984/5 and 1994!

Joe Ellison, Chair of Saltash Regatta Committee says:

"This is disappointing news, but at least we now have an answer to a question that has been nagging away for years - and we also now have the honour of patronage from the Duchy of Cornwall.

The Regatta continues to go from strength to strength, and its growing reputation has once again brought to light an historic trophy. Last week, John Lumsden, now living in Liskeard, donated a splendid large silver cup awarded in 1934 by the then Mayor H J

Davy JP. The Davy Challenge Cup for four oars and a cox was won by Bill "Nobby" Gould, a Watersider who worked on the Saltash Ferry at the time. It was discovered in an attic recently by his grandson, Mr Lumsden. Ironically, it too is inscribed "Saltash Royal Regatta"! We are enormously grateful to Mr Lumsden, and hope that he will be able to present the Trophy after a gap of over 70 years".

The Regatta will again feature the gig racing Mixed and Veterans Championship, which attracted over 100 crews last year, and a major Dinghy Regatta at Saltash Sailing Club. The popular "England and Back" fancy dress race for amateurs, and the "Five Towns Challenge" race for local councillors will also be held. There will be lots of music and childrens entertainment, and the return of the popular Continental and Cornish markets.

SALTASH LADIES CHOIR SUPPORTS CHARITIES

On Saturday March 21st Saltash Ladies Choir were welcomed by Shirley Evans of the Saltash Blind and Partially Sighted Club to join Burraton Male Voice Choir at a concert at Burraton Chapel.

Over £500 was raised for the Blind Club. Saltash Ladies Choir with their Musical Director Linda Eastlake and Deputy Accompanist Carolyn Varcoe performed some old and new favourites. Burraton Male Voice Choir with their Musical Director Phil Taylor and Accompanist Muriel Nicholson included music from around the world. The Choirs were very well received by an appreciative audience. The Soloist on the piano accordion was the talented James McMullin.

Saltash Ladies Choir held their Annual General Meeting at Saltash Wesley Church on March 25th. The Committee were duly re-elected following a ballot. The Choir's President, Sue Hooper thanked the Committee for their hard work. She praised the choir for their fundraising achievements, and for forging

links with choirs from around the country. Audrey Miller who has supported the choir for many years agreed to become Vice President. Last year the choir raised £2,369 for St Luke's Hospice, and a further £200 for a Leprosy Charity. After some discussion it was agreed that the charity for next year would be the NSPCC. The Choir has been invited to sing at the Festival of Brass and Voices at the Royal Albert Hall on October 31st 2009 in aid of Cancer Research UK.

On Saturday 28th March Saltash Ladies Choir performed at a Concert in aid of the Royal Albert Bridge 150th Anniversary Celebrations which was arranged by the Ashtorre Brunel Bridge Celebration Team. Lynne Marsh welcomed Soundhouse Brass and Saltash Ladies Choir to Saltash Wesley.

Soundhouse Brass an enthusiastic band, are based at Estover Community College, Plymouth. Their Musical Director Gary Pumford conducted some popular marches and music from the shows in their programme, and there was audience participation with the percussion for the Cha Cha. The singing of the Saltash Ladies Choir with their Musical Director Linda Eastlake and their Deputy Accompanist Carolyn Varcoe was also very well received. They included Cross the Wide Missouri by Don Besig.

For further information regarding the Choir please contact the Choir Secretary, Cicely Sharp on 01752 842686

Future Concerts: Saturday 16th May 7-30pm. Concert with Wantage Male Voice Choir at Saltash Wesley Church.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR....

Dear Madam

May I thank you for being kind enough to publicise our Craft Fair, at Saltash Wesley Methodist Church in March.

Your publicity was instrumental in more than 250 people coming to the Fair and buying gifts, which allowed us to raise over £1,000 on Saturday to pass on to the

Zimbabwe Fund, to help the people in that stricken country.

This will help the people of the poor district of Mbare, in the capital, Harare, both to keep their spirits up, because they know that their plight is known and acknowledged by the 'outside world', and to help with medical care and food.

I do appreciate your help, and perhaps you will allow me to approach you again in due course in relation to our next Craft Fair which will be held on Saturday 17th October 2009, when it is hoped that we will have even more new high quality craftspeople.

Yours sincerely Colin Hooton
Craft Fair Organiser

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THE BOOKSHELF CELEBRATES ONE YEAR



In the year since she took over the well-established "Saltash Bookshelf" Jill Male has been delighted at the enthusiasm by which the town has proved to her that a lively and friendly independent bookshop is a valued asset to Saltash. To celebrate her first anniversary she has carried out a complete refurbishment of the "Saltash Bookshelf" and reports that "All customers have been most appreciative of the difference that it makes".

The refurbishment has not only brightened up the lively little shop, it has given the impression of it being more spacious with added browsing space. "In carrying out the refurbishments I responded to customer feedback", Jill reports. "And since I have fully reopened customers who have come in and given their

comments have also been invited to join in celebrating the revamp by entering a free raffle with book token prizes for every purchaser".

SOCIAL CENTRE

The Saltash Bookshelf is very much a social centre for book lovers from Saltash and all around who enjoy the many special events that Jill organises. Book signing events in particular help to bring writers, often local ones, and readers together. Those promised for the future include on the 15th April Julie McGowan author of the recently published "Just One More Summer". Watch out also for Suzanne Jennifer Morton, author of "Smiling Angels One" and "Smiling Angels Two", as well as the renowned authoress of locally

based novels Tania Crosse and hopefully a special visit by Bilbo the 14 stone Newfoundland lifesaving dog, all on dates to be advertised in the shop.

Other forthcoming events include a follow-up to last year's highly successful library quiz which may have a special patriotic theme it being organised for St. George's Day, 23rd April. Jill is also looking forward in joining the town in celebrating May Fair and shortly afterwards organising her own celebrations for Independent Booksellers Week.

ARTISTIC CARDS

Browsers can now also enjoy an ever changing display of art works exhibited on behalf of local artists as well as selecting from a wide range of attractive and artistic cards on sale. Poetry lovers can also enjoy selecting from what is now an extended range of modern and traditional verse.

Younger readers are discovering that following customer demand Jill was able to take advantage of the recent refurbishment in order to expand her children's section and make it more easily accessible. A child friendly corner includes a few toys to entertain the youngest customers while an extended shelving space aims to encourage enjoyment in reading for all from tots to teenagers. Special discounts are now offered to encourage students and schools to make use of Bookshelf's services. Many adult customers now enjoy bringing in their children and helping them to select from among the books which they enjoyed themselves while young.

Other particularly popular sections include Naval interest and railways while the local interest section endeavours to keep in stock all books currently in print on Cornwall and the Tamar Valley.

Another recent customer-led innovation is a ready stock of sheet music. Jill has also been proud to set up her own website and to be able to accept orders by e-mail. Any book in print can be ordered and obtained, at no extra charge, usually within twenty-four hours. Out of print and rare books can also usually be obtained whenever possible for a modest charge. Jill has also been pleased to introduce a

AM-DRAM DRAMA OF THE BODIES IN THE BARROW

It has become a tradition for the Saltash Anglican Methodist Players to brighten our winter evenings with a rip-roaring farce. This year as the evenings became lighter the comedy grew darker but "Beyond A Joke" still provided plenty of macabre merriment for its appreciative audiences.

Middle-aged middle class Andrew and Jane (Bob Cartwright and Sylvia Mackenzie) are happily settled in their "House and Garden" idyll save for some concern over the extraordinary number of visitors who meet untimely and unexpected deaths in their elegant residence. The body count is six as the curtain rises and rising steadily as the play progresses. This seems little more than an embarrassing inconvenience for them and for Andrew's sisters Sarah and Sally played by Jackie Austin and Susan Hearn, until Sally's penfriend Geoff (Jake Watson) from Stoke Poges comes to stay. An overheard conversation ensures that Geoff's anxiety grows as the plot thickens.

The vicar and a television repair man come and vanish, bodies appear and disappear into cupboards, lily ponds and summer houses. When Geoff's friends Audrey and Edgar (Margaret Evans and Ken Spere) call by to find a vicar (James Chenery) peacefully sleeping off a liquid lunch they are soon plunged into a fast moving frenzy of bodies in barrows rushing by. And even after their hasty exit we learn that they have another grisly surprise in store.

Farce is by no means easy to act, speed and timing are essential. Our Saltash stalwarts, directed and produced once again by

Isabelle Chenery have this down to a fine art and clearly delighted their audience. The layout of the Wesley church room allowed for an excellent set incorporating house and garden. It was an especial delight to see once again longstanding am-dram trouper Cyril Parker albeit in not a walk-on but a ride-by-role complete with electrically shocked hair! And even the pay-off line provided the audience with one final surprise.

Rhiannon

Congratulations to Rhiannon Percy on passing her 11 plus exams, we are very proud of you, love Mummy, Daddy, Alisha & Grace x

GIRL SINGERS IN UNIFORM

The newly formed Saltash Girls Choir is already busy rehearsing for its first concerts. And the five to 18 year olds who are excitedly looking forward to their first public performance should look their best thanks to an award by the Town Council of £800 towards their uniforms.

The money was voted and allocated to them from the town's "community chest" and it is hoped that through looking their smartest the girls will have even greater confidence to sing their best.

An excellent turnout at the inaugural meeting ensured there are already a sufficient number of girls to come together in order to sing at charitable concerts with a few solo spots available. However other girls within the five to 18 age group who enjoy singing are invited to contact Mrs. Sue Hooper on 01752 843073.

SHUT YOUR SHEDS

Crime in Saltash had increased over the previous month, Police Constable Simon Fletcher told the Town Council during their March meeting, largely due to a spate of vehicle related offences.

There had been 14 thefts from vehicles and a total of 21 offences of damage to vehicles over the month. This brought the overall number of crimes reported to 119 as against 96 during the equivalent period last year.

In addition there had been two burglaries from dwellings. One alleged offender was currently on bail in respect of one of these burglaries.

There had further been eight "non-dwelling" burglaries. Six of these had been from insecure sheds or garages. Constable Fletcher asked that a message be passed around the town to ensure that all garages and other outbuildings are kept properly locked at all times.

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With Spring now well on its way and long Summer days hopefully ahead, Jill has been busy building up her range of books on the countryside and on local walks, eager to help residents and visitors to enjoy the rich variety that our coast and countryside have to offer.

As she enters her second year of bringing the wonder of books to the town, Jill continues to be thrilled with the friendliness that she has encountered since returning from the Midlands to the South West where her family ties have been. It is a friendliness that seems to be shared with one and all who enter the Saltash Bookshelf whether to purchase a specific book, to place an order, or simply to enjoy browsing through the wide range of fact and fiction that forms Jill's constantly changing stock.

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*Best Wishes to Gill at the Bookshelf
who is celebrating her 1st Year!*

*Also good luck to The May Fair &
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