



SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

August 2009 - Issue 205

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

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YOUR OBSERVER IS GOING GLOBAL

YOUR SALTASH and District Observer is coming of age! Your truly independent local newspaper is entering its eighteenth year of bringing to your door the latest news and information from Saltash and around while promoting and supporting your local businesses. And now, to celebrate our "coming of age" while we continue to bring the news to your door we will be also bringing so much more as we come up to date with the technological revolution.

Our tenth and fifteenth anniversaries were marked, as many of you will remember, with grand celebrations raising funds for local good causes and culminating in parties shared with our friends and the friendly community which we are proud to serve.

We decided that it is perhaps rather soon after our fifteenth birthday bash to organise another party, particularly in the current financial climate.

We still aim to have an anniversary charity fundraising which we are advising of elsewhere in this Observer.

However, our main

celebration of the Saltash and District Observer being eighteen years young, we have decided, would be to go global.

Our August edition, which you are now reading will therefore be making history by being the first Saltash and District Observer to be read on line all over the world.

We are tremendously excited at the opportunities this offers to promote not only the Observer, and all of its advertisers but also the Town of Saltash and its district worldwide.

Anyone on line anywhere in

the world can now click directly to our front page and read it, just as those to whom it is hand delivered with our compliments in and around the town are reading it. Pages can be turned by simple subsequent clicks until the whole paper has been read and digested, and of course, the paper will remain on line for back referral.

Indeed it will become increasingly easy to look back on Saltash and its events through back editions as, over a period of time, our archives will be put on line to form a reflection of Saltash's history in our time.

This gives us exciting opportunities to enhance our service to our readers yet further - and we will take full advantage of them. We will offer on line access to full contact details in particular for local businesses as to how we can work together to promote your business - never more needed than in these times. We can supply full information on advertisements and advertising features which will be read worldwide on

Saltash Regatta welcomed French guests



The Flying Frogs and the Roman Rowers See story on page 7

line, and also give details as to our leaflet distribution services. All of this can of course, be followed up by a telephone call or e-mail to discuss individual needs.

Press secretaries and correspondents can click on for full information on placing stories or forthcoming events. Readers wishing to place family information in their local family newspaper can quickly discover how to do so, while others can click on as to placing a letter to the editor and perhaps, include family information.

This will help us to constantly update our Diary Dates, a new Saltash and District Observer feature which will include all regular happenings and attractions together with special events over the

forthcoming months limited to our Saltash and District readership area.

We are also putting together what we feel sure will be helpful to many readers and we hope will be frequently referred to, useful information and contact numbers including local health and emergency details easily accessed when needed urgently.

We have many other ideas. These include "the stories that got away," items that we could not fit into our crowded columns but we feel are too good to miss and which we would like to share with our readers.

"Exclusively yours" is how we headlined your very first Saltash and District Observer back in the 1990's. Now we are using 21st Century technology to add to the news, views and useful information that will continue to be exclusively yours.

We know that many of you have come to depend

upon your Saltash Observer, "the Saltash Bible" was how one recipient welcomed it when it was delivered recently to his door. We aim to continue to provide and enhance, our service to the town as long as the town, and its businesses, continue to support us as we support them.

So please familiarise yourself with our website details and pass these on to family and friends, especially those outside the town but with an interest in or connections to Saltash. We are aware that many copies of the Observer are mailed throughout the world.

Now those who know and care about our town can keep in touch simply by logging on wherever they may be. For those without access to the web we will of course, continue to deliver to your door as we combine the tradition of service that we have offered over the last eighteen years with the latest 2009 technology.

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THE MINIMUM PENSION AGE IS DUE TO CHANGE

DID YOU know that you can currently access your pension benefits from age 50? As Michael Caine would say "Not a lot of people know that".

In the current climate a number of people are looking at the feasibility of accessing their pensions early in part or in whole to pay off debt and increase their income rather than wait until they are at state retirement age 65. You are currently allowed to take up to 25% of your total personal pension funds as a tax free lump sum to use as you wish.

From 6 April 2010, the minimum age at which pension scheme members will be able access their pension benefits will jump from 50 to 55. This raises significant planning issues for those people currently between the ages of 49 and 54, as this group will have the option to access their pensions restricted if they don't act before 6 April 2010.

Of course not everyone in this group will need to access their pension immediately and some may be able to defer taking benefits for up to 5 years. But what about those that do have a genuine short-term need to access their pension, whether for a lump sum or a regular income or a bit of both? How will they feel if they find out they could've accessed their pension benefits if only they'd acted before 6 April 2010?

In other words, if you're aged 50 on 5 April 2010, you'll be able to take your pension benefits, but if you don't manage to take them by midnight that night you won't be able to access your pension for up to another five years. Taking pension benefits isn't something that can normally be done quickly, so forward planning is paramount.

This change won't just affect you if you want to retire early, it will also affect you if you want to take your 25% tax-free lump sum early but leave the rest invested, perhaps while you continue to work.

The good news is that there is still time to take advantage of some excellent tax-

planning opportunities before the change occurs. For example, by tapping into your existing pension fund now you may be able to generate an additional tax free lump sum at later date.

Remember, though, that tax rules can change and the value of the tax advantages can depend on your personal circumstances.

Ask yourself these question. When was the last time you reviewed your pensions? Do you know how they are performing? The worst case scenario is being overcharged for under performance. Chances are, it's been a while and the pensions marketplace and legislation have changed dramatically over the last couple of years. Please feel free to call me if you wish to get up to speed with what you have and the options available to you. Remember, if you are in this age group and you don't act now, you may have to wait another 5 years until you're 55.

NO NOTICES FROM OUTSIDE TOWN

The Town notice boards cannot be used to promote events outside Saltash, it has been confirmed.

Although members of the Plymouth Police Choir live in Saltash the Town's policy and Resources Committee agreed that their concert to be held in Plymouth, could not be advertised on the Town's notice boards. The situation would be different if the choir was singing in Saltash.

It was pointed out that there is of course, nothing to prevent organisations with events outside the town from promoting them in Saltash Library and in local shops. However the publicly owned notice boards would continue to be used only for the benefit of the PL12 post area.

IT'S OFFICIAL...

PL12 - THIS YEAR'S MOST DESIRABLE POSTCODE

Cornish town of Saltash unveiled as England's top postcode. The residents of Cornish hot spot Saltash have it all, according to research from new neighbourhood and local information website MSN Local <http://local.uk.msn.com/>.

Boasting top tier position for low crime rate, stable house prices and a school in the country's top 20 league table, PL12 (Saltash, Cornwall) is currently the hottest postcode on the English map.

Letting (Northamptonshire), Combe (Oxfordshire) and Kendal (Cumbria) take poll position for top three schools while Sittingbourne (Kent), Folkestone (Kent) and Brentwood (Essex) are seeing the biggest rise in house prices.

Sue Hooper MBE, Mayor of Saltash said "With great community spirit, ample local amenities and plenty to see and do, we've always known our picturesque and vibrant town is a fantastic place but I am delighted to see this confirmed! The enthusiasm and support from the people in the PL12 area combined with the many organisations working to improve its

environs make Saltash a wonderful place to live or visit."

Alastair Bruce, Senior Content Manager from MSN Local commented "Criteria for best places to live is hugely subjective, however most people are concerned with similar factors such as good schools, crime and house prices. It's interesting to see that Saltash, the Gateway to Cornwall, ticks many of these essential boxes.

"With such diversity within this country, we are proud to offer a service that allows people to discover their own personal neighbourhood hot spots through easy searches of a range of criteria important to them.

"For Ten things you may not have known about Saltash... Check out our new website at...

www.saltash-observer.co.uk click Useful Numbers

ANTI-SOCIAL AREAS HIGHLIGHTED FOR POLICE CONCERN

While overall crime in and around Saltash had almost halved over the previous months there were several areas of the town where police need to address anti-social behaviour.

A number of such areas were referred to Police Community Support Officer Bob Yates after he had told the July Town council meeting that 79 offences had been reported in the area the previous month. This compared with 140 for the equivalent period the previous year. There had been 5 thefts from motor vehicles as against 29 the previous year, 7 incidents of criminal damage as against 23, one vehicle stolen and no house burglaries.

Residents in certain areas were still concerned as to late night disturbances from rowdy young people. Plough Green residents in particular complained as to young people apparently coming back late at night from Chapel Fields to a takeaway food shop. The resident also had concerns as to inconsiderate parking.

Those living around Longstone Park were unhappy at the tennis and basketball courts being used after 11 p.m. and the noise keeping them awake. The police were asked to keep an eye on the area while plans were made to lock up these facilities earlier in the evening.

Meanwhile a North Road resident whose car had been damaged on three occasions, complained of noise and anti-social behaviour from midnight onwards every weekend.

The Castlemead and Fairmead Road area is being used as a racing circuit by boy-racers with souped-up noisy engines, PCSO Yates was told. He replied that the police are well aware of this and are planning to intercept those involved.

The police are also aware of problems involving vandalism on the industrial estates, especially around Forge Lane,

PCSO Yates confirmed, and action is planned for that area where businesses are being affected.

WEED THE STREETS

Weeds growing in the streets is clearly a problem throughout the town, the Council's Civic Amenities committee has noted. The names of road particularly suffering from street side weeds had been reported for the attention of Cornwall Council, who are responsible for the matter. The former Operation and Technical Services Department at Liskeard has been asked to attend a meeting to discuss the problem and to give the situation urgent attention.

CEMETERY SPACE WILL NO LONGER BE A GRAVE PROBLEM

Saltash Town Council's application for the new cemetery has just been approved by Cornwall Council.

Councillor Bob Austin stated that "This is good news for Saltash, it has been a long exercise to get this off the ground but now we are up and starting to run."

The Town Council started getting concerned about the space left in the old cemetery about two years ago when it was reported at the Town Burial Board that there was only about four years of new grave space left. The Town Council (via the Policy & Resources Committee) decided to take action immediately and to seek out possibilities of where the new cemetery could be situated.

After a thorough investigation it was decided that a piece of land west of the current cemetery next to the old Churchtown Farm buildings would be the most suitable both in practical and financial terms. The cost of the whole exercise will be about £300,000 which currently is being financed primarily by the Town Council but there was also a donation of £15,000 from Caradon DC just before their demise.

Land negotiations have been underway in parallel with the planning application going through Cornwall Council and the Town has to thank Sir Richard Carew-Pole for being so receptive to the sale of this land as without him the project would have been a non starter.

Now that the Planning application has been approved the sale of the land can be finalised and work started on the site. Cornwall Council have agreed to project manage the work which will hopefully start this Autumn and aim for a final completion by the end of 2010.

There is even more good news as attached to this planning application there is a provision for 27 allotments which will be rented out by the Town Council on the understanding that when the land is required for graves they will be transferred back to the cemetery. This helps the Town Council's obligation to provide allotments for the Citizens of Saltash.

WE HAVE NOW REPLACED OUR REGULAR FEATURE COUNTY UPDATE WITH THE NEW CORNWALL COUNCIL UPDATE.....

Cornwall Councillor Derek Holly has kindly agreed to start our new column, with the other Cornwall Councillors following in turn each month with their thoughts and views.

Thank you It has been a while since the Cornwall Council elections but the first thing that I would like to say, and this is on behalf of all of us new councillors, is a "thank you" for putting your confidence in us. We will do our very best to repay your trust. There are four of us now replacing eight Caradon and two and a half County councillors. Plenty to do!

One Cornwall

Caradon District Council is now gone and we are all part, for better or for worse, of one huge authority covering all of Cornwall. Our task now is three fold: firstly we have to continue to help people in our wards with their requests and problems (more on that later); secondly we have to fight for a better deal for our area, this is now more difficult because we are competing with the rest of the county and thirdly we have to serve on a range of committees. For example Councillor Austin and I are on the Regulatory Committee

which deals with appeals and decisions ranging from footpath and "Village Greens" issues to travel-to-school funding requests. I am also on the new Planning Committee covering the entire east of Cornwall; this is an enormous area from the outskirts of Newquay to beyond Bude and down to Polruan and Rame Head. It is an unmanageable area and it is just not possible to give planning applications proper consideration in my opinion. As a result some of us are trying to restore the older, smaller planning areas... I am also on the Pensions Committee which sounds incredibly boring but is actually the reverse. It is a committee with great

responsibilities because there are about 37000 past and present employees who already do or will sometime depend on these pensions. However I am undertaking and will have lots more extensive training to help me and more importantly the Committee has both internal excellent Pension Fund Managers and also external and experienced Fund Managers from the City of London, The Audit Commission also attend all meetings. I am saying all this in case some of you readers with County Pensions are getting a bit worried. Don't be! The fund is healthy!

We are all in the midst of all sorts of other training which has taken up, quite rightly, a lot of time. I have also been asked (more than a few times) "what is this new Council like?" The simple answer is "a bit of a mess at the moment". This is my opinion and not necessarily that of the other councillors! It is a Council still in its birth throes in all sorts of areas and lots has still to be sorted out. The whole shooting match has been put together over a very short time and will take years to establish. Having said that there are great possibilities.

Problems As to my earlier comment about helping people with problems. Well, some are easily sorted which makes us look good but plenty of others are slow and difficult to put right. An example is the whole area of roads, footpaths, parking and road safety generally. The last council cut the budget and all the improvements that we know we need have to take their place in queues. Not right I know and we will fight for the most pressing.

Next month another councillor will put his view!

Derek Holley
Cornwall Councillor
Pill Ward
Saltash

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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Residents of Saltash,
What weather we have been having, not much summer so far! – I do hope that it has not spoiled any holidays you have had planned – and that many people have stopped off in Saltash for a short break or to use our shops and businesses and other trading facilities.

For consort John and me, it has been as busy as ever with numerous functions "Around and About Saltash" – and beyond – and we have continued to attend many Community and Civic events both locally and in Devon and Cornwall; and enjoyed them immensely. More highlights to give you a taste of what goes on in our active town, and beyond, which include

Final Assembly at Saltash.Net Community School where we saw five outstanding teachers retire who had served 124 years between them (Peter Morgan, Gill Price, Phil Morse, Colin White and Dave Hale) – the cheers and the tears reflected the respect and admiration that the pupils and staff held for the retiring team. May I wish them all a happy and fruitful retirement. I was also delighted and very touched when the pupils presented me with a cheque for £523 for my main charity this year "Help for Heroes" – the pupils wanted to raise money for that very worthy cause, in particular respecting that one of their past pupils, local young man, Richard Robinson had sadly lost his life, serving in Afghanistan. There are also other young people serving in this war torn Region who live in Saltash, some have been badly injured and some still at risk; may I pay tribute to them all, and wish them a safe return to their families and loved ones as soon as possible.

We have also attended the wonderful Diamond Wedding of Dorothy and Gerwyn Williams (what a lovely couple), other civic events, local charity concerts, Church strawberry tea party, Saltash Town Regatta (what a marvellous event that was again), many congratulations and thanks to Joe Ellison and his committee, volunteers and sponsors - and all those who took part and contributed to the event in any way, which helped make the Regatta such an overwhelming success!

I also attended the Saltash Chamber of Commerce recent meeting, I am confident that the town's businesses are in safe hands with this very genuine and hard working Chamber, watching points and safeguarding the business interests in our town.

Also, the St Mellion Business show and exhibition was a great success, and gave a splendid platform for the south west's business community to talk to their customers "face to face" – it was a great success – and many Saltash businesses attended – but room for more next year perhaps?

Ursula Davey's party to celebrate her retirement as Unit Leader at Saltash Duke of Edinburgh Open Award Centre was truly memorable (after 35 years)! – I reiterate my congratulations and thanks to

Ursula for such an outstanding achievement, in addition to all the other community work she undertakes.

Bishop Cornish Sport's day was delightful and again great team work amongst the children – their laughter and cheers for their companions will always remain with John and me – they had a great time and so did we! Forder fete was magical, this quaint village hosts every year a wonderful summer fete – and the villagers raise funds for their conservation area. Many people turned out in such bad weather and every thing went to plan. Well done to Carole Brown and all band of helpers and supporters – it was so very memorable once again; and John managed to splat the rat (never heard of)! and won a peppermint!

It was so enjoyable to celebrate 40 years of service given by Sue Deeble – Station Enquiry Officer, at Saltash Police Station – Sue has served the force with loyalty and dedication – and judging by the attendance of colleagues old and new – I could see that Sue is very much valued by the Police Force. Sue is staying on for another 40 years it was suggested – here! here!

I attended the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service Awareness Event at County Hall – it was enlightening and details were conveyed that Cornwall is looking for more nominations. Therefore, if you feel that you wish to nominate an organisation for the Queen's Award – please write to me in the first instance – send for my attention at the Saltash Guildhall.

Talking of Community Groups – I attended the Inter-Link event at Ashtorre Rock recently – it is an organisation set up to act as a catalyst for organisations in Cornwall to inter-link. It was very good indeed, but there were not very many local organisations present. Cornwall Inter-Link Project is there to help local groups; and was established to bring together a network of community and voluntary groups, statutory agencies and individuals. It provides a chance for groups to talk about their common issues, exchange information and communicate with like minded organisation, projects and agencies.

Inter-Link will be coming to Saltash again on Wednesday 28th October from 7pm to 9pm (at Ashtorre Rock) – and you would be welcome to attend – Simon Swale (nice man) our Community Network Manager will be there to give a talk about the Localism Team and what his role consists of. There are many benefits from being involved with Inter-Link and becoming a member, which is FREE – You will be invited to regular meetings; receive regular updates through newsletters and enews; community groups and voluntary groups will have access to training and a facility to promote your own group and share information Countywide! – So do come to the event in October – I will be there too!! – For more information on Inter-Link you can ring Vicky Horner 01208 832763 – email v.horner@eccvs.org.uk – www.cornwallinterlink.org.uk

Don't forget you can meet

SALTASH OPEN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP 2009

It has been another successful year for the 7th Annual charity Golf Championship held at the China Fleet Golf and Country Club in Saltash where this year's clear winner was Mark Screech. He was presented with his prize of a pewter claret jug and replica, together with a top of the range stand bag. Second prize went to Phil Taylor, who won Cutter & Buck clothing and 3rd prize went to Rob Berry who won a dozen Srixon balls.

There were also three winners of the twos competition this year. David Carter, D Fletcher and Colin Adams each won Srixon golf balls. Nearest the pin winners were Tony Hopkins and Tim Truscott and Chris Jarvis won the longest drive competition on both the 8th and 18th holes. Learning Plus was the main sponsors of the event this year and our thanks go out to them for their support over the past seven years.

The money raised over the years', has helped Saltash Youth Rugby Club, Cornwall Cricketer Ben Kitt-Osborne, East Caradon Rangers,



Saltash Festive Lights and Tideford Youth Cricket Club. More donations from the £6,000 raised so far are due to be made shortly.

Organisers Bruce and Ed Reid, David and Helen Carter are looking forward to

arranging the event again next year and would like to thank all participants, sponsors and The China Fleet Golf and Country Club for helping the event run smoothly and for making it such a success.

STAFF MEMBERS SCORED OVER A CENTURY OF TEACHING YEARS

The saltash.net final assembly of the year concluded with a farewell to five teachers who have each become an established part of saltash.net school during a grand total of 124 years service to the school.

Having sought a post for just two years, Dave Hayles was told by current head teacher John Edwards, "We shall see." Dave has subsequently seen eighteen years of students passing through the school where he has been advanced skills teacher of design and technology. He was especially proud, at his final

assembly, to see the awards given to all of the students who took part in the Ten Tors Challenge, which he has organised for so many years, and who this year all completed the course.

"Maths lessons are more enjoyable than they used to be," believes Colin White, and after teaching the subject at Saltash for 22 years "and enjoying every moment" he should know. He is retiring - to write a book on mathematics.

His record is however, exceeded by Phil Morse who had taught maths at Saltash for 25 years and believes that the students he has worked with "are outstanding compared with other schools and appreciate the efforts we make for them."

"A wealth of drama experience with terrific students in the classroom and on the stage" have been enjoyed by Jill Price since she joined the Comprehensive School at Crosspark in January 1983. She retires with "a million memories to treasure."

Even she was outmatched in years of service by Peter Morgan who joined the former "Comp." in 1977 and served as Head of Year 7 and Community Liaison Officer. "saltash.net.community School is an extraordinary and inspirational place where you can make things happen if you want to," he believes. He has in particular enjoyed promoting students talents through the Real Live Music Club.

All of the departing teachers had a farewell surprise for the school as they joined in singing and playing the theme from "Friends". 'I'll be there for you' as the full school waved arms, clapped along and joined in the chorus before many came forward to wish the ex-staff members an individual and in some cases emotional farewell.

Councillors "face to face" – Saturday mornings from 10 am til 12 pm every third Saturday of the month. So do come and see us and share your concerns and your good news too!! – Last month we enjoyed the Company of Ruth Mason and Godfrey with Peter Gunn playing "Old Time" music – they entertained shoppers and residents of St Anne's – we had a super time, and had a sing song and a dance – it was a happy environment for the community – and we did the business at the same time answering and dealing with queries and concerns of the general public. See you all there again this month.
See you around and about Saltash for sure!!
Kindest regards
Councillor Sue Hooper MBE
Mayor of Saltash

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SALTASH MAY FAIR COMMITTEE 2010

Dates of Meetings

The first meeting was held at The Maurice Huggins Room 7.00pm on Monday 17th August 2009.

Monday	14th	Sept 09
Monday	19th	Oct 09
Monday	16th	Nov 09
Monday	07th	Dec 09
Monday	18th	Jan 10
Tuesday	02nd	Feb 10
<i>(Stall Booking Evening SHADO Centre 7.00 pm)</i>		
Saturday	06th	Feb 10
<i>(Princess Choosing – Ashtorre Rock Community Centre 4.30pm-6.00pm)</i>		
Monday	15th	Feb 10
Monday	15th	Mar 10
Monday	05th	Apr 10
Monday	19th	Apr 10
Saturday	01st	May 10
<i>(May Fair 2010)</i>		
Sunday	02nd	May 10
<i>(May Fair 2010)</i>		
Monday	17th	May 10
<i>(Wash-Up Meeting)</i>		
Tuesday	13th	Jul 10
<i>(7.00pm – AGM – SHADO)</i>		
All Regular Meetings Start at 7.00pm in The Maurice Huggins Room, Victoria Gardens.		

CASHBACK FUNDS FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFETY

Money could be made available locally to help make neighbourhoods safer, reduce crime and strengthen communities, Cornwall Council has advised.

The "Community Cashback Scheme" passes on to local authorities money raised from criminals as "Victim Surcharge Payments." Bids can be made which should show how a community might benefit. Examples of where money might be made available include renovation of a vandalised play area, provision of youth facilities or added security measures.

The Town's Anti-Social Behaviour Group will be asked to consider whether any application for funding should be approved.

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Sat 22nd Delta Dukes Sat 29th Red House
--- SEPTEMBER ---
Tues 1st Martin Dale Qtet Tues 8th Jazz Trio
Tues 15th Louise Parker Tues 22nd Blue Trane
Tues 29th Jazz Messenger
Fri 4th Larry & Lilos Fri 11th Organisation
Fri 18th Bad Luck'n' Trouble Fri 25th The Jack
Sat 5th La Poubelle Sat 12th Wireless
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OUR COMING OF AGE CHARITY

As you may read elsewhere in this month's Observer we are "coming of age" as we enter our 18th year. And rather than hold another grand charity bash relatively soon after our awesome 15th birthday celebrations, we are instead celebrating by branching out into new technology to advance our service to our readers and advertisers.

But as your local community newspaper we still wish to do our bit by fundraising for worthy causes.

Accordingly, throughout our eighteenth year and starting with this month's paper, we are out to build up an Observer charity fund. We will of course, as before, keep you fully informed as to monies raised and their eventual distribution between the local branch of a nationally renowned charity and a worthy Saltash based cause.

We know that our readers, advertisers and other friends have always been tremendously supportive of us. Anyone interested in helping us in our fundraising is invited to contact Mary, our editor, now or at any time during the coming year. Meanwhile look out for information on the events which we will be organising and in which you can become involved, as well as updates on donations as they come in. We will of course continue to publicise your local charity events, but we would be very grateful for a small donation to help build our charity fund, which will go to two good local causes.

And Our Thanks Go To.....

We on the Observer and in particular our editor Mary are thrilled to be entering our eighteenth year of publication and greatly excited at celebrating this by going global on the web, but we are deeply conscious that this could not have been done without your support.

So to all who have supported your local independent newspaper over the decades, from our loyal advertisers to our enthusiastic readers, again our deepest thanks for being behind us over the years.

Thanks also to those who help to bring you the news "from our ace reporter Martin Lister who is always anxious to ensure that the freshest news is reported and the worthwhile events that make our community what it is are reported, through to our fine delivery team. We are very proud of these members of our local community (my boy's as Mary calls them) they include Mayor's spouses Councillors, policepersons and not forgetting our younger

Radio Star Lawrence Reed Danced with Wreckers Morris

Radio Cornwall was pleased to welcome Saltash Observer Editor Mary Crawford to the airwaves as presenter Lawrence Reed entered fully into the Saltash Regatta spirit. After Lawrence had officially opened the Saltash Regatta and Waterside Festival, Mary persuaded the weekday lunchtime radio presenter and his teenage son Jack to join the dance as Wreckers Morris opened a packed programme of weekend entertainment.



Lawrence in action!



Lawrence's son Jack reluctantly danced with the wreckers, seems to be enjoying it now!



Now! Now! Lawrence enough of that!

Mary was subsequently interviewed for Lawrence's programme the following week.

The Observer was pleased also to interview the Radio Cornwall team including special correspondent Chris Young.

"We were at the far end of Cornwall last week covering Penzance's Mazy Day, and now we are on the County's eastern boundary" Chris told the Observer. "We like to attend events all over Cornwall, giving us the chance to meet our listeners and to encourage others to listen. From Lands End to Saltash, it is all our listening area and here we have the chance to meet with old friends including Mayor Sue Hooper whom we have often interviewed over the years."

The Regatta Committee is in turn grateful for the additional publicity which Radio Cornwall provided.

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Business Expansion Bucking Economic Trend! As The Hearing Room Celebrate Another Year!

A Saltash based business which has been expanding across the country has bucked the economic trend by declaring a 78% growth in business over the last trading year. And "The Hearing Room" is confident of continuing to ride the recession this year while introducing an element of consolidation but still being on target for a further 30% growth.

The founder of The Hearing Room Andrew Carmichael puts this down to the fact that despite its nationwide expansion it remains at heart a family business which has built up a solid reputation combining being at the cutting edge of hearing care technology with offering an ongoing personal and caring service to each individual. This is a service that continues long after the customer has been professionally advised and assisted as to how best to regain their hearing and it ensures that the standard of hearing is retained.

With around a quarter of their total staff, who now number well over one hundred, based in Saltash, this news amongst the general economic gloom has to be good news for the town.

"The Hearing Room" has recently celebrated the anniversary of establishing itself in the heart of Fore Street and as it enters its fifth year it is already very much a part of the community. As well as having become one of the town's leading employers "The Hearing Room" has been eager to play a role in the community and support the town of which it is so

very much a part. Over the last three years The Hearing Room has hosted Saltash Rotary's "Stroke Awareness Day" when it has each time welcomed several hundred local residents for a free blood pressure test and advice, when appropriate, on avoiding a serious stroke. So successful has this been that Andrew Carmichael has now contacted other branches of the Rotary including those in Burnham on Sea and Weston Super Mare and intend to make their premises generally available where required next April for this life saving work. We are delighted to confirm that their comfortable premises will be made available for this purpose again in Saltash next April 2010 - watch for more details in your



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

Observer. And the elderly residents involved in the Saltash Live At Home Scheme were especially delighted to each receive a beautiful bouquet for Christmas, courtesy of The Hearing Room, passed to them through Saltash Rotary.

Congratulations to The Hearing Room Thank you for giving us inspiration in these times of doom and gloom

Continuing Care Is Secret of The Hearing Room's Success

The Hearing Room's service begins when the customer makes contact and arranges a free and "no obligation" test in their comfortable Fore Street premises, with transport there and back arranged if required. The service continues indefinitely.

The success of The Hearing Room since its establishment in Saltash just five years ago is ascribed to the complete service offered through fitting, to the four year warranty available on all hearing aids provided and the continuing checks carried out on a six monthly basis. While one or two years warranty is normal, with further cover at a cost, The Hearing Room is anxious to assure peace of mind by offering a full four years free warranty on all hearing aids supplied by them. In addition their highly trained audiologists not only offer a six monthly free check and clean but will also continue indefinitely to monitor the customer's hearing and adapt to any change of need. Usually an existing hearing aid can easily be reprogrammed to accommodate any major or minor changes in hearing ability.

Hearing loss can strike at any age and it may not always be noticed. It may be over a period of time that one slowly realises one has to turn the television up louder, one has to ask family and friends to repeat themselves more frequently, or one has more difficulty in conducting a conversation when there is a background noise. A free and "without obligation" test can soon confirm whether there is indeed a hearing problem and, if so, ensure that full hearing abilities are easily and comfortably restored.

A test at The Hearing Room is a relaxing experience while the latest in technology, including in particular a video otoscope which can photograph inside the ear, is applied. A visit to a soundproof booth with a full audiometer test on each year over a full sound frequency will continue until the customer is

perfectly satisfied that full hearing has been technologically restored.

Thereafter a visit to the fitting room accompanied by a helpful and experienced specialist can ensure that the hearing aid selected not only restores full listening ability but is the most ideal, of the many options, for individual need and lifestyle. Customers are welcome to bring along a family member or a friend so that they can enjoy hearing a familiar voice as, perhaps, they have not done for months or years.

Once the hearing aid of choice has been selected an impression is taken of the ear in order to ensure that it will fit to perfection and the customer will soon resume normal life rediscovering the joy of full hearing while oblivious of the high quality technological equipment which enables them to do so.

The fitting staff will be pleased to offer totally unbiased advice as to which appliance from a wide range of manufacturers offers the best value and, while anxious to ensure that each customer is fitted with the device best suited to them, they are also anxious to ensure that they will never be beaten on price. Their reputation for value is another secret of The Hearing Room's continuing success and expansion.

As they are well into their fifth year of offering customer care from their Saltash headquarters, The Hearing Room looks forward to ensuring that even more satisfied customers, from Saltash and around as well as nationwide, rediscover the pleasure of full hearing ability through the caring and personal services of The Hearing Room.

Hearing Room Expand in Saltash and Nationwide

The expansion of their office premises promised for 2009 has already been accomplished with additional office space found within Saltash Town Centre. This has enabled another eight residents to join the busy Hearing Room Team.

These plans follow a year in which The Hearing Room has increased its number of fulltime branches across England and Wales from fifteen to twenty.

The founder of The Hearing Room, Andrew Carmichael, was especially delighted to open a branch in Truro and to appoint his own son James, now a fully qualified hearing aid audiologist, as manager. "We have gone full circle", Andrew proudly told the Observer, "Since it was in Truro that I opened my own first hearing shop back in 1984. I have always been fond of Truro and find it exciting that since last December James has been responsible for eight staff in the shop and the telemarketing unit there".

Believing that a large element of The Hearing Room's success has been as a result of keeping it a caring and family orientated business Andrew has also been delighted to set up a new development in hearing care under the management of his daughter. Ever anxious to extend the services that The Hearing Room offers to its customers, it now

provides a full range of in-house repairs to any brand of hearing aid purchased through Regional Hearing Services or elsewhere.

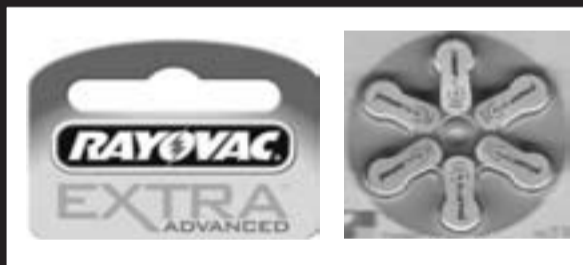
As well as expanding their premises, The Hearing Room has also been busy continuing to invest in the latest technology including in particular computers.

In addition, the increase in services offered over the last year now includes the fitting of NHS hearing aids, which has proved to be a greatly appreciated service for all concerned.

As well as their own twenty branches The Hearing Room has 38 associated outlets nationwide in such premises as local optician's shops.

The expansion in technology enables customers to keep in touch with the expansion of services and of premises through the web. The Hearing Room can be visited through the regional hearing website and the hearing aid supermarket on regionalhearingservices.co.uk, on hearingaidsaver.co.uk, or hearingaid-supermarket.co.uk.

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**Congratulations to
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AS BRIDGE CELEBRATIONS CONCLUDE - A THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED IN SPECTACULAR SUCCESS

The historic and spectacular events on and around Saltash Waterside and the Royal Albert Bridge will surely never be forgotten by those fortunate enough to have been there. The magnificent display of fireworks that set off our Royal Albert Bridge against the night sky in spectacular fashion, the walk over the bridge in the brightening dawn of the next morning and the whirl of attractions at the Victorian Fair later that day were enjoyed by thousands.

Yet these were just some of the most dramatic of a programme of events and entertainments that began last Christmas with a Dickensian Christmas entertainment featuring Brunel School students and due to conclude this August with a Bridge-themed art event.

Music, drama, fun events, fascinating talks and demonstrations, none would have been possible without the hard work of a very small team on the Ashtorre Brunel Bridge Celebrations Committee.

"Almost immediately after the conclusion of the 2006 Brunel birthday celebrations we started making plans," Lynn Marsh told the Observer. "We really did want to do something to mark the bridge's anniversary. The Brunel year had been part of a national celebration for him, this year we wanted something more local for the bridge that has been so important to Saltash."

So the programme came together with a wide range of events of every description almost every week building up the momentum from the New Year to the grand anniversary weekend that coincided with May Fair giving the Town a double cause to celebrate.

Now the committee wishes to thank, through the Observer, all of those who contributed to the celebrations' undoubted success. Firstly they wish to thank main sponsors Awards

for All and the Saltash Town Council for splendid financial assistance. However, the anniversary could not have been in any way carried off in as grand and fitting a way without the further help of a whole host of generous local sponsors - too many to name in full - to each the thanks of the committee and of the town, are due.

The once-in-a-lifetime firework spectacular could not have taken place without the Tamar Bridge Management and Manager David List, taking the unprecedented decision to recognise the importance of the event by closing the road bridge so that the fireworks could show the railway bridge at its best.

And some of the Towns' youngest citizens deserve especial thanks and praise. These include the Air Force Cadets for their help with the bridge walk and Victorian Fun Day, and the Fire Cadets with the fund day and the firework display. Brunel School students also entered especially into the celebratory spirit and they and their teachers are to be thanked.

The committee must also thank all of the speakers, singers, musicians and actors who entertained during the numerous events from January onwards - and of course, all of those who came to support them.

A programme from a 1956 programme for the Old Saltash Winkle Fair fell into the hands of Lynn Marsh. She does not feel that she can better the words which she

has asked us to print, most sincerely, on her behalf.

Although the focus of this year was on the bridge rather than Brunel himself, clearly we could not keep that fiery genius away. Once again he was back in Saltash, in the persona of Malcolm Down, shaking four hundred hands of those who walked his bridge. "Over the years I have been involved in many events and activities in Saltash but I have never felt more proud than when invited to portray Brunel and when enjoying the climax of our firework display," he told the Observer.

For ourselves, while we have been around and about enjoying, and reporting on, almost every event our editor Mary would especially like to congratulate organisers, cooks, waitresses and all involved in the black tie dinner for bringing good fellowship and haute cuisine together on Saltash Waterside.

As for the rest of those who have come together to join in the community celebrations that will long go down in Saltash history, many have sent letters and cards of appreciation in respect in particular of the firework display and also the walk over the Royal Albert Bridge which went so well that a repeat event was allowed for all those unable to obtain tickets first time round.

From all these letters of thanks, one sentence must sum up it all, "It is this that made me proud to live in Saltash."

ART EXHIBITION HOLDS THE BIG DRAW

There is a special "draw" for the art exhibition to be held at the Ashtorre Centre as described elsewhere in your Saltash Observer.

It is not too late to enter the Grand Bridge Anniversary Draw which, like all else organised around this year's celebrations, is a special and spectacular one-off.

The first prize is a luxury weekend for two in a top London hotel including travel and even theatre tickets. Two original works of art are among the other prizes which also include an engraved Bridge Anniversary commemorative vase and many others.

Draw tickets, are available at the Ashtorre Centre during all opening times and during the opening of the art exhibition up until Monday 31st August when the grand draw takes place.



Fabulous Fireworks! like they have never seen before in Saltash

BRUNEL'S BRIDGE AT THE 'ART' OF DRAW-BRIDGE EXHIBITION

A grand art exhibition featuring the Royal Albert Bridge as portrayed by professional as well as local amateur artists is a fine and fitting finale to the grand celebrations of the bridge's 150th anniversary.

Around 150 paintings and drawings will be on display at Ashtorre Rock, immediately underneath the bridge, when the exhibition opens on Saturday 22nd August, continuing until 6th September. Opening hours will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., staying open until 8 p.m. on Thursday and admission is free.

The featured professional artists are Richard Allman and John Forster both of whom have made a year long study of the bridge to produce an

exciting variety of images that reflect its complexity, its solid weight and its graceful curves.

John is a Saltash resident already renowned for designing the Brunel 200 mural on Saltash Waterside which fifty local people painted to mark the bicentenary of Brunel's birth in 2006. For this new work he has returned from his best known abstract, mixed media paintings to portraying the shapes and structure of the bridge in ways that capture his response to it; paintings 'about' rather than 'of' the bridge.

Richard lives in Plymouth where he has a reputation for his large pen drawings and paintings recording the changing face of that city.

Also on show alongside the professionals will be the completed work of around fifty local people who participated in the Draw-Bridge project at Ashtorre in June. Following a workshop with Richard and John they have been out to various viewpoints in the town and made their own drawings. Some of them are already experienced amateur artists, other first timers. All aim to capture their own perspectives of the structure that, above all, is symbolic of Saltash.

"I am pleased how by working with Ashtorre, we have been able to bring

together a professional art exhibition with a community project that is encouraging local people to draw and that will go on into the future" John told the Observer.

The exhibition is being promoted by Plymouth's top Artmill Gallery and the Draw-Bridge project has been sponsored by Saltash solicitors Nicholls and Sainsbury.

"We have been impressed by the skill and imagination everyone has shown, and really pleased that those who lacked confidence have been able to make interesting drawings," added John.

In a further ambitious project the work at the exhibition will become the first to appear on a new website launched to encourage all local artists to respond to the town and their surroundings. For more details on this exciting project, an ongoing legacy of Ashtorre's ambitious bridge celebrations, look out in forthcoming editions of your Saltash Observer.

Now visit... www.saltash-observer.co.uk

Painting the Bridge
EXHIBITION 22 Aug - 6 Sep
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John Forster painting the bridge

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ASHTORRE'S BRUNEL BRIDGE CELEBRATIONS

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Dates for your diary - Don't miss them!

Saturday 22nd August - Sunday 6th September
(Thursdays to 8.00pm)

150 Paintings and Drawings of the Royal Albert Bridge

An exhibition to celebrate the 150th anniversary. Contrasting images by artists Richard Allman from Plymouth and John Forster from Saltash, with drawings by the people of Saltash.

Free entry, work for sale at ASHTORRE ROCK, Waterside, Saltash

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

www.ashtorrock.co.uk or www.royalalbertbridge.co.uk

Visit us at www.isambards.com or Tel: 01752 845170

The FINALE of Ashtorre's Brunel Bridge Celebrations



150 images celebrating the 150th anniversary

painting and drawings by Richard Allman and John Forster



Painting the Bridge



with drawings by people of Saltash made during

The Draw-Bridge Project

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SURPRISE FAREWELL PARTY FOLLOWS THIRTY-FIVE YEARS SERVICE TO YOUTH AWARD SCHEME

A surprise retirement party held for a former deputy headmistress who had been responsible for organising the local Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme for around 35 years was attended by many of the young people, and their parents, whom she had helped in achieving their awards.

Several professional organisers also travelled to Saltash to personally thank Miss Ursula Davey for her years of dedication to helping young people achieve the best of themselves. Dudley Hewitt, retired regional director of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme spoke of Miss Davey's "Energy and enthusiasm for the Scheme and what it does for young people. It inspired me to see one so committed to the award programme". Speaking of the Scheme open to all teenagers, he added, "Young people set their own challenges and their own targets. It is not the badge that makes the difference, it is the journey you go through to achieve it."

His congratulations to Miss Davey were echoed by county Duke of Edinburgh Manager, Elmer Wilson and the Chairman of the County Award Panel Bob Sturland who added, "Whenever employees interview prospective employees who have a Duke of Edinburgh Award, they know these young people are special."

Miss Davey recalled how, on moving from London to take up a teaching post at what was then Saltash Comprehensive School someone had noticed that she had previously helped run a Cub Scout Pack and soon she was running one in Saltash. When her school's headmaster wanted to involve the school in the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme

suddenly she had found herself running it despite her lack of knowledge. However, her enthusiasm grew and when she retired from teaching twenty years ago she was devastated that no teacher would take the job on. Accordingly, she had set up the Saltash Open Award Centre, open to all young people of suitable age, and since then had served as unit leader and seen around 130 young people achieve at least one award with up to thirty going for gold. "It has been a delight, it is nice to feel that we have helped so many young people," she concluded, referring to co-helpers Dot Spurling and Joy Nodder.

The Mayor of Saltash, Councillor Mrs Sue Hooper, presented Miss Davey with a bouquet on behalf of herself and the Town, while she also received a fine Buddleia plant and a vase engraved with the 'Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme' crest.

She was especially pleased to know that the scheme would continue to flourish in Saltash under the enthusiastic guidance of mother and daughter team Lesley and Sara Batham, both themselves Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Holders.

THE FRENCH CONNECTION BRINGS STRAWBERRIES TO SALTASH REGATTA

A welcome and unusual visitor to Saltash Regatta put in an appearance as the event was about to be opened.

Eyes were drawn to the river where a historic French Lugger, the 'General Le Clerc' had just arrived from Saltash's twin town of Plougastel bearing a cargo of Breton strawberries to add to the flavour of the regatta weekend. After mooring up at the Sailing Club the fishing boat and the lifeboat from Portsall which had accompanied her, welcomed on board a number of interested visitors.

Our French guests entered fully into the regatta spirit, entering their own team, 'The Flying Frogs' into the 'Race to England'.

"It was especially nice to have the French involvement and they are apparently keen to come again next year," reported Regatta Chairman Joe Ellison.

Photo on front page

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FRIENDLY FACE OF THE LOCAL LAW



ANNUAL GORSESDH CEREMONY COMES TO SALTASH

On Saturday September 5th, Saltash has been chosen to host the colourful annual gathering of up to 350 Cornish Bards. Gorsedh Kernow was inaugurated near St Buryan in 1928 to maintain the National Celtic spirit of Cornwall, to encourage Cornish language and history studies, and to promote Cornish art, literature and music.

Cornish bards are nominated according to their contribution to these aims, and the Gorsedh maintains close links with bards in Wales and Brittany. Each year at this time, the Gorsedh takes place in a different town, last year in Looe and next year in St Ives.

The Ceremony will take place at 2.00pm in Longstone Park, enjoying panoramic views of the Tamar and neighbouring England, and preceded by a colourful Civic Parade through Saltash at 10.15am. Saltash Mayor Sue Hooper is also a Cornish Bard. The Gorsedh is free, and welcomes visitors to watch this colourful event which celebrates Cornish culture. There will be refreshments in the Park, and Cornish crafts on sale.

The Ceremony begins with the sounding of the Horn to the four compass points, and then the Chief Bard, Vanessa Beaman will ask three times "is there peace?" to open the Gorsedh.

The Ceremony of the Offering, symbolic of God's gifts to mankind, is performed by the Lady of Cornwall (Alice Holloway-Neville) with her attendants and twenty young dancers, all local Saltash girls. Following the initiation of new bards, there is the Ceremony of the Sword of Arthur, where bards renew their oath of fealty to Cornwall as a Celtic Nation. Finally, a new Grand Bard and Deputy will be chosen, and the Ceremony of Peace repeated.

Following the Ceremony, the bards will take a traditional tea of pasties, saffron buns, and splits with jam and cream, and copious quantities of tea.

In the evening at 7.00 there is a Cornish Concert at Saltash Wesley Church with local performers including the Town Band, St Dominic Handbells, Burraton Male Voice Choir, and the new Saltash Girls Choir. The concert is open to the public, and tickets costing £6 are available from local outlets.

The friendly face that has replied to thousands of queries and according to senior officers, been largely responsible for the smooth running of Saltash Police Station arrived at work for what she thought was to be a routine Monday morning.

Instead Station Enquiry Officer Sue Deebie was greeted by a mass of police officers and support staff, past and present to congratulate her on completing forty years service at Torpoint and Saltash Stations, "this is a clear indication of the high regard and affection with which you have been held by your colleagues." Superintendent Craig Downham, Commander for South East Cornwall, told Sue once she had got over her surprise.

Bouquets were handed to her by the Mayor Councillor Sue Hooper, on behalf of the Town, and by Inspector Martin Williams on behalf of the

police and Chief Superintendent Elaine Marshall. A small marquee erected at the rear of the police station provided a variety of refreshments and a superb specially created anniversary cake.

Sue joined up as a shorthand typist in July 1969 and told the Observer that she has only happy memories of "a lovely station" where she has seen many comings and goings, and countless promotions during a time when it was said of her that "everything that goes on in Saltash police station is sorted by Sue."

As all present relaxed over cake and drank tea which had not, for once, been made by Sue she confirmed to the Observer, no doubt to the relief of all involved in local policing, that far from looking forward to retirement she is happy to contemplate the next forty years welcoming enquiries behind the desk at Saltash Police Station.

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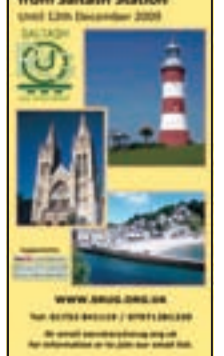
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Philip Mallinder hands over to Brian Stoyel

The Rotary Club of Saltash

July saw the hand-over of the Presidency of the Club to Brian Stoyel from former President Phillip Mallinder. Phillip had had a successful year in which fundraising had been at the core and the club members had responded by reaching all targets for his nominated charities.

President Brian has set his aims as a mix of local and international causes and wherever possible to use service in the community to meet those objectives.

Speakers at our meetings in July covered a range of topics of local interest. Ian Berry gave an informative talk on Mount Edgecombe Country Park, a popular leisure area for the people of Plymouth and South East Cornwall. Sarah Marsh from Saltash Library informed the club on the operation of the new One-stop shop for Cornwall County Unitary Authority and Colin May told us of his work in the Independent Monitoring Board, ensuring standards are met in our Prisons.

The final meeting in July was a guest night in which we were invited to bring along an "unusual object." The evening created much laughter as members and guests gave their guesses as to the uses and names of the objects.

Rotary is a service organisation open to men and women who wish to serve their community locally and internationally. Find us on www.saltashrotary.org.uk

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SOUTH WEST ACCIDENT REPAIR CENTRE ...CAN TAKE THE STRESS OUT OF AN ACCIDENT

Accidents will happen but when they do so a Saltash based business is able to take all the stress out of ensuring that one's vehicle is fully restored, repainted and returned in as good a condition as before and with all insurance issues taken care of.

Now in its fifth year of coping with the consequences of major accidents and minor bumps the South West Accident Centre has an excellent track record of personal and caring service to local customers. Owner Brennan Davies has worked to ensure that the accident repair shop is fully approved for insurance purposes and also offers non-fault accident assistance, dealing direct with the other party's insurers to ensure, when possible, that there is no cost incurred on insurance policy excess.

Once South West Accident Repair Centre has been contacted a free courtesy vehicle is provided while the expert team gets to work using the latest body repair equipment to ensure that any reparable vehicle is returned to its pre-accident condition. No job is too large or too small, ranging from total body rebuilding when economic to do so, down to repairing a bent bumper or pushed-in wing. To finish off the job the latest water-based paints are utilised with a two year guarantee offered on all paint work.

Any make of car or light commercial vehicle is covered by the team of five specialists and a trainee, mostly Saltash based workers, who form the repair Centre team. Matching paint colour for any such vehicle is also guaranteed.

Brennan began his career in the motor repair business locally as an apprentice 25 years ago before travelling widely in the U.K. and overseas repairing and repainting all manner of vehicles. When he and his wife started a family they decided to return to Saltash, where a good quality of life was guaranteed, and Brennan decided to use his expertise in building up his own locally based business employing local and well-experienced staff.

Many motorists have taken advantage of the quality service offered by bringing their cars before sale or return to lease companies for any minor dents to be repaired.

Alloy refurb wheels are also a speciality. All too often an otherwise 'clean' car can be let down by its wheels, perhaps as a result of slight 'kerbing.' A visit to South West Accident Repair Centre can ensure that a vehicle is in perfect condition and add greatly to its value for resale or trading in.

For peace of mind in resolving any vehicle damage great or small the friendly local professionals promise a personal service unmatched by any other, Brennan believes, and he is eager to ensure that the standards for which his business is acclaimed, are maintained.

Indeed he is currently working on plans to expand

the service which he offers to his regular customers and to build upon that customer base, look out when visiting South West Accident Repair Centre, or in your Saltash Observer, for further information.



Proprietor Brennan Davies



Busy in the workshop!

EVERY VEHICLE IS RETURNED IN TIP TOP CONDITION

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Car Valetting service available

Customers came to appreciate this so much that owner Brennan Davies was encouraged to offer a special car valetting service for all who wished to maintain their vehicles in top condition.

The competitive prices with which he introduced this service soon resulted in a number of loyal customers bringing their vehicles back on a regular basis for the special treatment that the centre had to offer.

In addition to the standard service Brennan and his expert

team are able to offer an extra machine polish that brings an extra sparkle to make a car look fresh from the factory floor. The interior can be brought to its original perfection through an expert wet vacuuming while an engine degreasing can make what lies under the bonnet also look nearly as good as new. Brennan will be happy to offer a personal and highly competitive quote for whatever is individually required to make a car look and feel as good as new.

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As we launch our anniversary year charity fund (see elsewhere in this Observer) for a limited period we are going to donate a £1.00 from every copy sold to our charity fund, of which we will soon be revealing full details. Watch your Observer for more info on our charity year.

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Look out for full spread on the Saltash Regatta in next issue!

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A CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION TO LOCAL INNS

As a proprietor of a local business and with a family of a wife and two young children in Saltash, owner Brennan Davies is anxious that South West Accident Repair Centre should contribute to the local community.

Last year when the school which his children attend, Bishop Cornish, were seeking to raise funds for the groundbreaking new eco-friendly building Brennan decided to utilise his business to do his bit. Parents, staff and others referred through the School were offered a car valetting service at his Carkeel based workshop for which he made no charge, contributions for the service going instead to the School's building fund.

Those who participate in the annual charity draws of two Saltash Waterside Inns, the "Boatman" and the "Union" can be sure of a prize being sponsored through the business, either a free valetting service or valetting equipment.

"A local business should contribute to its community and give something back to the Town that supports it," believes Brennan.

RACING TO HELP THE CHILDREN OF CHERNOBYL

Kept secret from the world in the heart of what was then the USSR a fire in a nuclear reactor burnt as radiation enveloped towns and countryside to affect not only adults and children but future generations yet unborn.

Children of Chernobyl are still suffering from life shortening radiation sickness. Just four weeks in the clean air of Cornwall, enjoying a healthy diet can extend their lives by two year or more.

It is to bring hope and fun to these children that landlady Sheila Lennox-Boyd and regulars of the 'Ploughboy Inn' have determined to raise £2,100 this year to bring 4 of the 18 or so children who annually visit Saltash and Plymouth.

A fun 'race night' with a host of live entertainment raised an outstanding sum of £500 towards this. Sheila wishes to thank all of those who helped to fill the 'Ploughboy' and contribute towards this sum. Many of them were among the families who annually welcome the children of Chernobyl into their homes. She thanks in particular children entertainer "Billy Whizz" who is always guaranteed to enthral the youngsters from Chernobyl and who on that occasion also amazed an adult audience with his own special magic. Sheila also wishes to mention Margery who is busy knitting woollen hats proof against the harsh Belarus winters, with "Saltash" woven into them.

This year we are welcoming 17 children aged 9-15 together with two adults from the

affected area of Belarus, all still suffering the effects of that fateful day in April 1986." the Secretary of Chernobyl Children's Lifeline Plymouth branch Ness Donoghue told the Observer "The children, some of whom are first time visitors, some welcome returnees, are greeted with a welcome party at Saltash Fire station. They are then invited to stay with local host families for four weeks while a variety of entertainments are arranged for them. They are especially excited by the Seashore Safaris, most having never seen the sea before!"

Local fire brigades especially welcome the children, many of whom are themselves related to fire-fighters who sought to extinguish the flames of that nuclear disaster the effects of which will be felt for further generations to come.

All of those who would wish to help alleviate these effects for the children of Chernobyl's current generation are invited to check out on future fund-raising events at the "Ploughboy."

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THE SALTASH GIRLS' CHOIR DEBUT



Pictured are just a few of the girls who were at the rehearsal at Ashtorre

The delighted audience gave a standing ovation at the charity concert organised by the Mayor of Saltash, Councillor Sue Hooper, on Saturday 11th July.

The Saltash Guildhall was almost full, the Mayor promised an outstanding concert and the audience were not disappointed.

The Sunday Choir/Perfect Harmony (under the direction of Trefor Farrow and pianist Paul Phipps); started the programme with a variety of sacred music; including from composers – Handel, Rutter, Goodall (Requiem), Jenkins and Faure – which was breathtakingly sung. In the second half the choir (Perfect Harmony) – delivered a lighter programme; featuring songs from the shows and famous composers such as Lennon & McCartney, Cole Porter, Gershwin, Loesser, Gershwin and Schonberg & Boubllil (Les Miserable).

The Saltash Girls' Choir debut (under the baton of Rachael Waters and pianist Jon Clarke); mesmerized the audience with their rendition of songs from Sound of Music, Mamma Mia, and Hallelujah – and their joint song with Perfect Harmony – Rutter's "Look at the World" – brought the house down!

The charity concert was in aid of the Mayor's Charities and the Sue Hooper Charitable Foundation.

SALTASH SHOPKEEPERS SEEK RELIEF FROM UNEQUAL BUSINESS RATES

Saltash shops and other businesses are struggling to pay rates which are far higher than in other towns in South East Cornwall.

Recession has meant lesser footfall in Fore Street, less money to be spent but overheads which still have to be met in Saltash is to continue to be a lively town with its own shopping centre at its heart, Saltash Chamber of Commerce and Industry members told Mayor Mrs Sue Hooper when she attended a recent meeting. Other councillors had been invited but only County Councillor Bob Austin had accompanied her. Chamber Chairman Mr Bill Cotton expressed his especial concern that the District Valuer had been reluctant to attend a meeting to address businessmen's concern as to rates threatening their livelihood.

While business rates in Saltash are lower than those in Plymouth they remain higher than in Liskeard, Callington, Torpoint and other local towns the meeting was told. One supposed reason is the closeness of Plymouth but Saltash shopkeepers consider this to be no advantage to them since they have the competition of a big city adjacent to them and so have to work that much harder to encourage those living in and around the town to shop in Saltash.

Local shopkeepers also wished to ascertain the position concerning rates for empty shops, given that there are some shops standing empty with, it seems, no positive action taken by their owners to attract tenants. While the amount of empty shops in Saltash is considerably lower than most local towns due, it is believed, to the hard work and enterprise of local traders, there is concern that unless rates and rents issues are addressed Saltash may follow other towns into having rows of dismal-looking empty shop premises.

"This is a national problem affecting some of our most prosperous towns," said Councillor Hooper, while agreeing that it must be addressed locally.

She and Councillor Austin agreed that the issue of business rates would be included as an agenda item for the town council to discuss, and that the District Valuer and Local Business Rates Manager be invited to attend and answer questions put to them. The Mayor suggested that the Chamber of Commerce spokespersons also be invited and be allowed to put questions and issues of concern to the meeting.

It was also agreed that Colin Breed MP, who had been invited to the Chamber meeting who had parliamentary business to attend, should be kept fully informed of the concerns of Saltash business people and be encouraged to pursue these concerns in Westminster.

NEW PRESIDENT LOOKS FORWARD TO CELEBRATORY YEAR FOR ROTARY

As usual at the heart of any community event in Saltash, Saltash Rotary club was prominently placed in their caravan on the Waterside during Saltash Regatta.

Saltash Observer's ace reporter took the opportunity to meet with Rotary's newly installed President Brian Stoyel and discuss with him his objectives during his year of office.

In accordance with Rotary's watchword "Service before self" Brian was especially anxious to see the club fundraise for charities particularly close to him both locally and overseas. Children's Hospice South West with its 'Precious Lives' appeal will continue to attract Saltash Rotary support, and Brian is keen to add to this 'Rotarians eliminating malaria in Tanzania' he having some experience as to how this devastating disease attacks in particular children in infected areas.

In Saltash this will be an especially important landmark year as Saltash Rotary celebrates its fiftieth anniversary. This will be marked by special charter celebrations including a grand dinner open to friends of Rotarians in October. We look forward to giving more information on this nearer the date.

This special celebration will, he hopes encourage many more local men and women to find out more about Rotary and hopefully consider joining this organisation with its long tradition of good



fellowship and of service to others.

Brian would especially like to promote a local branch of Rotoract, aimed at attracting younger men and women aged between 18 and 30, and even a junior group of Interact, aged 14 to 18. These groups share the ideals of Rotary while having social activities geared to their particular age groups.

On a practical note, as well as helping other by fund raising, Brian would like to see local Rotarians more involved in 'hands on' projects. These could include anything from building a hut for a youth organisation to meet, to doing decorating or gardening for the elderly or disabled.

Anyone with any projects to suggest, or wishing for more information on Rotary is invited to contact Brian on 01752 401942 or e-mail him at brian@stoyel.co.uk.

ROGER AND HEATHER "RAN FOR A GRAND"

Family, friends and customers of Saltash's own furniture showroom "For Your Rooms" helped raise a fantastic £1,000 through sponsorship for Plymouth's half marathon.

Roger and Heather Smyth of 'For Your Rooms' decided to use the event to raise money for St Luke's Hospice after Heather's grandfather passed away in the hospice in February.

"We were so impressed at the standard of care that we wanted to give something back," Heather told the Observer. She added, "We had never done anything like this before so were in training from February through rain, snow and frost. Then the run was in May on the hottest day of the year."

While they have already passed on their thanks as far as possible, personally and through a poster in the showroom, Roger and Heather wish to endorse their thanks, through the 'Observer', to all of those who helped raise such a grand sum for such an excellent cause.

SALTASH ROWERS CLIMB THREE PEAKS FOR CHARITY

To climb the highest peaks in Scotland, England and Wales respectively, all within twenty-four hours was the challenge which ten members of Saltash based Caradon Gig Club and their friends set themselves.

Choosing one of the longest days of the year this June they set off in 27 degrees of heat at 4 p.m. from the foot of Ben Nevis, to find snow still at the summit. From here they raced to Scarfell Pike in England's Lake District, ascended through the night and completed the challenge with Snowdon, in a total of 23 hours 20 minutes and 20 seconds.

They anticipate raising around £2000 in sponsorship money to be divided between St Lukes Hospice and Caradon Gig Club.

Nicola Davey, Chairman of the Gig Club and owner of Saltash Cards shop, in Fore St, said that although all the rowers naturally do a great deal of training, "This was the hardest thing we have ever done. On our way home on Monday we were saying 'never again.' But now we are eagerly planning our next challenge."

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New Coffee Shop Proving to be a Winner

The spacious extended premises that Waitrose shoppers have since the store re-opened this Spring have not only enabled the Saltash superstore to become a "food plus" offering the full Waitrose range of produce. The near doubling of the store's capacity has enabled the provision of new and popular facilities for Waitrose shoppers, the coffee shop in particular having already proved itself not only a relaxing environment for busy shoppers but a popular destination in its own right.

Open Monday to Saturday from 8 a.m. until an hour before the store closes and Sunday from 10am until 3pm, the coffee shop offers much more than its fine range of coffees, teas hot chocolate and smoothies of a quality that Waitrose customers would expect.

Early visitors will find a tempting array of breakfast paninis alongside bacon rolls and Cumberland sausage rolls as well as hot croissants and an array of fruit salads, yoghurts and cereals. While these remain available they are supplemented at lunchtime by a soup of the day and a wide selection of pasties with veggie options available. Younger diners especially appreciate the home prepared children's lunch bags full of nutritious and tasty treats.

In the afternoon meringues with strawberries and clotted cream ranged alongside an array of tempting cream cakes and gateaux are proving a special attraction not just for shoppers but those passing by who are attracted by the bright and friendly environment and easy parking adjacent to the shop. All of the drinks and dishes are also conveniently available as a take away service.

Close at hand to the coffee shop is another facility new to Waitrose's Saltash customers, an extensive homeware department. As part of the development into a top class destination store Waitrose is now proud to bring a taste of John Lewis into Saltash. Not only fine kitchen and cookery accessories but a wide variety of general household items including, iPods, radios and televisions can be viewed alongside tableware, lamps, bed and bath linen and much more.

The Waitrose management are already delighted with



The new coffee shop at Waitrose

customer response to their enhanced store. This is looked upon as a further guarantee of the company's commitment to the local community from which a further 60 employees have been added to bring a total of around 240. Waitrose are now one of the town's major employers and being now most definitely a 'destination store' are attracting increasing numbers to choose Saltash as a shopping destination and boost the local economy.

The Waitrose commitment to the local economy is also demonstrated by its local buying policy. As well as the special display of Tamar Valley and other Westcountry produce ranging from pickles and preserves to locally brewed beer there is, all around the store, an emphasis on fine locally baked breads and on rich local dairy produce.

While maintaining the benefits of a major chain renowned for its quality

Waitrose continues to offer Saltash customers the benefits of a local store.

Waitrose... Extend Bus Service

The extended store with its expanded ranges of foods and other products has attracted an increased customer base utilising its extensive car parking facilities alongside the main A38.

Many other customers however, are coming to rely upon the friendly white "Waitrose" free bus, a frequent sight around Saltash and the villages beyond.

With its friendly and helpful drivers the free bus is, for many shoppers, a highly enjoyable part of the Waitrose shopping experience.

Shoppers will therefore be pleased to know that the bus service has recently been further improved with a Saturday service now available to the town since July. Handy timetables are available in the store.

SAFER ST STEPHENS ROAD BUS STOP SOUGHT

The bus stop in St Stephens road next to Windmill Hill should be moved back to opposite the carpet shop for safety reasons.

A member of the public who has a guide dog has pointed out to the Mayor problems encountered at the present site.

There should be consultation with Brunel and St Stephens Schools, since a School Crossing Warden is posted hereabouts, and subject to this First National should be asked to move the stop to the other side of Windmill Hill, the Town Council agreed. Local residents would be leafleted to advise them of the change.

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF SALTASH

Our speaker for the July meeting was Judy Pride. Judy is a member of the Inner Wheel Club of Okehampton and although she has talked to our club before about the new Children's Hospice which is to be built at St Austell, this time we learned more about the workings of the two existing Children's Hospices in the South West.

Judy updated us with news of "little harbour", the name for the St. Austell hospice, so called because it will be situated on Porthpean Road and "Porthpean" means little harbour in the Cornish Language.

Building of the environmentally friendly

hospice starts in the Spring of 2010 and the premises should be open in Autumn 2011. It will be open to visitors when it is finished but before it is fitted out. Open days are also planned for the existing hospices in January 2010 so that people can see how their donations, which need to total £3 million a year for each site, are spent.

Our new President, Maxine Stoyel, gave the vote of thanks and presented Judy with a cheque for £1000 which had been collected during 2008-09 under the Presidency of Linda Durbin. Maxine revealed that "Precious Lives" was going to be continued as a charity supported by the club in her year.

SALTASH WESLEY GIGANTIC CRAFT FAIR

Saltash Wesley Methodist Church Callington Rd is holding a Gigantic Craft Fair on Saturday 17th October 2009, from 10am to 4pm

Over 40 tables will be displaying and selling local craft wares: - Art, Bags, Beads, Cards, Crochet, Decorated boxes, Glass products, Haberdashery, Healing oils, Jewellery, Needlework, Photographic prints, Soft toys, Usborne books, Woodwork, and many more.

All profits from the event are for the benefit of the Children's Hospice South West Little Harbour (St Austell) appeal.

To be opened by the Mayor of Saltash, Councillor Sue Hooper. Light refreshments will be available throughout the event.

More local causes benefit from Waitrose



Since the re-opening of the refurbished Waitrose store local causes have continued to benefit as increasing numbers of customers have been invited to select how the Waitrose Community Matters fund should be distributed.

Each customer is given a green token at the check out

to place in the container on their way out to support the charity or cause of their choice.

Local causes which have benefited since the refurbished store re-opened include youth organisations such as Saltash Fire Cadets, Youngstagers, the K2 Youth Centre and the 2nd Saltash

Scout Group, sports and arts organisations such as Saltash Rugby Football Club and 4 Flutes, as well as general organisations supporting the community including the Ashtorre Brunel Bridge Celebrations, Ashtorre Rock Community Centre and Saltash Environmental Action.

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