



SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

July 2009 - Issue 203

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

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"WRECKERS" ARE DANCING AND DUCK RACING



It's that time of year again when Tamar Valley based Wreckers Morris are not only appearing to bring their own unique dancing style to local events but are busy raising cash for charity.

Well known to all who attend Saltash Regatta and May Fair the Wreckers are together with Plymouth Morris Men organising a major fund raising event in aid of Cornwall Air Ambulance on Saturday 18th July, Starting at the 'Finnycok Inn' Crafthole they will be dancing the afternoon away at Inns and cafes around Whitsand Bay through Hossenford and finishing at Seaton, Then, When they are all 'danced out' there will follow the grand Duck Race at Seaton Beach at around 5.30pm, when around 1000

plastic ducks will race down the river, cash and fluffy duck prizes will be awarded, fun is guaranteed, and may the best duck win!

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COUNCIL OFFERS POUCHES TO HELP KEEP TOWN TIDY

Saltash could become "a trailblazer in Cornwall" in a novel way of keeping the Town free of cigarette stubs and chewing gum.

This was the suggestion of Town Mayor Councillor Mrs Sue Hooper who showed fellow Councillors some pouches that she had brought back from Hertfordshire. These are intended to be kept in handbags or pockets to stub out cigarettes or to place chewing gum rather than have them dropped on the pavement. Those intended for cigarette stubs can be bought for fifty pence each if 'not for profit', those for chewing gum as well for sixty pence. If the Town Council purchased a thousand or more then the Town's name could be printed on the pouches.

The Council endorsed a recommendation of its Civic Amenities Committee to ask Saltash Environmental Action Group if they would work in conjunction with the Town Council in distributing the pouches and promoting their use. The pouches would also be available from the Guildhall.

It was also agreed that the Town make an initial purchase of fifty of each of the pouches.

HUNDREDS MORE WALK THE BRIDGE AS BRUNEL CELEBRATIONS CONCLUDE



Photo by kind permission of Kay Wilson

The thrill of seeing our Brunel Bridge brilliantly lit up against a fusillade of fireworks and the steam-filled pleasure of the Victorian Fun Day that followed may already seem but happy memories.

PILLMERE - IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE

With nobody trimming the verges and open spaces on the Pillmere estate, and with road building still incomplete the bad news for residents is that it may be years before the situation is fully resolved.

A resident of 'The Brooks' raised the issue during public question time at the town council meeting.

"There is a serious problem caused by the infrastructure

firm Cofton's having gone under," Councillor Colin Riches advised. "There are many ongoing jobs that this firm should be attending to but it is now up to the Official Receiver to handle it's business." Mr Riches had spoken to Cornwall's Technical Officer Dan Price but it seemed that there were technical legal reasons now preventing the grass being cut. A meeting of relevant county officers was planned in order to address the Pillmere problem and seek to get money released by the Receiver. However, it could take up to five years to do so.

Another problem is that another developer, Acorn Homes, appears to have 'sunk without trace' though supposedly still trading elsewhere. There is also confusion as to who owns an area of open land next to the Barrett Homes. It is believed to be South West Water in which case they can be encouraged to cut the grass there.

However, the message was clear, in respect to landscaping and grass cutting as well as the infrastructure of the roads and sewers, nothing can be done until it is known what money is available.

Yet the celebrations to mark the 150th Anniversary of our Royal Albert Bridge have continued culminating in a second bridge-walk even bigger than the first. So successful was the organisation of the walk on May Bank Holiday weekend that Network Rail agreed to extend from 400 to 550 the number allowed to participate in the second walk. This meant that all of those who wished to take part in the historic chance to walk the railway bridge, unlikely to be repeated for at least another twenty-five years, were able to do so. And yet again it was a beautiful and sunny early Summer Sunday morning as the crowds assembled and set off to admire our engineering marvel from a unique angle.

Other lower key celebrations have continued to be enjoyed. A highly successful black tie dinner proved to be a sell-out and a tribute to the caterers at Ashtorre Rock.

EMERGENCY ACCESS CONCERNS

Alterations to the road layout at Homer Park, off New Road, are needed in particular to allow access to emergency vehicles.

This is a concern of Cornwall County Highways who are putting forward proposals for change.

Town Councillors agreed to hold an informal site meeting to consider the County proposals and also examine the road surface reported as potholed and unsafe.

A number of artists of all ages have enjoyed producing their own images of Saltash's iconic Gateway to Cornwall, to be exhibited later this Summer.

A nostalgic evening of great interest to local historians was provided when Mr John Hooper projected just some of his collection of postcards of old Saltash. These were of interest to all but especially the more senior residents who remembered long vanished scenes and even some of the characters on the postcards.

Entertainment with a Cornish theme included a truly memorable musical drama based on our County's rich and often tragic mining heritage, 'Cornish Lads,' as written and performed by Cornish Songwriters.

And by way of more light-hearted contrast a near-full house came to share the fun and join in the choruses when the 'Cornish Wurzels' came to entertain one and all, with a succulent Cornish supper in the interval.

Such anniversaries come but once every half century and Saltash, as we have frequently noted, never misses a chance for a community celebration. The records show Isambard Kingdom Brunel as having himself been a master of showmanship.

As the celebrations now finally wind down we have no doubt that he would have felt that the town which he helped to put on the map, and the eager band of organisers who arranged around six months of celebration, had done him proud!

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ER SO 23

TIMES ARE TOUGH

Times are tough at the moment, with rising unemployment, rising petrol costs and economic downturn. What better way to cheer the nation up than to talk about dying?

It comes to us all in the end

They say the only certainties in life are death and taxes, and until someone finds the secret of eternal life, the grim reaper will find us all in the end. Despite this irrefutable fact, the majority of the UK population do not have a valid Will to determine how their assets will pass on their death. But do you really need one? Many people think that Wills are only necessary for the very wealthy or those with complicated financial, or familial, affairs. However, in reality, by drafting a suitable Will many people could arrange their affairs in a more tax-efficient manner, and more importantly, assets would pass to exactly those chosen, rather than relying on the statutory rules of intestacy.

Intestacy

If someone dies intestate, it means there is no valid Will governing how the deceased's assets are to pass. In this situation, the Estate will be distributed in accordance with the strict rules of intestacy. Many people think that their spouse or civil partner will inherit everything, but this is far from the case. Even if there are no children involved, the spouse will get a maximum of £450,000 and a life interest (income only) in the balance of the Estate, which will pass to the deceased's parents or remoter relatives. Whilst this may seem a considerable sum, when considering family home values even given the recent drop, if this sum is to include the house, this may not leave much left over for the spouse to live on. The statutory amounts available under intestacy were increased with effect from 1 February 2009 and in addition to the above situation, where there are children, the spouse will receive £250,000 plus a life interest in half of the balance of the Estate. The children will share the balance equally. If there is no surviving spouse, children or parents, the intestacy rules will visit a number of other classes of relation in an attempt to distribute the Estate. However, it is possible that, in the absence of any surviving relatives, the Queen will inherit your money, to add to her shiny coffers. And of course, she doesn't have to

pay inheritance tax...

Jointly owned assets

Assets that are owned jointly, as joint tenants (which is a legal term which determines how most such assets are held unless the contrary is indicated) will not pass under a Will or intestacy, but will automatically pass to the joint owner. This can ease the administrative burden for smaller Estates, but the automatic passage may mean that assets pass in a non-tax efficient way, or even to people who don't need to benefit in that way from the death of the individual concerned.

Simple Wills

Although it is possible to pay many hundreds of pounds in drawing up a detailed Will containing complicated tax planning structures, simple yet tax efficient Wills can be obtained without breaking the bank. Many charities will offer a free or discounted Will writing service if you make a bequest to their charity, but this should be weighed against the quality of tax planning advice you are likely to receive. However, there is no requirement for a Will to be drafted by a solicitor and it is perfectly possible to write your own Will, using a do-it-yourself kit. Whilst such a Will may not be tax efficient, any Will is usually better than no Will at all, so this could be used as an interim measure until a more comprehensive document can be prepared. One of the main reasons why any Will is preferable is the option for the beneficiaries to execute a Deed of Variation within two years of death. If a Will proves to be tax inefficient, or otherwise unsuitable in its effect, provided all affected beneficiaries agree, they may vary the term of the Will to better suit the circumstances in which they find themselves on death. It is, however, impossible to vary a document that does not exist, meaning the distribution of assets under intestacy cannot be varied in this way. Of course, how useful deeds of variation are will depend on family members actually talking to each other in order to agree the change, which, in some families, could prove challenging in itself. A Will is probably the most important document you will ever sign. If you think that it's about time you put your affairs in order, please let me know and I will be happy to assist you with the process. As they say, where there's a will, there's a family!



Pictured above Members of Saltash & Plymouth Rotary clubs 'kids out team' who recently travelled to paington zoo with 160 kids drawn from schools in Plymouth & Saltash. The weather was kind and all had a fun day out, thanks to the staff at the zoo and Appleby Westward saltash who provided the kids with a treat.

HERBERT IS BUMPED ON THE BOUNDARY STONE AGAIN

Seventy-five years ago Herbert Davy was pleased and proud to accompany his father, the Mayor of Saltash, and other civic dignitaries on the "Beating of the bounds" of the newly enlarged Borough of Saltash. @body coy:The day was immortalised by means of a photograph

showing the nine-year old Herbert being officially "bumped" on a newly placed boundary stone on April 1st 1934. Now three-quarters of a century later he has again been "bumped" on that self same stone. Herbert was unable to participate in the formal

beating of the bounds that took place in May. So instead the Mayor and her Consort, Mrs Susan and Mr John Hooper, together with Deputy Mayor and Mayoress Adam and Merryn Killyer, Martin Lister (ace Observer Reporter) and Peter Clements who led the beating of the bounds, and several other councillors made a special journey to meet Herbert and Nancy Davy at the boundary stone near the Holland Inn where Herbert was "bumped" before and which still shows the date "boundary extended 1934" above his father's name, also Herbert Davy. Once again the "bumping" was recorded on camera for posterity. The bumping of parish residents, young boys in particular, on the parish boundaries was an ancient tradition which has been revived in Saltash on special occasions. Mr Davy, whose father served as Mayor four times and who himself served as Saltash Town Councillor in the 1940's, has vivid memories of that day in 1934.

"We followed the actual bounds, coming by boat to Moditonham and then following across the fields and meadows," he recalls. He also remembers several people being thrown in the river at Notter Bridge before a boat met the party there for the homeward journey. The event marked the Saltash boundary being extended to take in the parish of St Stephens and bring the borough to the banks of the Lynher, also increasing the town's population overnight from 260 to 6,257. The photograph of the original bumping adorns the cover of one the books on 'Saltash Remembered' compiled by the late Douglas Vosper.

"This success is the result of the strong partnership working in this part of the county, the expertise that already exists here in the schools and college and the way in which we were able to demonstrate exemplary practice." All of the partners have now met to begin the exciting journey to creating the new Academy.

SE Cornwall Partnership of Schools and Colleges wins 3.5 million pounds to create a new academy of tourism

A partnership of schools and colleges from South East Cornwall is celebrating after its innovative bid to set up a world class academy of tourism was given the go ahead by the government. Members of the partnership, which includes saltash.net community school and

Cornwall College, Saltash along with other colleges and schools in the area recently heard that their bid for a 14-19 diploma exemplar facility based on an Academy of tourism had been successful.

The bid will see £3,516,500 being awarded to the project.

News of the successful bid was welcomed by Andy Stittle, senior consultant for 14/19 Education for Cornwall Council, who said, "This is a fantastic result for young people in this part of the County".

"Nationally more than 200 applications were submitted to the government with only 15 to 20 receiving approval. Congratulations must go to everyone who was involved in turning this exciting and ambitious project into reality." The proposal involves the

creation of a networked academy of tourism, underpinned by high quality language learning and strong commercial partnerships.

Although the main focus will be delivering the diploma in travel and tourism, the partnership with St Mellion International Hotel, Golf and Country Club will also benefit young people studying for the Diplomas in Hospitality, Sport and Active Leisure, and Hair and Beauty by providing access to high quality, authentic work environments, and work experience. The bid will also include innovation in foreign language learning.

Speaking on behalf of the partnership, Isobel Bryce, Head Teacher of saltash.net community school said, "As you can imagine we are all ecstatic about this wonderful news."

"This success is the result of the strong partnership working in this part of the county, the expertise that already exists here in the schools and college and the way in which we were able to demonstrate exemplary practice."

All of the partners have now met to begin the exciting journey to creating the new Academy.

THE OLDEST SWINGER IN TOWN?

Having long since retired from a career as an engine driver and more recently completed writing a book about his footplate experiences Phil Rundle of Saltash found time lying heavy in his hands. So he decided to fulfill an interest of fifty years ago and learn to play the guitar.

Among the groups and soloists based at the Livewire Youth Club who entertained the young people crowding Waterside on the night of the Brunel Bridge Anniversary Firework Celebrations, Phil was there to give his first public performance. It was one that received a rapturous reception from the young people present.

Phil, now aged 79, explains. "During the late 1950's I was involved in raising funds to build what was originally the Saltash Boys Club and is now Livewire. We held fundraising dances in the town but the lads did not care for the ballroom dance music. So we invited some of the local rock and roll bands that were then breaking into the music scene." He remembers in particular 'Provokers' as the first band to perform, and 'Clockwork Orange' who were the first to play in the new Saltash Boys Club House.

"Back then I did not care so much for the music but I was interested in the technique of guitar playing", he remembers.

With a manuscript of his book 'Laura Fireman' at the publishers his wife Joy suggested that he take up a new interest. He is full of praise for his instructor, 17 year old Richard Williamson of Hatt who has been highly successful in his tuition. Phil was also greatly appreciative of the welcome reception that the Livewire Youngsters gave to his playing.

As one who has worked with young people for most of his life he does not see that they have changed fundamentally over half a century. "The Youth Club still teaches them self discipline, a valuable lesson for life" Phil believes.

EX-MAYOR STANDS DOWN AT COUNTY ELECTION



A long serving town and county councillor and former mayor of Saltash retired from public service when she decided not to stand for re-election to the Cornwall Unitary Authority.

Mrs Joyce Mepsted joined the town Council in 1997 and felt especially privileged to have the honour of being elected Mayor during the Queen's Golden Jubilee Year. She had served as a Council Councillor for eight years during which she chaired the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee, as well as the Environment Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee and chair of the local area group of the Children and Young Peoples' Partnership. She was also Vice Chair of Cornwall Enterprise and a member of Mount Edgcombe Joint Committee and the South West Regional Assembly.

In addition Joyce had what she believed to have been the unique experience of having represented all four wards of Saltash at various times during her Council career "I have thoroughly enjoyed the past eight years and now have many memories and interesting experiences," recalls Joyce. "A lot of the work has involved working with partners for the benefit of our local community and Cornwall as a whole - and this is the direction in which the new Cornwall Council is going."

We on the Observer have of course, been grateful for Joyce's contributions to our monthly 'County Update' and we wish her well for her retirement from civic life.

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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Residents of Saltash,

Following my inauguration as Mayor in May – it is my great pleasure to follow in our previous Mayor's (Councillor Derek Holley) column to bring greetings to you all – and to inform you of news and views in our Civic lives.

Firstly, I would like to thank Derek and Margaret for all their hard work as our previous Mayor and Mayoress – they worked unstintingly and graciously for our town – and I am delighted to be given an opportunity to follow on their good work, with my husband and consort John.

It has been a very busy start to our year – and we have already attended many Community events both locally and in Cornwall; and enjoyed them immensely. It would be impossible to list every event each month as there are far too many than space allows – but I will highlight just a few to give you a taste of what goes on in our active town, and beyond.

We have attended various Mayor Choosing Ceremonies in Cornwall and South East Cornwall – and they have all been excellent – and there are some similarities to our own historic Mayor choosing tradition. It is so refreshing in this day and age of 21st Century modernism that we still value and honour our old traditions going back many centuries.

We have attended charity concerts, beating the bounds of Saltash, a Reception at HMS Drake to commemorate 100 years of the Naval Aviation, Allied D-Day Service, (remembering all who served – and all those still serving in our armed forces), League of Friends of St Barnabas Hospital Summer Fete, Reception for the Saltash Brownies at the Guildhall (they loved their fruit, chocolates and biscuits – and indeed their Civic Plate history notes by town Heritage Curator David Kent), Saltash Youth football presentation evening (absolutely marvellous their achievements), Cornwall College (Saltash) Summer Fete, Annual Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance RAF & Allied Air

Forces and unveiling of the Monument on Plymouth Hoe and Cornwall College (Saltash) celebration of successes of students. We have enjoyed them all – and indeed meeting so many lovely people working so hard for their very worthy causes.

At the same time, our Deputy Mayor and Mayoress, Councillors Adam and Merryn Killeya – have also been attending functions where we have not been able to attend. Adam and Merryn are excellent ambassadors of our town and I really appreciate their loyal support.

In addition, I and other Councillors have attended other outstanding events – and I could not write this column without paying tribute to the Brunel Bridge 150th Anniversary Celebrations team (with Lynn Marsh in the hot seat!) – The celebrations have been going on for several months and we have been given every opportunity to attend so many amazing events (took part in a few!) – I feel certain that most of you who were able to, attended several of them – and those of you who were unable to attend for whatever reason, I am sure enjoyed reading about them – well done – congratulations – and thank you to Lynn and all at Ashtorpe (committee, volunteers and sponsors) – for making this year a year to remember for ever – (and what about those amazing fireworks – better than Sydney Harbour Bridge)? – yes of course!!!! – Proudly, Saltash Town Council, on your behalf was one of the major sponsors.

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Mary and Martin for all they do for Saltash in the way of bringing our news to the people – and indeed to their advertisers, which allows your paper to be complimentary. I would also like to thank Editor In Chief, Mary for giving me and my predecessors an opportunity to speak to you through this column – Bless!! See you around and about Saltash for sure!!
Kindest regards
Councillor Sue Hooper MBE
Mayor of Saltash

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR ROBERTS!



Saltash.net community school is today celebrating the success of Assistant Headteacher, Dan Roberts, who yesterday became the South West region's Teaching Award winner in the Next Generation Learning Category. Dan beat off tough competition to win one of the coveted Platos. He was presented with his Award at the ceremony held at Dartington Hall and hosted by Justin Leigh from BBC's Spotlight.

The 'Next Generation Learning' Award is sponsored by BECTA and is a new Award this year. It recognises excellence in the area of developing learning and teaching with new technologies to meet the needs of 21st Century learners. After the ceremony

Dan was interviewed by the national Guardian newspaper for an article which will appear in next Tuesday's edition of the Education Guardian. One of the main Guardian journalists has been following Dan's progress on Twitter and was keen to find out more about the work he has been undertaking at saltash.net.

Accompanying Dan to the finals were Assistant Head, Pete Bond, who helps to run the School Council which annually nominates teachers for the Awards. Representing the student body were year 10s Devon Harding and Adam Riglar, both of whom are taught by Mr Roberts. Headteacher, Isobel Bryce, a previous regional winner for Secondary Headteacher of the Year, also attended the ceremony not just to support Dan but also to present one of the main Awards – the Teacher of the Year in a Secondary School.

SCHOOL ACHIEVED ITS BEST RESULTS EVER IN 2008 - BUT AIMS TO BETTER THEM

With around 230 Year 11 students currently sitting their GCSEs and another 200 students part way through their AS and A2 examinations, saltash.net community school anticipates improving yet further on last year's outstanding examination results.

'Last Summer's results reflected everyone's hard work over the last four years,' believes Head Teacher Mrs Isobel Bryce. 'We achieved what we did because of the real sense of partnership which exists between not only students and staff but also parents and the wider community, a community which has always been so supportive of its school.'

The school was particularly pleased that in the recently published league tables not only did it perform extremely well with regard to academic success but also in its student attendance records - evidence that all from age 11 up to the sixth form genuinely enjoy what the school has to offer both academically and recreationally.

BRIDGE TOLL PROTEST DETAILS

In last month's Observer we advised that those who wished to register their protest against anticipated increases of 50% in bridge tolls, with authority for further increases to double the present toll, could do so on line.

This raised considerable interest from our readers some of whom asked us to confirm the details.

We can now advise that the website address for adding names to the petition against the increases is:-
www.number10.gov.uk

Click on the "communicate" tab which will take you to "e-petitions".

For those who prefer or who do not have access to the web there is a paper petition in the Guildhall which can be signed whenever the office is open. The names from that will be added to the website in due course.

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CORNISH CROSS MAY YET ARISE

The Celtic Cross, planned for the "Gateway to Cornwall" at the time of the millennium may yet rise above Saltash to welcome visitors as well as residents returning to the Duchy.

It was intended as Cornwall's equivalent to the 'Angel of the North'.

Problems arose regarding its proposed siting alongside the Carkeel roundabout. The site selected was considered likely to be needed for road improvements and although considerable moneys were spent on having several artists design alternative crosses the plans were eventually shelved.

However, plans for the regeneration of Elwell Woods, immediately to the North of the Tamar Bridge, could include the installation of the giant Celtic Cross, Councillor Joe Ellison has advised the Town Council.

As well as the rather scrubby patch of trees and undergrowth being turned into an attractive urban woodland current proposals also involve the cross being sited on the triangle of land next to the slip road onto the road bridge.

This is all subject to match funding being available. Work on the second stage of the bid will be done by the end of December, anticipates Councillor Ellison, and a decision will be made in January 2010.

The Tamar Canoe Association welcomed a total of 31 paddlers of all ages and abilities who came along to a National Go Paddling Day event organised by Peter Crago as part of the Canoe England campaign on 31 May. All enjoyed the day and the training they were received from the volunteer coaches and helpers.

Each person achieved a Paddlesport Start certificate and an introductory canoeing pack. The club has a website which contains information and details about kayaking and canoeing opportunities at

<http://www.tamarcanoassociation.org.uk/>

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IT IS SUMMER IN SALTASH.....

and as ever the Saltash Calendar is filled with events bringing together our lively community to share these long sun-filled days. We at the Saltash Observer are as always keen to share with you the packed programme of Summer activities. However, with so much else of importance also going on in the town we have not as yet been able to share with you all of our happy memories of the fun and excitement that have livened up our Summer to date.

So, over the next few months we look forward to sharing with you the memories of the Summer activities that we have enjoyed so far, from the May Fair onward. If you were there we hope that these will bring back happy memories. If you were not there, we hope that they will encourage you to make sure that you do not miss out on what is yet to come this Summer in Saltash.

LAST YEAR 'BEST EVER MAY DAY' - BUT THIS YEAR WAS BETTER

While many of those who came to enjoy May Fair 2008 declared it the best year ever the majority opinion seemed to be that this year's was even better still. It was certainly among the best attended May Fair Saturdays ever with hosts of families in particular accepting the committee's invitation to come early and stay late.

The town was already filling as the Laira Youth Band piped up and led the Civic Procession down Fore Street followed by the Parade of Youth. Members of the Town's many Youth Organisations were as ever finely turned out and proud to march through the town in order to be formally inspected by the Mayor after he had declared the May Fair open.

Councillor Derek Holley, in opening the Fair, praised the efforts of the organising committee and of the many local organisations who had set up stalls which helped to fully line the busy traffic free street.

There was then a surprise item, not least a surprise to the Town Clerk, Mrs Marilyn Small as one and all were invited to sing 'Happy Birthday' to her.

The Mayor then proceeded to announce the winners of the Town's most prestigious annual awards. Citizen of the Year was a lady who has given much to all ages in Saltash from Youth Clubs to Age Concern, Mrs Betty Bowers.

Young Citizen of the Year was fifteen year old Kieran Bignell. A musician and general 'all rounder' Kieran was in particular, a founder member of the Saltash Fire Cadets where he is now a sub-officer instructor helping to train younger new entrants.

The Peter Stephens Cup for a local entertainment group that has especially delighted the Mayor during his year of office was awarded to the Burraton Male Voice Choir and the Parade of Youth Trophy was given to The Young Stagers.

The formal opening being over the record number of stalls which completely lined the street began brisk trading with home-made produce in particular soon selling out.

In the arena live music was enjoyed from Harry Fulchar's

Quartet and Dr Soul and the Plastic Surgeon's, while Wreckers Morris Dancers persuaded local youngsters as well as our Town Mayor to come and join the dance.

Further up the street, Wells Jive performed demonstrations and gave lessons while jugglers and stilt walkers mingled among the crowds.

In Victoria Gardens the emphasis was on families, many of whom took the opportunity to picnic there, the hog roast proving especially popular. The youngest were entertained to Punch and Judy Shows while their parents could relax to the music of Saltash Town Band and to the sound of Valley Voices the new a cappella choir for East Cornwall.

In Longstone Park around 1,000 young people chilled in the sunshine as 'Rock in the Park' showcased talented local bands based at the Town's Livewire Club.

Just across the Park a new attraction this year proved especially popular. Direct from the Eden Centre the den building encouraged the young and not so young to see what they could achieve with a variety of materials. May Fair Princess Casey Roissiter with attendants Jessica Mitchell-Fowle and Leonie Carroll, who were busy around the Fair all day, had to judge the best den. 'Two Storey Steve's' was the winner with the best named being the 'Peck Boys' Devil's Den'.

With so much to see and enjoy and with perfect sunshine the street remained busy all day until it was time, in the late afternoon, to descend the hill and see what delights lay in store for the Royal Albert Bridge's 150th anniversary celebrations.



SUNDAY WAS RUN DAY

The serious runners, less serious runners and easy walkers all had events laid on for their pleasure on the Sunday of May Fair weekend.

Dry sunshine with a light breeze encouraged a record entry of 205 runners for the Saltash Half-Marathon, notorious as one of the most gruelling courses in the country. The Tamar Trotters, the organisers, managed to bring in increasing numbers despite the clash with Exeter's Great West Run.

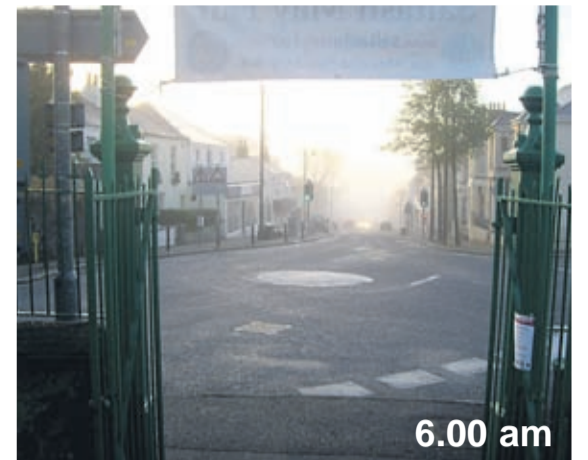
As soon as the serious runners had pounded up the street 257 Fun Runners of all ages gathered for a short gallop around the town. This included a family in Superman costume, ten members of Saltash Rugby

Club's under thirteen team and five young runners tied together at the ankles.

It seemed no time before the first Fun Runners were being cheered home as they sprinted back down Fore Street and went to collect their certificates.

It was a longer wait before news came through of the first Half Marathon runner coming into sight. It proved to be Peter Ellis of Hayle Road Runners, home in 1.18.13 followed by Arran Tocknell of Torbay Athletic Club in 1.20.51 and third Michael Hansen of Erme Valley Harriers in 1.22.49.

For those preferring gentler exercise Harding's Hike, led by Observer Ace Reporter, Martin Lister, instead of the usual country



stroll, was based on an urban walk for this year. The group of walkers all claimed to have learned something new about the town as Martin relayed some extracts of its rich history while the route followed up to Victoria Gardens and Longstone, and then back to Waterside where most walkers elected to stay on and enjoy the Brunel Bridge Victorian Fun Day.



ASHTORRE'S BRUNEL BRIDGE CELEBRATIONS

150th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROYAL ALBERT BRIDGE, SALTASH

Dates for you 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

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 lynnmarsh@aol.com

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Donations in aid of Bridge Celebrations

Saturday 22nd August - Sunday 6th September 10.00am - 5.00pm every day (Thursday 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

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 lynnmarsh@aol.com
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FASCINATING EXHIBITION OF BRUNEL "BRIDGES OF THE YEARS"

Since our town's world renowned masterpiece of engineering celebrates its 150th anniversary this year Saltash Heritage have taken the opportunity to celebrate by mounting their 2009 Summer Exhibition based around the Royal Albert Bridge.

Yet the exhibition entitled "Bridging the Years", while displaying fascinating archive material and artefacts based on the construction and opening of the bridge, offers far more than this. It shows how not only the bridge but the town of Saltash and the world around have changed since the bridge opened up Saltash and Cornwall to the rest of the country in 1859. By focusing on previous key anniversary years, 1909 and 1959, these changes can be contrasted with the world in which we live today.

As well as a magnificent scale model of the bridge loaned by the Town Council and an original Brunel bolt there are numerous posters, pictures, and rare archive photographs not only of the bridge but of the Brunel-built

wooden viaducts that originally graced Coombe and Forder Creeks and the River Lyner near Notter. Visitors can learn of where Brunel's masonry contractor built his own Saltash home, read the original recording of the laying of the Bridge's foundation stone in a family Bible, and look for the "trade mark" mouse in Cuneo's magnificent poster.

Alongside one can examine the fashion and jewellery worn by those citizens who would have welcomed the bridge in 1859 exhibited alongside commemorative china showing the bridge and some very early photographs.

The advancement of science by 1909 produces such wonders as an early telephone and gramophone as well as smoothing iron and fashion of that day. By 1959 we are into nostalgia time for many visitors who can recall the delights of a Goblin Teasmade, Box Brownie Camera, Dansette Record Player and Bakelite telephone. And for 2009 - an invitation to go out and look for oneself.

The museum, with its permanent display raged alongside the exhibition, is open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Wednesdays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. From July opening days are extended through the Summer as advertised on the door. Admission is free but donations to this voluntarily run museum are appreciated.

"It looks absolutely wonderful - the exhibition gets better each year" commented the current Mayor Derek Holley while formally opening the museum for the year.

DEAR EDITOR

The European Court of Justice has turned down a Farmer's challenge that he should not have to maintain public rights of way that cross his land in return for Government subsidies.

These Government subsidy funding arrangements are known as 'cross compliance' and are one way farmers can demonstrate good agricultural and environmental practices on their farms to qualify for payments under the Common Agricultural Policy.

The Rural Payments Agency, responsible for making payments to farmers, has asked walkers to report problems to their highway authorities, and for those highway authorities to report infringements to the Rural Payments Agency.

Please can walkers report all such 'infringements' to our Highways Authority at The Living Environment Service, Cornwall Council, St. Clements Building, Old County Hall, Truro. TR1 3AY

Please give as much of the following information as possible

Name, Address, Telephone Number, Email, Parish Name, Path Number if known, Path from / to, Location, (Grid References), Date and Description of the Problem.

Or download a form from: <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=12919>

Maps can be downloaded from:

<http://mapping.cornwall.gov.uk/website/prow/>

Reports can also be made at Cornwall Council 'One Stop Shops'.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely
Peter Clements

FORE STREET SEAT SHOWS CUP OF TEA MADE FROM CHINA



"A load of old rubbish" is how one could describe the latest piece of street art to adorn Saltash Fore Street - and one would be technically correct.

The "Dock dung seat" project has taken up many hours from many people of all ages searching for, gathering, cleaning, collating and eventually arranging fragments of china from our foreshores and fields into a piece of art.

"Dock dung" was the sweepings of Plymouth and Devonport streets during the horse-drawn era, swept up, dumped in barges, and brought to the many quays along the Tamar and Lynher. Here it was sold as fertilizer for the fields and market gardens the produce from which the barges took back to market in Devonport and Plymouth.

The street sweepings including many fragments of broken china which still turn up on the foreshores alongside the crumbling quays and in nearby fields. From the beginning of the year Mrs Jo Baskott, who helped organise the project as part of the town's developing art trail, has been asking volunteers to collect these china pieces.

Once a team of volunteers had gone through and cleaned them it was up to a team of artists under the supervision of lead artist Chrissy Wallis to create a design and set it out in china. "The idea of picking out a cup and saucer from the china of over a hundred years ago seemed the ideal connection with the original pieces," Chrissy told the crowd that gathered at the unveiling of the dock dung seat near the bus stop at the foot of Fore Street. The cup of blue china set on white is based on a coloured table cloth and emits steam or, as Chrissy suggested, the conversation that flows over a cup of tea.

At the formal unveiling, having very suitably placed over the piece a tablecloth from China, Mrs Jo Baskott thanked all of the many involved in any way with this Art and Heritage project. She then called upon "someone who is always working quietly in the background in all sorts of projects", Councillor Peter Clements, to formally unveil the seat, to a round of applause.

SALTASH GARDENS FOR ALLOTMENTS SCHEME - FIRST "TENANTS" SIGN UP

The first two matches have been signed up between garden owners and people on the Allotments Waiting List, under Saltash Town Council's innovatory Gardens for Allotments scheme. Three further matches are currently under negotiation.

Cllr Joe Ellison says "we have well over 60 people on the waiting list for allotments, and some have had their names down for seven years, as the Council has only 20 allotments in its direct ownership. In the future, we're also planning to use part of the land to be purchased for a new cemetery at St Stephens for allotments, but that is quite some time away".

The two new allotments will be developed at Brookdown Terrace and Callington Road by Mr Jordan and Mr Dale. Each will sign a bilateral agreement with the owners of the two gardens, which has been designed by the Town Council to protect the interests of both parties, and each will pay a nominal annual rental for use of the plot.

Bob Dale says "I've been waiting for an allotment for over five years, and I intend to start digging over the ground almost immediately. I'm really grateful to the garden owners for this chance to grow my own fruit and vegetables, and to Saltash Town Council for organising the scheme"

CARING CONGRATULATED AT SALTASH



Cornwall College Saltash celebrated the achievements of a number of Childcare and Care students with a presentation day and cream tea. Twenty mature students qualified, each from different walks of life and with different learning needs.

Fatima Mercado and Cherry Lim are both qualified nurses from the Philippines. They were interested in doing the Care course so that their qualifications were brought in line with British qualifications. They decided to study at Saltash, after meeting one of the tutors on a Manual Handling course. In fact, the two ladies managed to complete the course in just eight months.

Cherry said, "We really enjoyed studying at Saltash and found that the course was really informative. We learnt many aspects of nursing which we had been unaware of in the Philippines, which enriched our knowledge immensely." Fatima added, "The course was really interesting and challenging. It helped with aspects of care from dealing with doctors and nurses to general admin. We felt supported throughout. We are both hoping to continue our studies at a higher level."

Andy Searle, one of the several men on the course had previously been a bank manager. He diversified into the care industry, working both in a Care centre for Plymouth City Council and as a Physiotherapy assistant.

Looking to build on his knowledge of the care industry as well as his qualifications, Andy studied the Care NVQ 3. He enjoyed the course immensely as being distance learning, it fitted in around both his jobs and his family commitments. He hopes to go on to study further in the future.

Two Children's Care, Learning and Development students, Andrea Deacon and Claire Chapman, were also thrilled to have completed their studies. Andrea needed to study in order to further her career. She was concerned because of her age as to whether she would cope with the amount of study. Claire found her personal circumstances had changed and needed the qualifications for her pre-school job. She was looking for a positive challenge in her life. Both women had the course recommended to them. "It was a fabulous experience," said Andrea, "Norma, the tutor was really supportive and made the learning seem easier than I had expected." "I was pleasantly surprised by the course," added Claire, "although challenging, it was a

really enjoyable experience." Both are hoping to now continue their studies at a higher level, having been encouraged so much by their experiences at Saltash.

Dave Linnell, OBE, Principal of Cornwall College, said, "It is fantastic that all of these mature students have done so well. The challenges these learners face are far removed from those of younger students, and it is lovely to see the level of their commitment. Cornwall College is devoted to making the student experience the best it can be, whatever your nationality, age or level of learning."

For more information on Care and Childcare courses at Saltash, please visit the website at www.saltash.ac.uk, email: info@saltash.ac.uk or telephone: 01752 850250

Press secretaries and correspondents please e mail your copy to

marye.crawford@virgin.net

THANK YOU

I would like to thank the electors of Saltash Pill ward for their support in the recent Cornwall Council election. I will do my best to support the ward and the rest of Saltash over the next four years and will endeavour to return your trust in me as your new Cornwall Councillor and as your Town Councillor. My commiserations go to the other candidates, Town Councillors Joe Ellison and Fran Knight.

**Observer Telephone Nos
07971484872 or
01579 345699**

MEET YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLORS

The town's newly elected County Councillors intend to make themselves available to meet the public and discuss any issues of concern at the Cornwall Council's One Stop Shop in the library.

From July they will be present in the library each Saturday between 10 a.m. and mid-day.

The successful candidates who are joining the new unitary authority are Derek Holley (Pill Ward), Bob Austin Essa Ward, Colin Riches (St Stephens Ward) and Bryan Preston (Burraton Ward).



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BRIDGE CAMERAS CAN MONITOR CRIME

Residents in Lower Fore Street are complaining at rubbish being hurled from the Tamar Bridge above into their property below.

The issue was brought by the town council to the attention of the police. Sergeant Andy Dunstan advised that it might be possible to use the cameras which monitor traffic on the bridge to pick up on such behaviour. The police can ask to see film footage from these cameras in the hope of picking up and recognising offenders.

A more prominently placed camera and signs warning the public that cameras are watching them were considered. It was agreed that the town council should write to the bridge authorities in respect of this.

A LITERARY FEAST FOR SALTASH BOOKLOVERS

Local authors have been promoting their books in Saltash as the 'Saltash Bookshelf's' contribution to the National Independent Bookseller's Week.

The wide variety of literary guests attracted an equal diversity of eager readers.

Among the most popular guests was Bilbo, the life saving dog. Clearly unfazed by fame and fortune he relaxed on the floor of 'Saltash Bookshelf' while meeting his admirers.

Many of the authors were publicising books of theirs with a Cornish setting. These included Edwin Page with a record of published works on film directors now celebrating his first published novel, "Where Seagulls Fly" a fantasy of Cornish legend based around Marazion. Richard Parkyn too had a mythological setting for 'Balaclava Boy' blending Cornish giants with teenage angst. By contrast Tania Crosse was welcomed by fans of her romantic novels based on the Tamar Valley during the mining boom. Suzanne Morton came up from Looe with copies of her 'Smiling Angels' series of out of life experience found by many to be 'truly inspirational'.

More down to earth were Mark Camp with his series of Bodmin Moor walks books and Tom Bowden with his recently published book on the Royal Albert Bridge. Fans of Julian Stockwin's swashbuckling sea stories could discuss them with their author or peruse his recent and fascinating non-fictional 'Maritime Miscellany'.

Jill Male who has enjoyed running the Saltash Bookshelf for the last fifteen months was delighted at the variety of writers that had agreed to come to Saltash and at the interest they attracted. "Independent local booksellers play a vital role for booklovers everywhere and an event such as this gives the opportunity to showcase what we can bring to the community" she told the Observer.

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BRUNEL'S BOLT, PICTURE AND CHESS SET JOIN MUSEUM DISPLAY

Saltash Heritage's Summer Exhibition "Bridging the Years" and its permanent display have been enhanced by three very special exhibits kindly donated as gifts or on loan.

Brunel's own engineering can be appreciated while viewing an original bolt removed in 1963 when the Bridge was upgraded to take high speed trains. This is kindly loaned by local broadcaster Joe Pengelly, whose accompanying letter shows his own family connections with the Bridge.

Also fitting well into this year's exhibition and updating the history of the Royal Albert Bridge, a picture of the Bridge by renowned local artist Steve Fuller has been kindly donated to Heritage. The picture including a modern high speed train is already attracting interest, contrasting with the many historic picture, posters and photographs of our gateway to Cornwall.

A beautiful locally hand crafted work of art is a fascinating addition to the permanent display. Late Saltash resident Eric Boaz was a scientist who could turn his hand to many things but one of his proudest masterpieces was a solid silver chess set which he hand made on the basis of opalised serpentine brought back by him from Western Australia and hand cut and polished by himself. Half of the silver chess pieces were oxidised, the other half gold plated. The set was donated to the National Trust and was exhibited at Lanhydrock House, near Bodmin, until a change in arrangements meant it was put into store. The chess set has now returned to its home town where it can be

TAMAR CANOE ASSOCIATION

The Tamar Canoe Association is based at Jubilee Green Saltash Cornwall, the club is a members run club and caters for many disciplines and all abilities regardless of if you are a beginner, intermediate or experienced paddler who wishes to join a group of like minded paddlers.

The club meets on Thursday evenings at 6.45 to be on the water by 7.00pm throughout the summer starting in April and continues until the end of September with many weekend trips planned for those wishing to take part. The club caters for sea kayaking, surf kayaking, river kayaking, white water kayaking and canoeing or if you wish for a social paddle with like minded friends The Tamar Canoe Association is the place for you.

During the Summer season coaching sessions are held following the British Canoe Union 1-3 Star Award's scheme. There are total beginner's courses which last for 6 weeks before you join the main groups. If you are above 11 years old Tamar Canoe Association welcomes you to join us. Once you have become a member you are welcome to use the clubs equipment under the supervision of a qualified coach during Thursday evening club nights or beginners courses. All you need to turn up with is suitable clothing - kayak or canoe, helmet, buoyancy aid, helmet and paddle will be supplied if you are early enough!

All of our coaches are volunteers and dedicate their

time for others to enjoy their sport. During the winter months members are welcome to join in pool sessions which are held throughout the winter (time table is normally released in September prior to the summer season ending) whether you wish to improve your skills in general, practice Eskimo rolls the warm water is welcoming. The club has social events throughout the year and every club member is welcome, if you need to discuss or wish to receive any further information please contact the membership secretary, any of the coaches or committee.

The club has a membership of approximately 120 members, you can join as an individual or as a family. When you have joined the club all club run training is free (please remember coaches are volunteers), equipment on a Thursday evening is free for club members to use providing equipment is not already taken on the night by other members who get there earlier- so make sure you are there early!! Members get up to a 15% discount at Kayaks and Paddles

Web site address <http://www.tamarcanoassociation.org.uk>

NEW MANAGEMENT TEAM

St Stephens Borough are pleased to announce that the new management team for next season will be Phil Bennett with John Buser. Nathan Holliday and Stuart Fort have been appointed to assist the managers with training and coaching.

Bennett is one of the founder members of the club and the first ever manager and has vast experience both playing and managing. Buser is the club's longest serving player having been with then ever since the club was founded eleven years ago. He is in the army where he has also gained managerial experience. Both Holliday and Fort have both played for Borough for many seasons and are regulars in the East Cornwall Premier League side and are a welcome addition to the coaching side of the club. With these key appointments in place the club is confident it can challenge for promotion to the ECPL Premier Division which it narrowly missed last season.

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TALES OF FAMOUS OARSWOMAN TOLD TO WATERSIDE, AUDIENCE

The "Saltash Maid" who began her life rowing boatloads of Tamar Valley fruit to Devonport and who was later to mix with admirals and with royalty came back to life at the Ashtorre Centre on a June Sunday afternoon.

"Ann Glanville" in her Victorian dress, introduced herself to an audience who were there to hear her life portrayed by Mrs Sue Hooper. Taking over from "Ann", Mrs Hooper brought back to her audience those heady days when the women of Saltash took an active role in the variety of waterborne activities on which the town's trade was based. The strength that this gave them made them expert oarswomen, none more so than Ann Glanville who went on to captain the team of women rowers who travelled Britain, crossed to France, and who were supposedly seldom beaten by male rowers and never by women.

The fame and fortune that this brought to Ann was related by Mrs Hooper, but Ann never lost the common touch. She was universally loved and known to the fleet as "mother" while mixing with Queen Victoria and her family, a friend of Admiral Beresford, and supposedly with every ship in the Royal Navy having a tale to tell of her.

A mother of fourteen children she was still a rowing champion while a grandmother before dying in the Waterside home where she had lived for sixty years.

Ann Glanville is buried by St Stephens Church but her spirit lives on in the Caradon pilot gig boat named after her, and in the multitude of stories still told about her on the Saltash Waterside that she loved.

Following the talk the audience could look across the river that Ann knew so well while enjoying a superb Cornish cream tea.

A CATHEDRAL FOR CORNWALL - TALE TOLD TO OLD CORNWALL SOCIETY

Eight hundred years after the cathedral of St Germans became absorbed into the See of Crediton, later to become the diocese of Exeter, Bishop Philpot of Exeter in the late nineteenth century decided that Cornwall should once again have a cathedral of its own.

The enthusiasm with which Cornwall embraced the plans for its own separate diocese and the loving skill with which the cathedral was built were the subject of a talk to Saltash Old Cornwall Society by Mr. Eric Dare.

After various prospective cathedral cities including Launceston, Bodmin and St Columb Major had been considered it was a proud moment for Truro when in 1880 a foundation stone was laid close to the ancient Holy place of High Cross in the heart of the city. The first British cathedral to be built since the Reformation it uniquely incorporated an aisle of a former parish church.

It took thirty year's of craftsmanship to complete, indeed it could be said that it has still

not been completed since

the cloister intended to link with the cathedral school remain unbuilt.

Slides were shown to the Society members of the cathedral's glories in particular the magnificent stained glass windows, the spectacular pulpit and lectern, and the various carvings and pictures, many donated to the rising centre of Cornish worship.

Amid these late nineteenth and early twentieth century masterpieces rest relics of the older church including effigies of the 17th century members of the Robartes family, later to be of Lanhydrock. But the cathedral, Old Cornwall Society members were reminded, is not just a museum but a living centre of worship. It was the first Bishop of Truro, later to be Archbishop of Canterbury,

Bishop Benson, who inaugurated at Truro what is now the universally popular Christmas Service of the Nine Lessons and Nine Carol Festival, which now fills Truro Cathedral twice over each Christmas. The Cathedral also regularly welcomes civic leaders, judges, and on occasions Royalty, the Queen having chosen the cathedral one year for the distribution of Maundy Money.

This was a fine and fitting conclusion to an excellent Winter Programme of illustrated talks to Saltash Old Cornwall Society.

There are now a number of pilgrimages and visits organised before the Autumn series of talks recommences in September.

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FREE SWIMMING FOR SENIORS

Free swimming sessions at Caradon's two Council owned swimming pools, including that at Warfelton in Saltash, could become available under the new Cornwall County Council Unitary Authority.

Ex County Councillor, Mrs. Joyce Mepsted, advised that the new Council intends to take advantage of a Government funded scheme giving free swimming sessions for those aged over sixty for a period of up to two years.

Observer Telephone Numbers
07971484872 or 01579 345699
marye.crawford@virgin.net

HISTORIC TOMB DEEMED DANGEROUS STRUCTURE

A tomb to the Tucker family, formerly of Trematon Castle, is in a dangerous state and could cause injury especially to children playing thereabouts.

The tomb in St Stephens churchyard is adjacent to a well used footpath and the Town's Burial Board is anxious that action be taken to render this historic listed structure safe.

Enquiries had been made to trace the Tucker family and canvas their views. As a result the Town Clerk had been contacted by a family member now living in Sussex. It appeared that the family is now well scattered and there a no provisions made for the upkeep of the tomb. The Royal Navy had also been asked about possible financial assistance since John Jervis Tucker of Trematon Castle, whose family had built the regency mansion within the ancient castle walls and who is buried within the tomb, had served in the navy rising to the rank of Admiral. However, no positive response was forthcoming.

In view of the tomb's history it was considered unlikely that any request for it to be 'de-listed' from being a historic monument would be successful. Accordingly the Burial Board recommended that the Town Council should fund the money to undertake the repair to the tomb needed to make it safe as soon as possible.

However, after some discussion the Town Council decided instead to defer action until legal advice had been take on it's position.

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CARKEEL HOTEL ON 'DANGEROUS CORNER' OPPOSED

A new hotel and restaurant with car parking area on the Saltash side of Carkeel was opposed by Saltash Town Councillors.

An outline planning application had been sought in respect of the landfill site there.

The Town's Chamber of Commerce had written to object on the grounds of increased traffic created.

Such a major development

would lead to Carkeel merging into Saltash in contravention of local policy, Town Councillors considered. The proposed site was on a dangerous corner where traffic speeds up while coming out of Carkeel and the access to the proposed hotel was far from ideal. It was also suggested that there should be no such further development north of the A38 Saltash by-pass until there is a safe pedestrian crossing of that road. Light pollution was another issue raised.

The opening up of the proposed access to the hotel would entail the moving a 'listed building,' a historic milestone, and Town Councillors did not consider this to be justified. It is one of a number of local milestones believed to date from the days of the first turnpike roads in the eighteenth century.

The Council unanimously recommended refusal for the plan.

PUBLIC HELP SOUGHT ON VEHICLE VANDALISM

Crime in and around Saltash took an upturn over the last month with 116 offences reported, Sergeant Andy Dunstan told the town Council at their June meeting.

This compared with 88 offences for the equivalent month the previous year.

Some of the offences included are for possession of drugs which indicates more positive policing rather than increase in crime.

There had been one burglary from a dwelling and a suspect had been arrested nearby. There had also been five non-dwelling burglaries.

Crime figures had been increased by 22 offences of damage to vehicles as well as 2 thefts from motor vehicles. Cars had been scratched in areas including Forder, Spencer Gardens, Oaklands Drive and Fairmead Mews.

Anyone with any information is asked to contact Saltash police directly or, if preferred anonymously through their "Crimestoppers" line.

Meanwhile the four extra police officers assigned to Saltash were enabling police to deal with complaints more speedily as well as providing an increased visible police presence in the town, Sergeant Dunstan confirmed.

SALTASH U3A

The meeting opened with our chairman, Mike Scott, reminding us that 'growing old is mandatory, but growing up is optional'! Mave Hall was thanked for arranging a very successful round robin trip from Totnes, via Paignton and Dartmouth. Mike announced that the Memories Group had two vacancies and also reminded group leaders that contributions for the autumn newsletter should be passed on to Sue Martin.

The Launceston club have invited members to join their September trip to Santander which will include visits to the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao and the nearby Altamira Caves.

Michael Swift gave an interesting talk entitled 'The Great, the Good, and the Humble and Meek'. Michael is the Stained glass advisor to the Diocese of Truro, dealing with conservation, preservation and approval of new designs. He explained how the study of stained glass windows provides so much information on social family history, and showed a series of slides illustrating not only how they could be used as symbols of power or memorials for the upper classes, but also showed how the 'humble and meek' featured in examples such as the Miners' windows at Truro Cathedral. A more local example can be found at Quethiock Church, where the vicar was himself a stained glass window maker. He installed a window showing the village community as it was in 1884.

In conclusion, members were shown the contrasting Millenium windows at Perranporth and Morval. Armed with a greater understanding of how stained glass windows have developed, and the information they portray, we will all be keen to take a new look at the windows in our Cornish churches

Diary Date

On Saturday 18th July the 1623 Theatre Company and the Tamar Protection Society will present The Course Of True Love, Shakespeare's greatest loves scenes, in the Elizabethan Garden at Mary Newman's Cottage. @body copy:The garden opens at 6p.m. and everyone is welcome to bring a picnic and enjoy a drink from the licensed bar, before the show starts at 7.30p.m. This promises to be a truly memorable event in a fantastic setting and if well supported it is hoped that it can become a regular item in the Cottage calendar. Tickets are just £9.00 per person and are available from Judith on 01752 843807 or by email at judith.mcbrien@blueyonder.co.uk and from Brigitte on 01579 384381. Tickets are limited and will be sold on a first come, first served basis so book early to avoid disappointment.

ROYAL ALBERT BRIDGE COMMEMORATES ROYAL MAN OF VISION

The Royal Albert Bridge commemorates the name of one of the greatest, and sometimes most underrated, men of the 19th Century.

This was the theme of a talk given as part of the Royal Albert Bridge anniversary celebrations by Mr Bill Myers to an interested audience at the Ashtor Centre.

When first married to the young Queen Victoria, Albert's position was little more than secretary. However, as a prolonged series of pregnancies incapacitated his bride he was able to take on an increasing amount of her work for the nations benefit and in particular help to establish the principal that the monarch should be independent of party politics.

Albert is especially renowned for his role in the Great Exhibition which showcased Britain's achievements and established her as a leading world power. This was just one of his many involvements in scientific progress which included his role as president of the Royal Society, where he encouraged Faraday's experiments in electricity and urged a knighthood for Charles Darwin. He was also Chancellor of Cambridge University where he succeeded in adding science to the purely classical curriculum. Furthermore he was a keen promoter of the arts and no mean artist and composer in his own right.

Albert well deserves to be remembered, Mr Myers concluded, through the South Kensington Museums built on the profits of his Great Exhibition, the Royal Albert Hall and Albert Memorial, and not least our very own Royal Albert Bridge.

AWARD FOR ANNA FOR SPEECH AND DRAMA DIPLOMA

Having devoted herself to studying speech and drama since the age of six, 21 year old Anna Murton was delighted to achieve the ultimate accolade in that field, an honours Award of the Victoria College of Music (AVCM).

A former student at saltash.net.school now studying teacher training at Marjons College in Plymouth, Anna is especially pleased that the award should help her in her chosen career, passing on her speech and drama skills to future generations of enthusiastic children. Her delight is shared by proud parents Andrew and Catherine and younger sister Abigail.

She has been a pupil of the Saltash Bethany School of Speech and Drama since aged six and has passed all her drama examinations with distinction having previously won trophies at various speech festivals.

Her proud teacher, Mrs Mary Frantom A.T.C.L.,



C.T., V.C.M., told the Observer. "Anna has always applied herself with diligence to learning her work and has shown great talent in reciting poetry, prose, drama, mime and public speaking. Her hard work has been rewarded in her gaining the honours in a speech and drama teaching diploma."

While pursuing her education and progressing towards her current course in English language and linguistics, Anna has also found time for an active outdoor lifestyle including participating in the Ten Tors event and in the Plymouth half marathon.

Mary Frantom A.T.C.L., C.T.V.C.M. Member of S.T.S.D.

Speech and Drama Results 2009

Melanie Ashton FVCM. ALAM recently examined pupils who attend the Saltash Bethany School of Speech and Drama. She was very impressed with the high standard of work produced, and awarded many Honours and Distinctions.

Speech and Drama Introductory - Grade I

Maya Salt, Francesca Barrett, Jasmine Saffron Tyson, Zhara Khan, Remi Cribb and Lucas Bennett.

Grades II & III
Shannon Jarvis, Laura Haddy, Alice Hutchings, Isabella Lilley, Amelia Bignell, Connie Cribb, Lucy Cooksley, Amy Dowrick and Maddy Booth.

Grades IV - VI
Laura Brown, Katie Booth, Kristina Duncan, Harris Khan, Sophie Manuel, Emily Kent, Rachel Cooksley, Rebecca Meadows, Molly Dowrick, Scarlett Pannell and Amaia Mildon

Grade VIII
Roisin Salt
Pre Diploma
Victoria Lord
Diploma (A.V.C.M)
Anna Murton, Jessie Knowles, and Lucy Beard

Grade VIII Prose Reading
Matthew Hall, Jessica Riggs, Abigail Murton.
Grade VIII Public Speaking
James Jarman

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WRITER OUTLINES THE WINDMILLS OF HER MIND

Those mighty and powerful windmills which are coming to sit astride so many Cornish hillsides each have a character and individuality of their own.

This at least is the premise of Saltash author D R Bloodworth who has privately published 'The Windmills and Other Stories', described as "a fun story book all about the truth of the Cornish windmills and their lives."

Having amused her own family and friends with these stories Mrs Bloodworth now hopes to amuse others.

These are just some among the fantastic stories which also include 'a modern fairy tale' and other more adult orientated tales based upon the writer's travels with her late husband. The book concludes with four original poems based upon the writer's experiences, observations and imaginations.

'The Windmills and Other Stories' is on sale through Saltash Bookshelf for £2.99.

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