



SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

June 2009 - Issue 202

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SUSIE IS MAYOR FOR FOURTH TERM

History was made in Saltash Guildhall when one of the Town's best known ladies was unanimously elected Mayor for a record breaking fourth term.

In proposing Mrs Susan Hooper MBE as Mayor of Saltash 2009/10 outgoing Mayor Councillor Derek Holley described her as "One able to relate to all ages and backgrounds." Referring to her previous terms of office in 1991/92, 1997/8 and 2003/4 he quipped, "We are environmentally friendly, we re-cycle our councillors". He referred to Mrs Hooper as an

active and successful organiser for charities and other events across the town and district, awarded an M.B.E. for her efforts in 2003 and last year made a Cornish Bard. He concluded "Saltash's interests are safe with her and her supportive Consort John". She was seconded by Joe Ellison who added, "Never was an MBE so richly deserved".

Elected as Deputy Mayor was Councillor Adam Killea. He was proposed by Councillor Colin Riches who advised that this Lancashire Lad, with an affection for boiled black puddings, had followed up his degree at Balliol College Oxford by coming to teach Personal Development and Politics at saltash.net.school and by being elected to Saltash and to Caradon District Councils in 2007. Adam was seconded by Councillor Bob Austin and was unanimously elected. His wife Merryn, also a Town Councillor, will serve as Deputy Mayoress.

The newly elected Mayor followed the local tradition of throwing fruit and warm pennies from the Guildhall window to children gathered below.

"Every term as Mayor is different and more of a challenge", stated Mrs Hooper whose 22 years of service makes her senior Town Councillor though not necessarily, as she hastily pointed out, by age. She looked forward to celebrating the outstanding community in which we live and took the opportunity to thank all of those who work tirelessly for the town in so many organisations. The Town is fortunate to have excellent schools which produce outstanding results, she said, and she welcomed many young people to the Mayor Choosing ceremony including Josh Fedrick, recent West End star in the title role of "Billy Elliot" as well as serving representatives of many local youth organisations. The Mayor's Charity, she announced, would be "Help for Heroes" though she would also find funds for needed causes as she saw fitting.

"I look forward to meeting with old friends and new and working with Deputy Mayor and Mayoress Adam and Merryn", she concluded adding a tribute to "My even longer suffering husband John who does so much for Saltash in his own right and has supported me tirelessly over the years".



MAY FAIR AGM

"Following another successful event, the Saltash May Fair Committee will hold their AGM at the SHADO Centre, Saltash on July 14th at 7.00p.m. and all are welcome. The current Committee would especially welcome new volunteers and prospective Committee Members who can help to build on the success of recent years, with a view to making Saltash May Fair a consistently popular local event for all ages".

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Mayor and citizens bumped as boundary stones were beaten

The bounds of the former borough of Saltash were officially "beaten" by around 70 citizens, using lanes, footpaths, bus and boat. @body copy:They included the Mayor and her Consort Mrs Sue and Mr John Hooper, the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress Mr Adam and Mrs Merryn Killeya and the Town Crier and his wife Brian and Monica Whipp.

The "beating of the bounds" was led by Saltash Observer Ace Reporter Martin Lister who also outlined points of interest along the way. Saltash is almost an island, Mr Lister explained at the outset, with only around half a mile of "land" boundary on the north between the two streams Clerks Lake and Cocks Lake. Beating the bounds is probably a pagan custom accepted by the Christian church and formally carried out in most parishes during May around Ascension Day. Traditionally young boys of the parish would be bumped on the parish boundaries to impress the markers on these boys for life. This year the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and other "volunteers" were bumped at the six boundary markers found around the roads and lanes on the rural edges of Saltash.

After a five mile country walk a pause for rest and refreshment was held at Notter. A coach then took the walkers to St Germans

where the Southern and Eastern bounds were beaten by water. An exceptionally high tide enabled a rare opportunity to cruise down the St Germans River then up the Tamar to close to where the parish boundary had been visited during the morning walk.

"As Mayor I felt very honoured to play an active part in the beating of the bounds", commented Councillor Mrs Sue Hooper MBE at the conclusion. "Saltash Town Council has revived this ancient tradition which was last revived in 1977. John and I enjoyed the event immensely, likewise the company of all those who joined in the spirit of the occasion.

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RESIDENTS' CONCERN AT HOUSING ON GREEN SPACE

One of the Town's valued green spaces is being lost to housing development causing concern to residents on the Alamein Estate and around Church Road.

The green space has long linked these areas and has been enjoyed by generations of children and dog walkers.

A letter from an Elliott Close resident to the Town Council complained that the first local residents knew of this was when fencing went up around part of the green. While accepting that the Town Council might need money from the sale of the land and that housing was needed it was suggested that building on waste land was preferable to building on valued green space.

While Town Councillors agreed that it was sad to lose open space, Deputy Mayor Adam Killeya advised that the facts were not quite as stated in the letter. The land had been owned by Caradon Council who had not sold but had donated it for 100% affordable housing. Prior to the transfer there had been two local public presentations. When the matter was considered at length by Caradon Council there had been opposition from Saltash members but the motion to dispose of the land had been carried by a small majority.

The Town Council agreed in principle that valuable green spaces within the town should be held onto as far as possible.

New Rural Bus Route proposed

Outlying villages could benefit from a new "figure of eight" bus route linking in Trematon, Forder, Carkeel, Hatt, Landulph, Blunts, Landrake and possibly Tideford. These would be linked into Lidl's and Waitrose Stores as well as Saltash Fore Street.

The outline of the proposed route was put to the Town Council's Industry Commerce Transport and Tourism Committee by Councillor Bob Austin and it was agreed that Mr Simon Newport, Commercial Director of First National Busses who was present at the meeting, should put together a proposal and costing of such a route. The Town Council could then consider the availability of financial subsidies if necessary.

A weekend timetable and extended week day services for the Town's link 33 and 33a services was also discussed. Mr Newport advised that the current service needs between £20,000 and £30,000 per year to subsidise its losses and a further boost to revenue would be needed in order to increase the service.

Residents around Frobisher Drive and Leanway had in particular been enquiring about services especially at weekends. Mr Newport stated that First National used to provide a service but found it unsafe to do so until parking issues in the area were resolved. It was agreed that these issues should be examined.

Other issues considered at the meeting included possible new bus bays in Fore Street, whether the number of passengers at Carkeel would justify the provision of a bus shelter, the possible provision of a bus stop in Glebe Avenue and the routing of either the 1 or 33 and 33a services along Alamein.

Western Greyhound are also to be asked whether they could stop their busses in both directions, instead of only one, by Bishops Close, on New Road.

COMMUNAL AREA PLANNED FOR NEW TOWN CENTRE SHOPPING ZONE

Following on from the development of the new shopping and housing complex in Keast Mews alongside the Co-op, Balabrook Limited, have plans for a "Phase Two" on the site of the now derelict "Davron" building alongside Keast Mews.

This was formerly a Co-op Bakery, explained David Newton the surveyor for Balabrook while outlining plans to the Town Council. His company had acquired much of the property previously owned by the Co-op in that area and had further plans which he and managing director Stuart Ferguson outlined.

Several Town Councillors had firstly queried whether it was appropriate for the Council to receive a presentation on a proposed development which was later likely to become the subject of a planning application. However, having heard their arguments, Mayor Mrs Susan Hooper stated, "The Clerk has received three e-mails from Councillors concerned about a pre-application presentation. No application has been received to date, as and when it is it will be considered".

The existing Keast Mews development includes four flats and eight shops. "It was essential to include residential accommodation upstairs for such a development to be economically viable", the Council was told.

Plans for the former Co-op Bakery site include not only two more commercial units and nine residential units but also a "Piazza" planned as a communal area where people could sit and relax while perhaps enjoying a cup of coffee.

Since there is currently a possibility of the two car parks in Alexandra Square and behind the Co-op being linked for pedestrians or vehicles the plans have been adapted for buildings to face this prospective link.

Asked about the Carpet Warehouse, formerly a Co-op garage, Mr Newton said that this was a possible "Phase Three" of the development but nothing had yet been decided.

MONEY SAVING TIPS

We have always said that "penny-pinching" (and there must be a better expression for it) is part of a way of life that includes concern for the world around us, pride in things that we make and mend and a desire to keep traditions that were handed down to us. What it is not, though, is being miserly, mean and single-mindedly pinching every penny whether that penny needs pinching or not, just for the sake of penny-pinching. The term for that is downright stinginess.

1. Pause for thought

The four-day wait works. If you are about to buy something which isn't a necessity, and you have a little quiet voice somewhere whispering to you, listen to it, and wait four days before you make the purchase. It gives you time to compare prices elsewhere, or to come up with an alternative, or even to decide that you don't need or want it.

2. Follow your finances

If you don't already know how to do it, learn how to balance your bank statement. Work out how much money you have each month. It does NOT tell you how much money you have. A bank statement is just that: a statement from the bank telling you what has gone through your account at the bank so far that month.

If you want to know how much money you really have on the date of that statement, you must do a bank balance, or reconciliation, to your own record. Do this the minute your statement comes in.

3. Watch the pennies

Keep a record of every single penny you spend for at least one month - believe me, you'll learn a lot!

4. Watch the interest

There is no such thing as 0% interest. When you see that advertised, it simply means that the cost of the interest is in the purchase

price. If you are in a position to pay cash, then ask for this money back. The salesman will give you a lot of guff, but ask to speak to the manager, who may well cut the price to you for cash.

5. Hit the keys

Computers are used by companies to save money. If you have a computer at home, use it in the same way. Use the spreadsheet to help with budgeting. Keep your bank balance on it.

LIONS GO OUT WITH A ROAR

Saltash Lions are no more but by way of a final "Roar" wound up by doing what they have done best for over sixty years, making generous donations to local good causes.

Saltash Lion's President, Sandy Leslie opened the final meeting of the present Saltash Lions Association by making two presentations from the last of the funds they have been busy raising over the years.

Fire Officer Darren Berry, who was present with two young fire cadets, gratefully received a cheque for two hundred pounds towards the fire cadets. "We have recently taken on four new recruits and this will help us with kitting them out", he told the meeting.

A cheque for eighteen hundred pounds was given to Peter Gammage on behalf of the Friends of St Barnabas Hospital. The money will go towards equipment and patient facilities at our well-loved local hospital.

"It is with a sad heart that we wound up Saltash Lions Club as we know it", concluded Sandy Leslie. "This is not to say that there will not be a club in the future, others may succeed in this and if so we wish them well".

Derek Laycock, Regional Chairman of Plymouth Lions, added "This is a very sad evening. The club has done tremendous work in the past and will be missed by the community. I sincerely hope that at some time we will see the spark rekindled and a Lions Club reborn in Saltash".

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HELP FOR HEROES IS ADDED TO YOUNG ARTISTES AMONG THE MAYOR'S CHARITIES

Budding ballerinas training at the Royal Ballet School, a boy who recently performed the title role in a hit West End musical and many other local young singers, dancers and musicians are among those whose talents have been recognised and boosted through a charitable foundation set up by our current Town Mayor.

Having enjoyed the performing arts herself in particular as a member of the well remembered Saltash Operatic and Dramatic Society, and having organised a wide variety of charitable events over 40 years, Sue Hooper had been especially keen to promote local good causes especially youth organisations and to involve young people themselves in charity fundraising activities. In doing so she became increasingly aware of the among of genuinely talented young people eager to enhance their skills in the various performing arts but sometimes frustrated in being able to do so.

"My reason for setting up the Sue Hooper Charitable Foundation was that I felt there was a gap in funding for young people who were studying or wanted to advance their studies in the performing arts including drama, dance, singing, playing instruments and composing", recalls Sue. "There was no appropriate charity to help them. I found a number of young people unable to find any form of funding and the school curriculum at that time did not cater for the performing arts. I became aware of several funding organisations of whom Saltash children were seeking help which simply replied that it was up to parents and grandparents to help - but in many instances these people were unable to afford to do so. I approach friend and solicitor, Peter Durbin who sorted out the legal issues in setting up a foundation, my husband John and I put in funding ourselves to kick start the charity which has since then helped many people by raising many

thousands of pounds".

Indeed so successful has the foundation become that it now considers applications from the wider community in Cornwall. Recently it has donated funding for youth ballet workshops at the Hall for Cornwall in Truro, with professional practitioners and ballet workshops with Leeds Youth Ballet offering opportunities for young people from Saltash and beyond.

It is a unique charity, Mrs Hooper believes and as such it has to raise all funding itself with no grant funding available.

The Foundation has worked with all schools in Saltash and many others in South East Cornwall providing performing arts workshops and performance workshops including some in the Cornish language.

As well as assisting young people who have gone on to perform on the West End stage, in National Ballet, and in the National Youth Orchestra the Foundation has also been able to help locally. Our own Youngstagers have been helped with the provision of audio equipment while most recently assistance has been given to the setting up of a Saltash Girls Choir soon to give their public debut. Local concerts and events such as last year's highly successful Trematon Festival of Arts and Music give in the addition the opportunity to showcase those who have previously received support from the Foundation.

Forthcoming events include the "Sounds of Music" on the 11th July featuring the Saltash Girl's Choir, a welcome third visit for Camborne Youth Band for

a "Last night of the Proms" on the 10th October and an event entitled "Musicals Splendour" on the 21st November - keep reading your "Saltash Observer" for more information.

Sue has, however, balanced the running of the Foundation with continuing to raise funds for other causes as and when the need has arisen. The relief efforts following the Asian Tsunami and more locally the Bosccastle floods each benefited from thousands of pounds raised through concerts and other events organised by Sue.

Her Mayor's Charity this year she has decided is to be "Hope for Heroes". "I would like us all to remember in particular servicemen and women from Saltash who have served and are continuing to serve in Iraq and Afghanistan", she requests. "The loss of one young person and serious injury to another have made this charity a particular close one to the Town", she believes, though adding that she will continue seeking to help by donations to other causes as any obvious need arises.

Anyone willing to help is invited to make a cash donation or send a cheque for the "Mayor's Charity Fund" through the Guildhall. Any fundraising organisation or individual willing to organise an event to support the Mayor's Charity should contact Sue so that she can seek to support, promote, and to attend it if possible.

Meanwhile, young people will continue to enjoy their artistic skills and learn how to give increasing pleasure to others through music, dance and drama and the charitable foundation supports their chosen performing art.

Outgoing Mayor recalls "successes and failures"

"An outstanding Mayor who has worked hard, attending so many events", was incoming Mayor Councillor Sue Hooper MBE's tribute to her predecessor, Councillor Derek Holley.

She mentioned in particular his engagement with the young, the elderly and those with special needs. "He has had a peaceful and calming effect upon us all", she recalled.

In reply Councillor Holley looked back over a year in which he had learned so much about the town and its people. He had in particular wished to support Scouts and Guides and was delighted at succeeding in raising over a thousand pounds towards their intended new headquarters.

He regretted a lack of success in achieving added services and facilities for Pilmere but promised that he and the Town Council would keep on trying. He would also keep trying to establish local residents associations such as the highly successful one on Waterside.

On the positive side Councillor Holley was delighted to have seen Saltash included on a new team of six large councils in Cornwall which he hoped would help the Town in having its voice heard within the new County of Cornwall Unitary Authority.

SEAGULLS HAVE RIGHT TO LIFE

Several residents have complained to the Town Council concerning nuisance caused by herring gulls.

One person in particular asked that Councillors should climb onto a roof to remove a seagulls' nest.

While the former Caradon Council had a Vermin Control Officer this position is not now filled. Deputy Mayor Councillor Adam Killea advised the Council's Policy and Resources Committee that it is not permitted to kill a gull unless it is endangering life or limb by attacking a person, as sometimes they do when they feel that their young are endangered.

The recommended approach is for the householder to knock down any nesting material before a nest is fully constructed. Once the eggs have been laid they are fully protected. It is also important to avoid encouraging gulls into an area by leaving food openly available to them.

POLICE OPERATION ASSISTS PROSPECTIVE BURGLARY VICTIMS

Police Officers have visited 282 local homes as part of "Operation Everest" which is aimed at reducing domestic burglaries.

Those who live in areas which have already been targeted for burglary have been prioritised. Officers have in 85 instances given advice on crime prevention, increasing security, or the marking of valuable items.

Police Officers were accompanied by Fire Officers who in 25 instances gave advice on the fitting of smoke alarms. The Police are also eager to develop new Neighbourhood Watch Schemes and have discussed these with many residents.

Sergeant Andy Dunstan advised the Town Council that local crime figures continue to fall with 87 offences reported during the previous month. These include one burglary from a dwelling, four other burglaries (mainly from outbuildings), eleven criminal damage to motor vehicles and five thefts from motor vehicles.

He also informed Councillors that a new Police Community Support Officer appointed to Saltash, Tom Cornwell, would soon be seen around town and was keen to involve himself in local affairs.

There were problems with regard to cyclists ignoring new "No Cycling" signs in Latchbrook, he was informed, and he confirmed that cycling on footpaths was an offence which could be dealt with "Swiftly" by the police.

SALTASH OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 7th Saltash Open Golf Championship tees off this year on Friday 17th July at the China Fleet Golf Club. Entries are now being invited from local golfers who want to compete for the coveted claret jugs and add their names to the list of past Champions.

This year's event is raising money for local sporting charities and the organisers hope to beat last year's record number of entrants to raise even more money to benefit the community of South East Cornwall.

Men and women can compete in their respective categories for the main prizes, or, for those less ambitious, there are six individual prizes for nearest the pin, most accurate drive and longest drive.

For an application form please ring David or Helen Carter on 01752 840807 or Bruce Reid on 01752 308387. Alternatively, you can email crtr722@aol.com.

This year's event includes a one course carvery meal for every entrant, served after the tournament!

Entry fees are £15.00 for China Fleet members, £32.00 for non members and £15.00 plus normal flexible fee of £9 for flexible China Fleet members. I think you will agree great value for what has proven to be a fantastically entertaining and fun day of golf.

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LINK LOCAL COTTAGE WITH DRAKE'S TRAIL

A trail focussed on places associated with Sir Francis Drake and accessible by cycle or foot from a project centre at Yelverton should soon include "Mary Newman's Cottage" in Culver Road, Saltash. The Drake's Trail leaflet has already been printed but the Town Council has agreed to request a link on the web-site which could point out that the cottage is easily accessed by a short walk from Saltash Town Station. The cottage could then be included in future leaflets.

The medieval town house has traditionally been associated with Sir Francis Drake's first wife who was recorded as having been a Saltash girl. There is, however, no actual evidence that she ever lived in that particular property.

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF SALTASH

The speaker for our April meeting was Joan Philp, secretary of the local Osteoporosis support group.

Joan told us that as there are no symptoms with Osteoporosis, which means porous bones, the first sign that people are suffering from it is when they break a bone and the most common sites for this are the wrists, hips and spine. Treatment is for life but there are several different treatments for the disease and also there are many things that you can do to help yourself such as following a healthy balanced diet rich in calcium and vitamin D obtained from sunlight helps the body absorb calcium. Weight-bearing exercises are also helpful.

Melba Mallinder gave the vote of thanks for a very informative talk and members went home with a variety of leaflets on the subject.

A few days later at the Saltash May Fayre the club had a stall selling home made preserves, cakes, biscuits, bric-a-brac and a very successful lucky-dip for the children.

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FORMER BUTCHERS SHOP SEEKS TO RESTORE FRONTAGE

The former Davy's Butcher's Shop, long considered a empty eyesore in the centre of Saltash, can be given a facelift.

Permission has been sought to install a replacement shopfront and Town Councillors have been eager to recommend approval.

Concerns were, however, expressed as to a local historian having advised that this shop, together with Lloyds Chemist, formerly Underhills, had the only two original shop fronts in Fore Street. The frontage is not however, marble as some had believed but black tiles which are easily cracked and chipped and should be replaced, it was agreed.

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REGATTA TRADITION GETS BETTER BY THE YEAR

The Saltash summer's rich feast and fun and entertainment continues, following the unforgettable May Fair and Brunel Bridge Anniversary Celebrations, with a Saltash Regatta which also promises to be as good as if not better than ever before.

The first weekend in July, Saturday and Sunday 4th and 5th of the month, promises all the usual fun afloat and ashore with plenty to watch and plenty to enjoy.

Once again the entire Waterfront area of Saltash from Brunel Green to the Waterside will be given over to entertainment and to attractions for the full two days. The roads will be closed and visitors are encouraged to take advantage of the weekend's free Park and Ride service from the Granada Service Area at Carkeel. Free busses will run from there to the Waterside on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The history of the Saltash Regatta is, as they say, "Buried in the mists of antiquity" though Saltash oarsmen renowned for their skills and known accordingly as the "Non Pareils" were rowing competitively hereabouts in the early 19th Century and the Regatta appears to have been a popular local tradition from at least around 1835.

Saltash was especially renowned also for its oarswomen, most notably the renowned Ann Glanville who competed throughout England and in France between 1820 and 1850 and who will be reappearing, at least in replica, as part of this year's Victorian themed events.

The Regatta was for many years given an honorary "Royal" title though there is currently no evidence of any authority for this. However, it is acknowledged that the then Prince of Wales (George V as he was to be) donated a cup which will be as ever eagerly competed for by the sailors visiting from HMS Raleigh. In addition a cup donated by former Mayor Councillor Davey in the 1930's was recently discovered in a Liskeard attic, re-donated to the Regatta Committee, and will this year be presented once again to a team of winning rowers.

While the Regatta has been discontinued during wartime and on occasions during peacetime it has been an annual event since 1963 and over the last few years has



Regatta 2008

EXCITEMENT AND FUN AFLOAT

A programme which contrasts serious rowing and sailing skills with fun events for all to join in or enjoy from ashore is guaranteed to please one and all at this year's Regatta.

Westcountry Gig Racing, with the Pilot Gigs all based on the traditional boats which used to race out to drop the pilot onboard incoming ships, is enjoying a revival. On the Saturday a packed programme of mixed veteran gigs should see these traditional craft with their hardworking crew speed along the river for most of the day.

In additional recruits from HMS Raleigh will be eagerly competing for the historic "Prince of Wales Cup".

By way of contrast the increasingly popular "Five Towns Challenge" will see councillors from South East Cornwall's five towns seriously competing and with the hosting Saltash Councillors in particular determined to wrest the

become an increasingly popular part of the Saltash Summer calendar. Come down the to Waterside on the first weekend in July and join in all the fun of Regatta.

Waitrose Shield from Looe. In addition to the shield the newly discovered R J Davey Cup, first donated by a former mayor in the 1930's, will be presented to the winning team.

On Sunday the river will be alive with flash boat racing as well as the bright sails of the Saltash Sailing Club dinghies competing in three classes. There will also be a demonstration by the Tamar Canoe Association.

The high spot of Sunday is traditionally the ever popular "Race to England". Starting at noon teams of rowers in fancy costume will be taking part in heats, each eager to be the first to plant the Cornish flag on the English bank of the Tamar.

Throughout the weekend look out for the colourful sights on the water. These should include the Breton Lugger "General Le Clerc" sailed over from our twin town of Plougastal, a town renowned for its strawberries a load of which have been promised to Saltash to help in its Regatta celebrations.

BRIDGE TOLL OBJECTORS CAN SIGN PETITION

Those residents who object to the swingeing increases in Bridge Tolls, as reported in last month's Observer, can now sign a petition on-line or in Saltash Guildhall.

The Tamar Bridge Committee is seeking to increase both cash and tag tolls by 50% later this year and also to have open authority for a further 50% increase in the future.

Looe Town Council has written to Saltash and other South East Cornish Towns suggesting that a paper petition be made available for objectors without on-line access to sign. Looe has already had a number of residents sign that which has been placed in the Town's Tourist Information Office.

Saltash Town Council, which has already itself made representations opposing the increase, agreed that a petition be placed in the Guildhall and signatures be added to those on-line.

PLENTY TO SEE ASHORE

While the focus of the Regatta events take place upon the water there will be plenty for all ages to enjoy ashore.

The fun will start with the official parade, led by the Launceston Town Band and including local Victorian Oarswoman Ann Glanville in costume as well as our Town Mayor, Town Crier and other dignitaries, all promenading down Fore Street to the Waterside from around 11 a.m. on the Saturday.

As last year the event is combined with National Veterans Day and there will a short service before the Regatta is formally opened by Laurence Reed of BBC Radio Cornwall which will be broadcasting live from the regatta.

Live entertainment throughout the weekend includes the ever popular Wreckers Morris, Launceston Town Band, and the Crooked Tempo Samba Band. Back by popular request are Wells Jive and Madding Crowd, while The Roosters Roosters and Under the Bridge promise a rich vein of live music. Jill Cole, Sevenoaks and Hi Jack add to a variety of musical styles performing live on Brunel Green and the Waterside. Excitement is promised in a Wild West Show from "The Settlers" while budding Beckhams can show off their skills in a penalty shootout with Pilgrim Pete.

The youngest visitors can enjoy fun from Squash Box, the ever popular Elfie the Jester, and a traditional Punch and Judy Show and well as riding a live steam miniature train and the fun of face painting and hair braiding. Teenagers have their own fun with a Saturday Evening gig promised in the LiveWire Club.

The entire Waterfront area will be lined with stalls with over 20 local organisations and charities filling the Waterside and the ever popular Art and Craft Fair packing Brunel Green. It is hoped that a Continental Market will, as in previous years, be a link between the two areas.

Newcomers and long term residents of the Town are clearly agreed, following our brilliant May Fair and Brunel Bridge Celebrations last month, that Saltash is the place to be. Our Regatta Committee is determined that the events of the first weekend in July will more than match them, evoking local cries of "You had to be there

SALTASH CARD

SALES TOP 300

The "Saltash Card" which entitles its holder to substantial discounts from various local businesses has taken off well, Liam Bradley of Saltash Gateway Community Interest Company has advised.

The cards attracted much interest over the May Fair weekend and already over 300 have been issued. From an original eight business interested in involvement there are now twenty five already offering a variety of discounts to cardholders and more are anticipated to join the scheme. The card, which follows other successful schemes elsewhere in Cornwall, is aimed at encouraging townspeople to aid the local economy by shopping in and around Saltash and using local owned business.

The card is for sale in the Guildhall and at Saltash Bookshelf for £2.

Three Peaks

Rowers Tackle 24 Hour Mountain Challenge

In an attempt to raise as much money as possible for

St Luke's Hospice and Caradon Pilot Gig Club, a team of 12 rowers and friends, collectively



known as 'Team 'Ash', are attempting to climb

three UK mountains in 24 hours.

The Three Peaks Challenge involves climbing Ben Nevis in Scotland, Scafell Pike in England and Snowdon in Wales. The distance walked is around 25 miles, the height climbed is around 10,000 feet, and the distance to be covered between the mountains is some 450 miles - and it all has to be done in just 24 hours! The team includes two drivers who will be transporting them around the country in a hired minibus.

The challenge is being done in memory of some of the team's lost loved ones, Mike Gilbert and Yolande Horler, both of whom were cared for at St Luke's. The challenge is being organised by Caradon Pilot Gig Club, and is taking place on the 27th & 28th June.

One of the team, Nicola Davey, said 'we wanted to do something big in memory of Mike and Yolande, and this challenge seemed to fit the bill.

We've been training really hard over the winter, doing numerous training walks on Dartmoor in everything from snow to sunshine, rain to gales. We're a good strong team and are determined to complete the challenge, and hopefully we'll be able to raise a lot of money.

If you would like to support or sponsor Team 'Ash, please contact Nicola at Saltash Cards on 01752 843577 or email caradonthreepks@hotmail.co.uk. We'll let you know how we get on later in the summer.

Team Ash are Nicola & Phil Davey, Jenna Hasell, Matt Hatchard, Chris Rowse, Anthony Woodward, Shaun Austin, Andy Vine, Charlotte Annear, Sue & Steve Smale and James Edmunds.

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ASHTORRE'S BRUNEL BRIDGE CELEBRATIONS

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Postcards of Old Saltash - John Hooper

Saturday 20th June 8.00pm
The Cornish Wurzels - £10.00 to include Cornish supper

Friday 26th June 7.30 pm
Family History Talk - Sir Vernon Seccombe, JP, Chair of Cornish Family History Society - £3.00

Saturday 27th June 10.00am-1.00pm
The Draw-Bridge Project - follow-up session. See Saturday, 6 June.

Thursday 2nd July 7.30pm
The Life, Times and Lady Fiends of John Betjeman by Cliff Snell - £3.00

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

For more details, tickets and up-to-date information contact Lynn Marsh on 01752 844255 or lynnsmarsh@aol.com
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Tues 23rd Blue Trane Tues 30th Jazz Messengers
Wed 17th Open Mike Night
Fri 12th Red House Fri 19th The Organization
Fri 26th The Roosters
Sat 13th TBA Sat 20th XLR
Sat 27th Vince Lee Big Combo

--- JULY ---
Tues 7th Martin Dale Tues 14th Jazz Trio
Fri 3rd Dog House Blues Band Fri 10th Scaramoose
Fri 17th Bad Luck 'n'Touble
Sat 4th Free & Co Sat 11th TBA Sat 18th TBA

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**The Bookshelf,
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celebrate
Independent
Booksellers
Week**

The Bookshelf in Saltash is taking part in Independent Booksellers Week which is being held this summer from 15th to 22nd June.

Over 200 local bookshops spanning the country are signed up to take part in the week which is being organised by the Booksellers Association (BA) - the national trade association for booksellers. Independent Booksellers Week is a celebration of the passion and dedication demonstrated by independent bookshops, and will take place in stores from the Orkney Islands to Cornwall.

The initiative, which took place for the first time last year, features booksellers demonstrating their flair, creativity and community involvement through in store promotions and events staged throughout the week. Events will range from author talks, children's storytelling, creative writing workshops, to authors taking a turn behind the tills in "Strictly Come Bookselling". So far nearly 80 authors are showing their support for the week including:

Kate Adie, Matthew Hoggard, William Fiennes, Susie Orbach, Chris Mullin, Robert Rankin, Katherine McMahon, Michael Arditti, Jake Arnott, Santa Montefiore, Jay Rayner, Mark Billingham, Sarah Waters, Carol Drinkwater, Jeremy Kyle and Patrick Hennessey.

The Bookshelf is organising the following events before and during the week:
Monday 15th - 10 am to 12 noon - Suzanne Morton 'Smiling Angels 1 and 2' popular local author from Looe.
Tuesday 16th - 10 am to 12 noon - Tom Bowden 'Saltash Revisited' - local book. 2 pm to 4 pm - Richard Parkyn 'Balaclava Boy' new local author - book reviewed as 'brilliant' by our readers.

Wednesday 17th - 11 am to 2 pm - Edwin Page - new book - 'Where Seagulls Fly' - by local author, who has previously published books about the work of film directors.

Thursday 18th - 1pm to 3pm - Mark Camp 'Best of Bodmin Moor' series - popular local walks books.

Friday 19th - 11.30 am to 2pm - Tania Crosse - well known local author of Morwellhams Child, River Girl, Cherrybrook Rose, Bouquet of Thorns and Lilys Journey.

Saturday 20th - 12 noon to 2pm - Julian Stockwin with his latest book 'Treachery' and his new book 'Stockwin's Maritime Miscellany'

Monday 22nd June - 2 pm Quiz at the Saltash Library with book token prizes.

Due to the timing of the Observer and this event some of you may miss some of the dates as seen above.

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SALTASH UNITED JUNIORS FOOTBALL CLUB



Saltash United Juniors football club are sending an under 9's football team to France having been invited to once again take part in the Dirinon International Football tournament held over the last weekend in May. Explained coach Robin Duff @body copy: "This is a great honour and we are all very excited about taking part. In our category there are 36 teams from all over the world including a team from Brazil, The Czech Republic, Russia and the USA. A lot of the top French clubs send their teams and we are drawn against Stade Rennais in the first group of matches. The only other British team in the tournament are Arsenal, added Robin. We have not been drawn against them but we are hoping they will give us a friendly match!" The team warmed up with a runners up spot in the Saltash football partnership tournament on Sunday. Said Robin

'tournaments are always great fun but to take the boys to another country and mix with players from different nationalities and to see some

very good sides operating at the highest level for this age group is going to be a fantastic experience and we will be there flying the flag for Saltash and for Cornwall.

THE SUN SHONE AND THE CROWDS SHARED THE VICTORIAN FUN DAY

A gentle hiss of steam and the occasional blast of a steam whistle rose above the hundreds who gathered on Saltash Waterside on May Bank Holiday Sunday to share a Victorian Fun Day.

The sun shone and one and all came together, many in Victorian costume, to share the variety of attractions on offer. Boys, and many girls, of all ages were especially

attracted to the variety of steam engines ranging from the mighty to the miniature. The industrial locomotive 'Alfred' was constantly in steam as were an array of steamrollers and traction engines and even a steam fire engine. Moving trains were enjoyed on the two model railway displays in the Ashtorre Centre.

For those less steam fixated there was plenty of entertainment to enjoy.

The ferret racing proved an especial attraction and was fun for one and all.

In keeping with the Victorian theme blue jackets from HMS Active and soldiers from the No1 Depot Company Royal Garrison Artillery Company all in Victorian uniform gave demonstrations of bayonet drill and fired off their genuine period Lee Enfield and Martini Henry rifles.

There was music from the Kernow Pipes and Drums, the City of Plymouth Pipe Band and the Salvation Army Band. And as the crowds filled the area a lone piper led an array of town criers and a very important visitor, Queen Victoria, herself.

Other entertainment included everything from Belly Dancers to an amazing young uni-cyclist. The youngest visitors enjoyed Punch and Judy and a ride along the pier on a miniature live steam train.

The bright weather and the crowds that came to share the fun fully rewarded the small committee at Ashtorre that had worked so hard to make such a memorable Victorian Fun Day possible as a tribute to the Bridge that soared above the event.

TO WALK WHERE BRUNEL PROUDLY WALKED

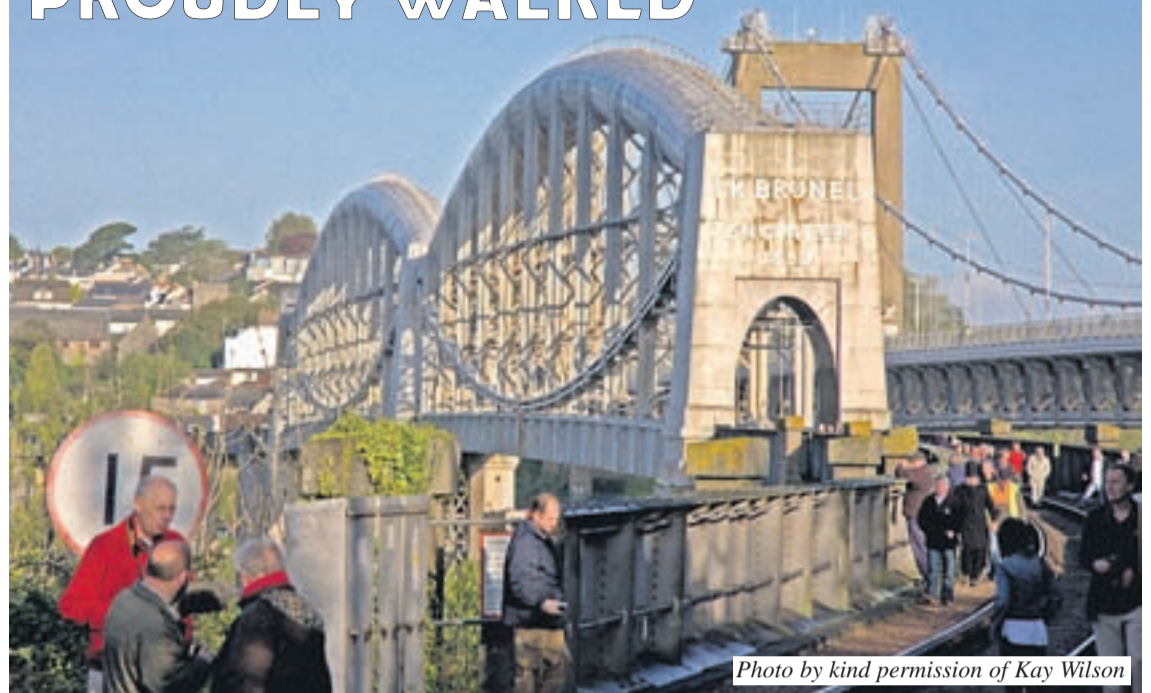


Photo by kind permission of Kay Wilson

Early morning cloud hung over Saltash though there was a hint of the sun breaking through as the dawn chorus greeted those who came from all directions to descend upon Saltash Station at 6 O'clock one Sunday May morning.

The first batch of those thousand or so who had applied and been lucky enough to receive one of the four hundred tickets to walk the Royal Albert Bridge were starting to arrive.

Despite the early hour there was already a cheery social atmosphere. The "Two Bridges Inn" was already offering early hot drinks and breakfasts. Townsfolk and those from around and about who had grown up with the Royal Albert Bridge mixed with those who had come from across the country to share this historic opportunity. The last time this occurred was in 1984 on the Bridge's 125th Anniversary.

The Network Rail Stewards invited those with yellow tickets to pass onto the platform. Here we waited in groups of 40 while we were given last minute safety instructions as a jazz band set up on the down platform.

We chatted with members of the Severn Railway Society from Kidderminster, some of the many railway lovers who had travelled the length and breadth of the country to pay tribute to Saltash's world renowned engineering masterpiece.

A few drops of rain caused concern. Then the sun started breaking through as the great moment arrived. Member of the Organising Committee, Sheila Butler, bore aloft the flag of St Piran as she led the first forty walkers who included Mayor and Mayoress

Councillor Derek and Mrs Margaret Holley.

As we entered the approach girders we could enjoy the spectacular views of the river below. Then as we reached the bridge itself the parapets rose above us and attention was directed to the amazing array of ironwork soaring overhead.

Here we paused awhile to be greeted by top-hatted, cigar smoking Isambard Kingdom Brunel himself, also known as Malcolm Down.

Most walkers were surprised at the way the single rail track arises above the walkway by several feet, not apparent as one crosses by train. The walkway was on wooden planks with some alarming gaps through one of which could be seen a boat with a fisherman onboard a hundred feet below.

Halfway across and a second spectacular arch soared above us. Then we were almost on the St Budeaux approach girders and helpful Air Force Cadets were directing us to the road bridge for the walk back to Saltash. A tribute must be paid to these most efficient and helpful youngsters, a credit indeed to our local youth.

We walked the road bridge comparing notes on the experience, recalling the spectacular firework display launched from here the previous evening, and watching the long trail of walkers still enjoying the Brunel Bridge Experience.

Then it was down to the Ashtorre Centre for an excellent hot breakfast and to collect a certificate of achievement. And while we socialised over the breakfast immediately under the Bridge we looked out over a sparkling river and on those busily organising the Victorian Fun Day for our further delight later that morning.

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A SCHOOL WITH A REAL SENSE OF COMMUNITY

'A School with a real sense of Community' was how the Ofsted Report of November 2008 described saltash.net community school.

This sense of community and of students working with staff is noticeable as soon as one enters the reception area of the school. The Observer Editor and Reporter Martin Lister were greeted by reception staff alongside a team of student receptionists who supervise the front desk on a rota basis during a recent visit to the school. Head teacher, Mrs Isobel Bryce then took over as our guide, proudly showing us the facilities which cater for over 1,400 students of all ages and abilities with a faculty of around 200 staff.

Spectacular location

After they have become adjusted to the school's spectacular location (one former geography teacher claimed that she could point out practically every possible geographical feature from the school grounds save for a coral atoll), newly appointed staff inevitably comment on the school as being so 'friendly and welcoming'. This a view shared by its students and comments from new Year 7 students confirmed and endorsed the philosophy of Mrs Bryce that staff and students 'cannot achieve unless in a happy environment'.

We were first shown around the grounds and led into what had until fairly recently been a derelict area with an overgrown pond. Over the previous year vocational students had built it up as part of a project into a sensory garden, which, we were promised, was destined to be stunning in the Summer when bird boxes would be hung and

students could enjoy it as a pleasant retreat from examinations pressure.

From here we were led to the School's own mini-farm. saltash.net remains conscious of its rural environment and farm animals on campus are rotated with the farm at nearby Landrake. As we were introduced to Jimmy the lamb and Dorothy the pig we were followed around by a flock of rescued battery hens. Here Year 10 students studying environmental and land based GCSE subjects work as part of their environmental project. Students with learning difficulties in the School's Trematon Unit also respond well to working in the farm which looked forward to the return of 'Princess Alice' and her anticipated breed of Cornish Black piglets later in the term.

More gardens

More gardens lay beyond the farm where all students are encouraged to join in planting sessions as green houses and polytunnels are expanded. The Earth Science Garden is a particularly attractive environment, commanding fine urban and rural views where students studying for Geology GCSE can study rocks collated from all parts of the globe. In its centre is a seat placed at the students' request, to commemorate a much loved teacher who died tragically on a

journey to school.

As we moved indoors we were firstly shown by Mrs Bryce into the most modern building, proudly hosting the 6th Form who especially appreciate its

and eagerness to learn together. The contentment and informality within the learning environment was marked by our meeting with Max, the school dog, eagerly watching students experimenting in a science laboratory.

And as we were led out again, passed the student receptionists, we were presented with new laid eggs from the contented battery hens, a gift from a school where, whatever the students' interests may be, there are facilities and enthusiastic staff there to support them.



excellent IT Centre and Careers Area.

Between classes they can relax in their own common room with its music centre and kitchen.

'Totally awesome'

As befits a specialist Science and Computing College saltash.net constantly updates its technology for students of all years. The Apple Mac Suite for Media Studies, new this academic year, was described by one boy as 'totally awesome'.

As we toured between science and language laboratories and more conventional classrooms, all staff and students seemed to share the element of enthusiasm

SCHOOL IS AMONG THE FIRST TO TWITTER

In accordance with its policy of embracing 21st Century technology in order to engage students and staff with learning saltash.net community school believes itself to be the first school in the South West to have its own twitter account.

'This is yet another way of communicating 24.7 which will become increasingly important as our students venture out into our age of technology,' says Head Teacher Mrs Isobel Bryce.

The twitter address is www.twitter.com/saltashdotnet and parents and others interested can follow the schools' progress on twitter and update themselves with information about school events using the latest in information technology systems.

OUTSTANDING RESULTS AND INDIVIDUAL CARE ATTRACT STUDENTS TO SALTASH

Drawing in students from a wide variety of partner primary schools in Saltash and the villages around, saltash.net community school also has a tradition of attracting students from across the Tamar and beyond. They are attracted not only by our Saltash School's outstanding examination results but by what a recent letter from the Ofsted Inspector to the students described as the particularly impressive way that "the school cares for you as individuals but also pushes you hard to achieve as much as you can".

DOUBLE AWARDS SUCCESS

saltash.net community school is celebrating after hearing that its innovative work with new technologies has been recognised by two national award schemes.

The school is a finalist in the new Times Educational Supplement (TES) Awards. Five schools nationally have been short listed for the best e-learning initiative category of which saltash.net is one. The judges were very impressed with the schools' use of new technology in a Science project called 'Recharge the Battery' which focuses on the exploration of intensive farming versus free range.

The final of the TES Awards was due to take place in London on the 9th June. Joining representatives from saltash.net at the ceremony will be personnel from Microsoft UK, one of the schools' sponsors.

Leading saltash.net's 'Recharge the Battery' project is Dan Roberts, Assistant Head Teacher. In recognition of his excellent classroom practice, as well as his creative whole school learning and teaching projects, Dan has been short listed for the National Teaching Awards South West Regional Final which is scheduled to be held at Dartington also in June. Dan is a finalist in the new 'Next Generation Learning' category, sponsored by the government's ICT Development Agency

The siting of the school is not the least of its attractions. Its spacious 13 acre campus, high above where the River Lynher joins the Tamar, overlooks an area of outstanding natural beauty as well as Plymouth and the open sea beyond. The widespread playing fields give the opportunity for a variety of sports and other activities including the running of the schools' own farm whose pigs and chickens have recently attracted international interest.

Specialist school

The school has been building upon its reputation as a specialist school in science, mathematics and computing with a rural dimension. This specialist status was acquired in 2004 and, following an excellent Ofsted Report in October 2008, the specialism has been confirmed to continue for at least another three years. All students of all abilities from

BECTA. Dan, who was nominated by the student council for the prestigious award, says that he is honoured to be able to represent both the school and Cornwall in this way.

Commenting on the school's double success Head Teacher, Isobel Bryce said, "It shows that what is happening at saltash.net community school with regard to the development of learning and teaching of new technologies is nationally respected. I am extremely proud of what our students and staff are achieving and I am delighted that the excellent practice that exists here continues to be recognised by these awards."

age 11 to age 18 are encouraged to enjoy the benefits of this specialisation which include continuous updating of the very latest in technology.

The school works closely with its 7 local partner schools in order to secure an easy transition to secondary education and thereafter to use teaching and learning approaches that develop personal qualities. The promotion of independence, creativity and enterprise in young people figures high in its mission statements as students progress and, through their personal development programme in Years 7 to 11, undertake work in the three major areas of self-awareness, career exploration and career management. From Year 10 onwards students have opportunities to attend presentations by colleges, universities and employers. With the school's dedication to giving students reasons for finding things out, discovering and building upon students' interests and enthusiasms and building its curriculum around this, saltash.net is committed to turning out well rounded students with an interest in learning and in becoming part of the local community. This community itself plays an active part in the life of the school.

Ofsted report

'Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are outstanding', the independent Ofsted Report has confirmed. 'Very good attendance and a high level of retention in the 6th Form show that students enjoy being in the school. Attitudes in class are good and students say that they feel safe at school'.





saltash.net community school is a thriving, highly successful 11 to 18 mixed, community comprehensive school. It has been a specialist school in Science and Mathematics & Computing with a Rural Dimension since September 2004. Following our excellent Ofsted in October 2008, the DCSF confirmed that our specialism will continue for at least another three years.

Situated in an area of outstanding natural beauty our school secures high levels of academic success as well as many outstanding sporting and other extra curricular achievements. It offers excellent ICT facilities, state of the art science labs and has an on site farm with world famous pigs and chickens!

The school works very closely with its seven partner primary schools to ensure Year 6 students have a smooth transition to secondary school.

We strive to provide the highest quality education for all children in our care.

We are proud of what our young people achieve and we look forward to welcoming you to our school soon.



For a Prospectus or for more information please contact:

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Our Open Evenings for 2009 will be on
Wednesday 30th September &
Thursday 1st October

