

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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September 2017 - Issue 306

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Call for By-Pass Follows Fatal Accident

Calls for a new A38 to by-pass the village of Landrake and Tideford and link the Saltash by-pass to the dual carriageway at Trerulefoot have followed recent accidents including the tragedy at Landrake in July when a mother and son lost their lives and another young child was seriously injured.

While acknowledging that the status of the road probably was not a factor in this accident Saltash town councillor John Brady asked his fellow councillors to join him in seeking for major improvements to this trunk route. While Highways England has concentrated on duelling almost all of the A30 'spine' road into Cornwall the busy A38 still retains long sections of two lanes, including notorious accident black spots such as Notter Bridge.

Plans for a new A38, including a high level bridge over the Lynher valley above Notter Bridge, were drawn up late last century but were shelved.

Councillor Brady is especially anxious to see a by-pass for Landrake where a footbridge was built some years

ago following the death of a lollipop lady. He told town councillors that he is increasingly concerned, when collecting his grandchildren from school in Landrake, at the increase in traffic speed and volume.

The town council agreed to press Highway England for a by-pass to be constructed at Landrake and also expressed concern for residents in Tideford where air pollution from traffic streaming through the village has been found to be a health hazard. Current nitrogen dioxide levels in the village are double the acceptable limit while villagers face increasing hazards and delays in crossing the road through their village. A copy of the council's letter is to be forwarded to Sheryll Murray M.P.

Expert Consultant for Station Enhancement

A consultant with experience of working for a national museum, the Plymouth Museums Rebuild and other heritage buildings has been appointed to advise on the bringing back to life and enhancement of Saltash's Victorian Station building, recently purchased by the town council.

The council approved the decision of the station property working party to appoint Hilary Bracegirdle on an initial five day period, to be extended a further five days if required. The committee chairman will liaise with Ms Bracegirdle and Saltash Heritage on an effective way of communicating works taking place at the station.

Work has already begun with the clearance of asbestos from the building and Councillor John Brady described himself as amazed at the apparent size of the building's interior. A selection of four architectural practices was to be invited to view the premises with proposed plans and drawings to be prepared, put to the

council, and then go out to public presentation.

A number of volunteers have already come forward, Councillor Brady was pleased to confirm, to carry out practical work in the buildings restoration.

Two Stores and Two Restaurants for Carkeel Site

The latest plans for the land South East of the Carkeel Roundabout include two large stores and two drive-through restaurant/cafes as well as a substantial parking area.

The former car showroom site covering three and a half acres was purchased by Tesco in 2014 and planning permission was granted for a Tesco Supermarket. However the retailing giant is now cutting back on its development of large out of town stores and last year decided to sell on the site.

Now cut-price supermarket Aldi is due to build on the site adjacent to its cut-price rival Lidl. Alongside the Aldi store Home Bargains is now planning to open up in competition to neighbouring B & M.

Near the entrance to the site are two proposed 'drive thru' units, one of which is currently anticipated to be a McDonalds burger business, the other a Costa Coffee Shop.

The sole road access to all four new businesses will be off Gilston Road, via an entrance almost opposite that to the existing Lidl store. There will be around 200 parking spaces in the site to cater for the 1725 square meter food store and the adjacent 1626 square meter retail unit.

A traffic report has been commissioned and indicates that overall traffic movement will be less than for the Tesco supermarket that was originally planned for the site.

Closing the Gap

The storms of 2014 severed the rail line at Dawlish and flooded the Somerset Levels, leaving the railway line between Taunton and Bridgwater submerged and costing the South West £1.2 billion in disruption. Clearly, the rail network needs investment to provide greater resilience, especially in the light of stark warnings from Network Rail that without investment, weather events similar to those in 2014 will occur once every 4 years by 2065.

In 2013 local authorities throughout the South West, recognising the need for strategic investment, formed the Peninsula Rail Task Force - a rail improvement campaign group led by the councils of Cornwall, Devon, Plymouth, Somerset and Torbay together with business representation organisations, universities and Travel Watch South West.

The Peninsula Rail Task Force was selected by Government as the representative body to identify and recommend strategic and local rail improvements to Ministers. In November last year it presented its 30-page strategic rail blueprint to Government, calling on the Prime Minister to sign a 3-Point Plan for the Government to commit to big, decisive investments that will deliver:

- * A resilient and reliable railway
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Copies of the blueprint are at Saltash Library, and can also be found at the Task Force website. Look for the glorious picture of the Royal Albert Bridge on page 31.

The task now, though, will be to secure the funding that is needed to implement the report, a warning stressed by the outgoing Task Force Chair, Councillor Andrew Leadbetter of Devon County

Council, who said: "Our message to Government is plain: there must be real enhancements to the rail network in the South West. We must tackle the decades of underinvestment, we must start now and we must hold true to that course in the years to come."

This feeling was echoed by Councillor Hilary Frank, who represented Cornwall Council at the summer meeting of the Task Force, when members voted for Cornwall Council to take on the role of Task Force Chair for the coming year. Councillor Frank said: "A lot of excellent work has already been delivered, but we are under no illusion that it will be easy going forward. We still remain committed, though, to working with Government, local authorities Network Rail, train operating companies and private sector

partners to explore new avenues for investing in the rail network and bring benefits to the South West. Here in Saltash, we are fortunate to have the excellent Saltash Rail Users Group, which has an impressive track record in lobbying for rail improvements."

With the new Hitachi Intercity Express Trains due to start running on the Paddington to Penzance line in the summer of 2018 and Saltash Town Council having recently bought the former Station Building, Saltash residents will see gradual improvements, but Richard Bickford, Secretary of Saltash Rail Users Group, warns that: "We must get a decent rail service to match, and there has to be the long-awaited investment in raising the platform at Saltash to enable easy access to trains for all."



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Peter Ryland Chamber Chairman – Keeping us Updated...

I will start this article with a reminder to all residents of Saltash that there is an open event on the 19th September at the Guildhall where Saltash Gateway CIC have an open event at 6 p.m. when Neil Gallagher, the BBC (S.W.) Business Correspondent, will give a talk and answer questions. This should be an interesting event and certainly there will be some intriguing questions raised as to the local economy and the likely effect of Brexit.

In my last article, I referred to the proposals for the redevelopment of the site adjoining Carkeel roundabout. I have heard from the developers that their proposal, for which they are submitting a planning application, has now been reduced to 2 retail units but with 2 drive-thru's.

There is no doubt that other users for the site could have been found that would be more beneficial to the town but these would not have produced the same land value as the proposal now being put forward and, obviously, the previous owners, Tesco, needed to obtain the highest price for the land, as always, in order to show their shareholders that they are achieving best value.

Although Retail Use will provide jobs they are not the skilled jobs that manufacturing would have provided. There is a belief within the Chamber that Saltash needs more employment land to provide jobs within Saltash. We are not talking of heavy engineering but manufacturing jobs in the electronics/light engineering fields. We believe there are the skills in the PL12 community but these presently are either being underutilised in lesser employment roles or are having to commute to Plymouth or beyond to find jobs that fulfil their expertise.

We are not also talking of medium/large tin sheds but there is still a serious need for smaller units, perhaps for craft

based uses, which provide opportunities for the smaller employers. Whilst travelling on the continent earlier this year, I came across an edge of town development which provided a visitor centre selling the foods/crafts/products of the region. Adjoining the development were many workshops that manufactured some of the foods/products. Wouldn't this site provide an ideal opportunity for such a development, being at the Gateway to Cornwall? It could show what Cornwall is all about.

Perhaps even build it as the ground floor of a several storey building with the upper levels being a hotel as it is readily accessible to the road network and from a second floor level, and above, could provide fantastic panoramic views from Plymouth Sound to Kit Hill. However, it is not to be.

Finally Danielle in Truly Scrumptious and Aaron at Diverse Events are still welcoming ideas re. the Christmas Festival, so, if you have any ideas for events or wish to have a stall then please make contact. We need to firm up on matters in the near future so do not miss the chance to show what the community of Saltash is all about.

Observer disclaimer: Due to timing – not everyone will receive a copy in time for the event above...

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Electors Unaware of Voting Arrangements, Complains Candidate

Three days prior to the recent by-elections in Saltash East ward one of the candidates was surprised to discover that electors were unaware of the date of election and of their polling station.

'Someone somewhere took a decision not to deliver polling cards and many people in Saltash East did not know that they could vote', candidate Pete Samuels told the Observer. He was concerned that since he was standing as an independent this put him at a disadvantage over his fellow candidate who had a 'party machine' to get out supporters on polling day.

In fact Pete Samuels was the successful candidate polling 322 votes compared with 216 for Sarah Martin, standing as Liberal Democrat. Of the total votes 387 were postal votes, a high proportion which Mr. Samuels believe reflects the fact that those who did not receive postal votes and had no polling cards remained unaware of their eligibility to vote or where their polling station might be.

'I intend to follow this up and to ascertain the circumstances of the decision not to issue cards', he told the Observer.

'I am naturally very pleased to have been elected and I really will work to my best ability for the residents of Saltash East and the town in general. The town needs a strong independent voice', he believes.

There will be another by-election this time in Saltash South Ward, planned for 26th October, and nomination package are available from St. Austell until late September.

KALAN GWAV

Sat 4th

November

2:30 – 6:30pm

Fireworks, apples and family fun are returning to Warfelton Green thanks to a group of dedicated volunteers. One of the volunteers is Steve Morley of Saltash United Football Club, who said: "It's a lot of hard work, but people enjoyed it so much last year that we are happy to do it all over again for the community. One of the messages from last year was that the fireworks should be earlier – so we've set that for 6:30 this time round." The Festival itself will start at 2:30.

Join in by making an apple product for the Bake-Off or a cheeky scarecrow. Or buy a ticket to the 'Cider Stomp' that'll be held under cover on Warfelton Green with live music from local group Bare Bones. Starting at 8pm, Cider Stomp tickets are just £2. All proceeds from the Cider Stomp will be invested in to running the event.

Visit the Saltash Kalan Gwav Facebook page or the Guildhall for Scarecrow and Bake-Off Entry Forms, and for Cider Stomp tickets.

Anger Over Civic Regalia Causes Chain Reaction

The issue of a male mayor's consort wearing the Mayoress's chain has 'gone virile' after being given major coverage on Radio Cornwall and the BBC regional news programme 'Spotlight'.

The issue arose last year when the current Mayor for that time, Hilary Frank, suggested that as Saltash has an attractive and historic Mayoress' chain of office it was sad that it should be put away out of use when Saltash has a female Mayor. She pointed out that when it was presented to the town early last century the possibility of there ever being female mayor and a male consort would not have been considered. The Town Council at the time agreed and decided that a female Mayor should have the option of investing her consort with the mayoress' chain or with the somewhat more austere consort's medallion.

The issue was raised again earlier this year when Mr. John Hooper, four times consort to his wife Mrs Sue Hooper MBE when she served as mayor, asked that the new council reverse this decision. It was agreed that a working party be set up to report back to the council on the issue.

Television viewers and radio listeners throughout the South West heard former Mayor of Saltash Baz Gregory put the issue of a female mayor wishing her consort to wear the chain as down to 'arrogance and snobbery', in a biting attack. He was followed by Mrs Sue Hooper who asked that 'we can

honour historic integrity' and that no change should be made unless really necessary.

Mrs Frank, who is no long town councillor but is now Vice Chair of Cornwall Council, and the current Mayor of Saltash Mrs. Jean Dent, both declined to comment to the media while the issue was still to be considered.

The programmes provoked a substantial feedback on the BBC social media. Almost all of the responses expressed surprise that Saltash Councillors should be spending time on the issue rather than dealing with matters of more importance to the town, while some queried what would be worn when there are a Mayor and Consort of the same gender.

Discussing the issue on the evening of the television programme the town council agreed that the Chairman of the town's policy and resources committee, Councillor Bill Phillips, should take on the forming of a working party to include councillors and public and that the working party decide upon a chair. It should be ensured that all members were open minded on the issue and did not already hold firmly entrenched opinions.

Councillors had expressed concern that the regional publicity had already brought discredit on Saltash and its council.

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For Observer readers

Sam Tamlin

Cornwall Councillor for Saltash West

E: sam.tamlin@cornwallcouncillors.org.uk.

This is the first time I've written in this column and a lot of people reading won't know who I am so I think it's best if I start by introducing myself. Before being elected in May I was (and still am) a stay at home dad, I have a daughter who has just turned four and a son who will be two in November. I've found juggling being a councillor and being a dad very challenging, its rewarding and fun but I am very much still learning how to juggle and absorb as much information as I can although I have been reliably informed that this process never ends! I grew up in Looe and after returning from university and meeting my wife we decided to settle in Saltash where we have now lived for around ten years. Before my children were born I had a career in retailing, I have been a retailer and ran my own shop and more recently I worked for Appleby Westward as a member of the IT Department and as a Sales Manager. For those of you who don't know Appleby Westward is the Spar building on Carkeel roundabout, which supplies shops over the whole of the South West including as far away as Bristol and the Isle of Wight.

My experience of being a Councillor so far has been very positive, I couldn't have hoped for more support from my fellow councillors and former members of the council, particularly those in Saltash. I'm a member of the Tamar Bridge & Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee which will let me keep a close eye on what is happening on the crossings over the Tamar. I'm also on another called East Sub-Area Planning Committee which decides some of the more

contentious planning applications. I find this to be one of the hardest parts of the job and I always end up thinking about the applications days after the committee.

One of the things I think can be improved in Cornwall is our recycling rate which last year was only 36%, some councils manage over 60%. In late July our recycling in Saltash changed and we are now able to include pots, tubs and trays in the plastic recycling. The general response has been very positive however I have found that since this change I need to make sure I flatten all of my plastic to fit it into the bag! If you don't already, you can recycle these instead of throwing them away although one thing to remember is that black plastic still cannot be recycled. This is an issue all over the country as plastics are predominantly sorted with lasers which identify different types of plastic. The lasers cannot see the black plastic and it ends up being rejected at the end of the process and is not recycled.

To finish I just want to take the opportunity to mention two play parks on Yellow Tor Road in Latchbrook, I know it won't affect everyone reading this but if you have children or grandchildren you may like to know that Cornwall Council are planning to improve the two main play areas in Latchbrook, there are some funds available and they are currently consulting on what equipment should be in the parks. It would be great to get the views of as many people as possible so the best possible equipment can be provided. Details can be found on signs in the parks themselves or online by searching for "Cornwall play area improvements".

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Mayoral Matters

Firstly I would like to say a warm welcome to our new Councillor for East Ward, Pete Samuels who was successful at the recent by election. I am sure it won't take him long to fit into the team that is STC and we will use his skills to support our on-going work.

Bill and I have not been as busy as usual, there seems to be something of a lull in August, I'm sure it won't last long!

One event we attended was very personal and special to us. We were invited to a reception in Plymouth at Elliot Tee for the beginning of the Poppies Wave display on The Hoe. If you haven't been able to go and visit I can strongly recommend that you do, it is there until September 19th. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission took on the project of helping an artist and a designer put together an art work using poppies from the Tower Of London that had been donated to the nation. It is spectacular, especially when lit up at night. Anything else you want to know..... we have also been volunteers talking to people for the CWGC.....

Things continue apace for all our projects station, the pontoon and its environs and so on. Looking forward to other ideas coming online in the near future.

*Cllr Jean Dent
Town Mayor*

Saltash Council 'Ridiculed' Over Issue of Chain Claims Councillor

The historic and attractive mayoress' chain of office will no longer be worn by any Saltash Mayor's partner but will be put into storage pending a decision on putting it on public display. This was the compromise recommendation of a working party consisting of equal members of town councillors and other citizens, and the recommendation has now been accepted by the town council.

The working party considered the option of reverting to the historic tradition whereby the chain should be worn only by a female mayoress and that when the mayor is a female her consort should wear instead the consort's medallion. There were seven votes in favour of this.

Then they considered the alternative, agreed by the last town council and practiced during the last mayoralty, that a female mayor should have the option of investing her male consort with either the consort's medallion or the mayoress' chain, ensuring that the historic chain was not locked away for years during a female mayoralty. This too attracted seven votes.

The option that the mayoress' chain should be taken from use altogether and eventually put on display as a historic artefact, while a mayoress or consort of either sex wear the less showy and historic consort's medallion was put to the group. The vote in favour was also seven and this was decided upon by the casting vote of Chairman Councillor Bill Phillips.

'We went through the historic protocol and considered the legal implications', Councillor

Phillips told the full town council.

The consort's medallion was presented by the late Ben Schikowsky who served as consort to his wife Marjorie. Their daughter Mrs Rosemary Derrick has offered to pay for its refurbishment, the working party was told.

'The Saltash Town Council has been disappearing into farce over this item', Councillor John Brady stated in the open council meeting. 'These have been months of acrimony and angst and we are ridiculed by members of the public - They have taken to facebook to ridicule us.' He was referring to the storm of regional publicity following the airing of the issue on Radio Cornwall and BBC TV's 'Spotlight', as reported elsewhere in your 'Observer', There have also been extremely acrimonious e-mails sent between councillors.

The full council voted eleven to two in favour of the proposal and the mayoress' chain will now stay in the safe until a decision is made on its future. Meanwhile it has been agreed that a group of town councillors would look at all the civic regalia and consider what refurbishment on it is required.

Saltash is one of few towns possessing a Mayoress' chain and it has attracted much

interest when worn. It was presented to the town by Councillor Pooley, Mayor from 1919 to 1921 and is created from nine links each commemorating an event in the town's history since 1919 up to the last ferry and opening of the Tamar Bridge in 1961. Other links commemorate the local oyster fishing and the town's first fire engine and commemorate illustrious past Mayor's and Mayoresses.

Twelve Hundred New Homes for 'Treledan' Should Start in 2018

Building of a major new 120 hectare development on the North Western border of Saltash should start next year.

The Broadmoor Farm development has hit a number of delays but work should commence on the project, to include 1200 new homes within twelve months, Jacky Swain of developers CEG told Saltash Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Of these homes Cornwall Council is pressing for 40% to be 'affordable' to allow local families to purchase at an acceptable price, though this is still subject to negotiation. However the plans will include some 'easy living' homes for person with disabilities.

The development will also include a community centre, a primary school and playing fields. There is space for commercial development to include shops serving the new community.

The scheme also includes an upgrade of the infrastructure of the A38 and the developers will work with Highways England on a new roundabout at Stoketon Cross as well as changes to the road layout at Carkeel. Highways England are also seeking a cycle path to be built at an early stage of the development and a footbridge over the A38 forms part of the overall plan.

The new development, long referred to as 'Broadmoor', the name of the existing farm will, in accordance with Cornwall Council's policy of promoting the Cornish language, be known as Treledan, the equivalent to 'Broad Farm'.

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This year has seen an enormous overhaul of the GCSE system. English and Maths GCSEs are now much more demanding and are graded from 9-1 instead of A*-G, so students are now awarded one of nine grades instead of eight for these subjects. At the top end, a grade 7 is roughly the equivalent to an A grade, with an 8 being like an A* and a 9 even better than that (a ‘superstar’ maybe?!); awarded for “exceptional performance.”

In the light of these changes, saltash.net is incredibly proud that a fantastic fourteen grade 9s were awarded to our students in English or Maths with Harriet Hunt and Charlie Potts both achieving two. What an accolade!

In addition, we are delighted that a large number of subjects have seen an increase in A*-C grades this year. In Art, an amazing 85% of students achieved A*-C grades whilst in History nearly a quarter of students achieved A*-A grades. PE also tripled the number of A* grades awarded.

Other top performing students, achieving the equivalent of 11 A*-A grades were Jack Pritchard and Megan Seymour. Close on their heels with 10 A*-A grades were Daisy Ashford, Amy Donovan, Kaley Gibbs, Amelia Horne and George Seymour. With nine top grades were Emily Congo, Ethan Cox, Harriet Hunt, Lucie Jones and Danny Snook.

Although these are the stand-out stories, we are equally pleased with all the students who have achieved or beaten their target grades and all those who have faced particularly challenging personal circumstances. A special mention must go to Megan Slocombe from our Area Resource Base, The Zone, who achieved two GCSEs: what a fantastic result.

Speaking on results’ day, Headteacher, Miss Littledyke summed up the school’s successes: “The students and staff have shown incredible resilience and determination in the face of the GCSE reforms and increased expectations this year. It is wonderful to see all that hard work has paid off, not only in an excellent set of GCSE results, but also in such a lovely group of well-rounded young people. They have made us all very proud.”

Head of Year, Mr Feldwick said, “What a cracking group of young people! Fun and positive, able and gutsy. I am really proud to have been their Head of Year and am delighted that, against the odds, they

have done so well. They never gave up! No matter what changes occurred they kept trying. I am sure that

they will go on to greater things and I can’t wait to watch their next steps on the journey.”

Carkeel Works Ahead of Schedule

The long months of traffic delays caused by improvements to the Carkeel roundabout may be coming to an end sooner than anticipated, Saltash Town Council was told.

The whole project is running well within budget and five months ahead of schedule. This means that it should be concluded by the end of November this year as against next spring.

Meanwhile the road closures of the by pass from

Carkeel to the Tamar Bridge, including the tunnel have been continuing. Traffic has had to divert along Callington Road and New Road, while new traffic lights are installed on the by-pass at Carkeel.

Town Centre Cameras Reconsidered

An apparent rise in anti-social behaviour and a reported rise in shoplifting, as recorded by the Police, have caused the town’s Chamber of Commerce and Industry to raise again the issue of CCTV in the town.

Local traders believe that they are not only suffering direct loss from shoplifting but that anti-social behaviour deters the local community from shopping in the town. Shoppers, chamber members believe, may prefer to visit Plymouth and other shopping areas where CCTV is in use.

This follows the announcement that the Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner has set aside £200,000 towards providing CCTV in towns where it is not already in place.

The town council has previously considered this on various occasions most recently two years ago, but has been deterred in particular at the considerable cost to local council tax payers of both setting up a system and then maintaining and monitoring it. It was believed that the cost of a fixed cable system was estimated at around £40,000 two years ago.

However it was agreed that councillors would liaise with the Chamber of Commerce and Police, obtain costings, and put recommendations and costings to the full council.

A number of local traders would be willing to install their own equipment, Chamber of Commerce Chair Peter Ryland told the council. However, they would look for financial assistance to enable them to link in with a town CCTV network.

A Haul of Gold Medals for Junkyard Skatepark



Junkyard Skatepark in Saltash is an indoor facility that is unique and moulded perfectly to the shape of the building. Set up by a group of passionate riders with over 20 years of experience, Junkyard’s website says: ‘It’s a small set-up, but it’s not about the size it is what you do with it that counts.’ It may be small, but they have certainly done a lot with it - the team of Junkyard riders that competed in the Southwest Youth Games this summer ended up taking the overall gold medal home, despite tough competition from excellent BMX, skate and scooter riders from across the Southwest.

The young people were still buzzing and bursting with pride when Hilary Frank, Vice Chair of Cornwall Council, paid a visit to congratulate them for bringing a haul of gold medals to Cornwall. “Junkyard Skatepark as a youth project is having such an inspirational impact on

our community”, said Hilary. “We are really fortunate to have them here in Saltash.”

In collaboration with Cornwall Council, Saltash Town Council and Groundwork Southwest, Junkyard’s leaders will be running sessions at the outdoor skate park at Saltmill, as well as getting

the Saltmill pump track up and running again. “We’re excited to get the chance to breathe some life in to these outdoor facilities in Saltash. We’ve got plenty of ideas, and we’re looking forward to continuing our work in 2018,” said Steph Tambling, one of Junkyard’s enthusiastic leaders.

Hopper Bus May Take On Supermarket Run

The publically owned Saltash Hopper Bus may take on the local free service connecting areas of the town to the Waitrose supermarket at Carkeel. The Community Enterprises PL12 Organisation which operates the two publically owned Hopper buses is looking into this possibility, the town council were informed, following the withdrawal of the Waitrose service by Stagecoach.

The regular service linking the town to Derriford Hospital is still running at a loss but passenger numbers are improving slowly, the council was told. Funding is available to continue the service awhile in the hope that as word gets around of the service the usage improves.

The early and later services are well used by those working at and around the hospital but the services provided for those visiting the hospital during the day are still often running near empty.



Hopper Bus Trips

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October 2017

Fri 6th October 9.30 am–6pm (£12)

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Sun 8th Oct 10am -5pm (£8.50)

Cornwall Home Improvement show
Royal Cornwall Showground Wadebridge

Sun 8th Oct 11am-5pm (£5)

Sunday Lunch at Lanhydrock Golf Club

Mon 9th Oct 1.30pm - 5pm (£5)

Plymouth Gin Distillery Tour (£7)

Wed 11th Oct 10am - 5pm (£5.50)

Tavistock Goose Fair

Mon 16th Oct 10am - 6pm (£13.50)

Truro - Falmouth by boat (Single £13)

Hopper Falmouth - Saltash

Tues 17th Oct 1pm - 5pm (£5)

Liskeard Trago Mills

Sun 22nd Oct 11.30am-5pm (£7.50)

Lunch at Trethorn Golf Club Launceston

Mon 23rd Oct 11am - 17.30 (£10)

Artisan Trail @ Mortonhamstead

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Essa Club Celebrates Thirty Years of Friendly Fellowship

Behind a little noticed door in the corner of Alexandra Square, close to by Fore Street, the Essa Club has been offering good fellowship, good ales and spirits, and a variety pub type sports and games for over three decades.

The Essa Club has been celebrating its thirtieth anniversary of welcoming a discerning membership to sample what it claims to be some of the best priced bottled beers, draft lager, and wines and spirits, served by its friendly volunteer bar staff. It is just over thirty years since the Saltash Sailing Club which previously ran a club on the site of the former prison cells, the notorious 'Saltash Black Hole', decided to concentrate on its Waterside Club premises and the Alexandra Square building became the Essa Club.

Following an anniversary refurbishment the club is now eager to welcome new members. It is hoped to form a euchre team to join the three successful snooker teams. Pool and snooker tables are always available save for match nights, or members can simply relax in the cosy back bar, once 'men only' but now welcoming one and all each evening from Monday to Friday and on Saturdays for functions or by arrangement.

Transit with Trailer for Town Use

Saltash is to purchase a short wheel base transit type vehicle with trailer suitable for carrying an industrial scale mower around the town. Up to £10,000 is budgeted for this, the town council agreed, and quotes may include second hand vehicles and leasing arrangements.

The proposal was put forward by the town's business strategy and forward planning working party which is looking into acquiring local assets from Cornwall Council. Following the acquisition of land on the Waterside it has been agreed that the transfer of the Victoria Gardens together with the Maurice Huggins Room, to the town council proceeds as soon as possible.

A five year lease to the town council of the Longstone Park garages and offices has also been approved and should soon be completed.

The Saltash Town Council has advised that it would also be interested in acquiring local car parks should this become an option.

Meanwhile the town is considering a possible package concerning acquisition of the town library.

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Fire-fighters Host Welcome Party for Chernobyl Children



Children whose lives are otherwise spent in the still hazardous nuclear disaster zone of Belarus that surrounds Chernobyl, have been sharing fun in the Cornish sun while breathing pure West Country air that can add years to their lives. Each year the Chernobyl Children's Life Line brings to Saltash and Plymouth young children whose life expectancy is still limited as a result of radiation leaked in the 1986 explosion. This year four boys and two girls aged nine to eleven enjoyed a welcome party at Saltash Fire Station, hosted by our own firemen and young fire cadets, as an opener to four action packed weeks of activities. This year's fire station party was enlivened

by an actual 'shout' and watching the fire engines speed off to a reported incident in Lynher Drive.

They had already enjoyed a Plymouth Boat Company voyage across the Sound and up the Tamar, a thrill for those who had never seen the sea in their land locked homeland. Other treats in store include visits to Paignton Zoo, the Maize Maze, Donkey Park, The Eden Project and two days on the beach.

Less thrilling but more importantly, all were to receive check overs at Specsavers in Saltash and at a Tavistock Dental Practice, with optical and dental treatment if needed.

Largely the number of available host families limits the amount of

children taken. Sadly this year two had to be turned down as prospective host families suffered family emergencies and there were none to replace them. Any family or couple is encouraged to take a child for either two weeks or the full four weeks and need offer only a bed and breakfast with evening meal, all day activities are provided. Children can share rooms with a same sex child aged under 16. No linguistic skills are required. By doing so the hosts can help extend a young life by up to seven years.

Anyone willing to consider hosting a child next summer is invited to call Ross on 07729 025450 or email r-gen-10@hotmail.co.uk

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Sunday Prom Concert with Cream at Social Club



Those who came to the Saltash Social Club to share the traditional English Summer delights of a cream tea and a Promenade Concert especially enjoyed a balmy and sunny Sunday afternoon.

The concert was given by the Saltash based R Windband which grows in number and in versatility each time we see them. They opened with 'Iberian Escapades' and their musical numbers took their

audience to Italy (Funiculi Funicula), Japan and Israel before returning to Britain for some rousing traditional 'Last Night of the Prom' numbers.

The high spirited conductor Ruth Ballantyne soon had the audience clapping, flag waving and eventually singing to British Sea Songs, Jerusalem, as well as a contrast of jolly and of heart-rending classics from both World Wars, and of course, after being replenished by a splendid cream tea, the audience joined as one to raise the Saltash Social Club rafters in a rendition of 'Land of Hope and Glory'.

Conundrum Corner

Taking the initial letter to the one-word answers to the following eight questions can you re-arrange them to make a Cornish place name?

- 1 The Punic Wars were waged between Rome and which other City State? (8)
- 2 Great Crested, Smooth and Palmate are the three Native species of which creature? (4)
- 3 Which fruit is the principal ingredient of a traditional Tarte Tatin? (5)
- 4 In the Wizard of Oz to which city does the Yellow Brick Road lead? (7)
- 5 Africa's fourth longest river flows 1,700 miles into the Indian Ocean - what is it called? (7)
- 6 In Herman Melville's Moby Dick what is the name of the Whaling Ship? (6)
- 7 What name is given to the hole in which a Fox lives? (5)
- 8 Which is England's most northerly National Park? (14)

Answers on page 7

Two Homes for TOC.H Site

The long derelict Burraton Toc H hall by Warraton Road is to be replaced by two residential dwellings with off street parking, the town council is recommending to Cornwall's planning committee.

There was concern among councillors as to the size of the site being appropriate. However, a site meeting between local ward councillors, the developer and his architect resulted in them being reassured.

The recommendation was to be placed before Cornwall's Planning East committee.

I would firstly like to offer my sincere condolences with the people of the recent terrorist attacks and especially those of all nationalities who have lost loved ones in the tragic events. We must never give in to terrorism and I will support our Government in any way I can to ensure we continue the fight against any form of terrorism wherever in the World.

I would also like to offer my congratulations to everyone in South East Cornwall who received their exam results recently. I know that these results are the culmination of two years of dedication and hard work. I want everyone, regardless of background, to be able to fulfil their potential and for many.

After three mid week surgeries in Torpoint, Saltash and Callington, it was good to join young people from secondary schools throughout South East Cornwall who were taking part in the National Citizenship Service. The young people were making a film which focused on mental health problems which they hope will assist some youngsters of their own age. They have released the

SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...



video on YouTube and will circulate the link through local organisations. By making this film the group hope they can offer some assistance which will help youngsters get over some the stigma which is often attached to Mental Health problems. I would like to thank them for the enthusiasm they showed in making their project a success.

It was also good to catch up with the local RNLI Lifeguards and learn about the recent rescue they had made. A reminder to us all that whilst the sea looks inviting, there are dangerous rip currents and we should all respect the water when enjoying leisure time at our fantastic beaches or simply kayaking or sailing around our beautiful coastline.

I was pleased to see that the government have made a substantial investment into Cornwall's local road network by giving a £5

million towards a £5.5 million project for targeted repair works on 53 sites on the local road network.

I have also visited Derriford Hospital for a meeting with the Chief Executive of Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust, Ann James. We discussed many matters around improving health provision in this Constituency and it was really good to hear that Ann is working closely with Cornwall Clinical Commissioning Group and Cornwall Council to ensure that South East Cornwall's Health needs are fully covered. I was particularly pleased to hear about how she is working on plans to prevent bed blocking and is working on ways to improve the discharge of patients back into community care.

I was really pleased to pop along to the Cancer Research Breakfast organised by Becky Ford and her friends. The breakfast was superb and I would like to thank Becky and all the ladies who helped her for feeding us a fantastic Big Breakfast. I'm sure they raised considerable funds for this very worthy cause.

I also visited the annual Mount Edgcumbe Car Show where I sponsored the Trophy for the best post 1965 American Car. The trophy was presented by Robert Edgcumbe, 8th Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, and I would like to congratulate Mr Harrison from Plymouth who won the Trophy with is Chevrolet. I was particularly impressed that he was able to tell me all about the car's journey from when it was new. It was also good to meet up with local people and visit the Book Shop which is run by the Friends of Mount Edgcumbe. The City of Plymouth Concert Band entertained everyone. It certainly seemed to be a very well attended show with a number of fields being used for parking.

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Another Triumph for Caradon Gig Club



Support Maker for The Cornwall College Group, Kate Bourn, has won gold at the Newquay Ladies County Championships. Kate said she is “absolutely over the moon, it has been a long hard season and to finish it like we started has been amazing.”

Kate has triumphed in the Newquay Ladies County Championships, resulting in her winning her fifth gold medal.

Gig rowing is the fastest growing sport in the South West, with teams comprising of six rowers, one coxswain and a gig.

Kate has now won three

county titles and two world titles with Caradon Gig Club.

“We are absolutely over the moon, it has been a long hard season and to finish it like we started has been amazing,” Kate said.

“We started our training around November time for the World Championships in May, we then continued our season with various regattas throughout the summer. In that time what we are really doing is training for the county championships, the regattas help give you a bit of an insight into where crews are and how they are developing.”

Kate felt the team were confident going into the weekend but “you never fully believe you will win.”

“It’s the fear of

disappointment that I don’t like, I don’t want to have that feeling,” Kate continued.

The team won by a fantastic lead, been three boat lengths clear from the other boats by the time they reached the first mark.

“It’s nice to see the hard work we’ve put in over the last nine months’ pay off. The standard of rowing at the moment is huge and for us to be where we are is great.”

“We have a bit of time off now then back into the training spirit beginning in November and back into the boats in January for hopefully another successful World Championships in May, so we’ll see what happens,” Kate concluded.

Traditional Salmon Netting Threat, Claims Saltash Fisherman

A centuries old tradition of commercial seine netting for salmon on the Tamar and its tributaries has been reduced from 15 licensed nets to 3 over the last four seasons, and now these remaining fishermen have the way of life and livelihoods threatened, believes local fisherman Colin Matthews.

Born and raised in Saltash Colin has been fishing since aged 7 with his father and as an adult after twenty years of application acquired his own license. He now believes that there is a deliberate attempt to force traditional salmon fishermen out of business in order to favour the more lucrative rod fishing, by which wealthy visitors can pay substantial sums for a day permit.

“We are told by the Environment Agency that Atlantic Salmon are declining in number but our experience shows no evidence of this,” Colin told the Observer. “If they really are on the decline then I could accept it if all fishing was stopped for a time, not just net fishing while rod fishing

flourishes.”

In 1994 there were 2786 salmon caught on the Tamar, 1990 by net and 796 by rod. By 2003 the combined catch was reduced to 333. In 2004 DEFRA approved a net limitation order for ten years since which reports confirmed numbers were rising, in 2010 ‘a record number of salmon and sea trout in English rivers’.

Meanwhile the three remaining licensed seine net fishermen are permitted just 23 fish per year per boat over a ten week season from June to the end of August. Now Colin Matthews has received a letter from the Environment Agency stating that there is a significant decline in the numbers of

returning adult salmon to our rivers and coasts.

However an exclusive fishing club continues to boast of 114 salmon caught by its members, many between twelve and sixteen pounders, and Colin understands that over five hundred rods are permitted to fish the river for up to nine months a year.

In 2013 the ‘Sunday Times’ reported that wild salmon was likely to disappear from the menus and dining tables as landowners and fly fishermen sought to buy out the last commercial netting operations on British rivers in favour of rod anglers paying fees of hundreds of pounds a day, and this is what

Colin fears could be happening on the Tamar, where net fishing has fed and supported local families for centuries.

‘If the salmon’s survival was really in danger I would be the first to say so and to seek to support local stocks’, he concluded. ‘But if, as a seine fisherman I was banned from the river it would take my life away – I just love it’.

Conundrum Answers:

Conundrum Answers: 1 Carthage 2 Newt 3 Apple 4 Emerald 5 Zambezi 6 Piquod 7 Earth 8 Re-Northernland arranged the letters spell Penzance

Essa Files

Like many other people I have been following the tragic news of the devastating floods that have recently killed over a thousand people, affected hundreds of thousands of others, and caused billions of pounds worth of damage. Besides the natural feeling of shock and sympathy for those caught up in the disasters, two particular things have bothered me about these floods.

The first is that when I said ‘devastating floods’ most of us probably immediately thought of Houston, Texas, where the impact dominated our screens for several days. Undoubtedly the effects there have been very severe, and I would not for a moment downplay them. However, the floods in South Asia, where the death-toll has been much higher, are tending to take second place on our screens, and, perhaps as a consequence, in our thoughts, and that does bother me. It is of course natural that we pay more attention to events that happen closer to us – just as the loss of a relative friend generally affects us more than the loss of a stranger, so floods in Saltash, or Sennen, or Somerset would have more impact that flooding in Orkney, or Oslo, or the Orient. However, in pure distance terms there isn’t a lot to choose between the Southern USA and Southern Asia.

You could argue that some of it is cultural – we have an affinity, a ‘special relationship’ with the US – but equally a lot of South Asia has a longstanding association with the UK through the Empire and now the Commonwealth. Some might argue that it’s because America cities look more like the UK than Asian ones, so when we see the upsetting scenes we can more easily imagine it being us. Again though Saltash hardly looks like Houston much more than it does like Kathmandu. I actually wonder if some of it about expectations, and the catastrophisation of the developing world. That is to say that we expect to hear about natural disasters, conflict, and disease in Asia, almost as much as we do in Africa; we rarely

hear good news about those regions and so we come almost to expect distance, which is not the case for the USA. This is troubling; if it is the case that we come to expect misery for some more than others, and even become inured to it, then, no doubt unintentionally, we diminish their value.

The other aspect of the story that has really bothered me is about Pastor Joel Osteen and his megachurch. For those who’ve missed it, the short version is that Pastor Osteen is a highly successful church and TV evangelist who preaches what some call prosperity theology – a belief that if you embrace Christianity it will lead to material gain as well as spiritual enrichment. Pastor Osteen has been greatly criticised for not opening his church (a 17,000-seater former basketball stadium) to victims of the flood, and then for allegedly allowing people in on a priority basis of how much they donate to the church. Initially one of his team said that the church was inaccessible due to the flooding, but that turned out to be untrue. I honestly cannot imagine the churches of Saltash being any less than immediate and wholehearted in their response if Saltash was hit in the same way that Houston has been, but then again I can’t imagine any of our local ministers living in a \$10million mansion.

Adam Killeya

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Children and Local Artists Create Aquatic Exhibition

Children from two Saltash schools were encouraged to display their creative talents alongside local adult artists in an exhibition at Ashtorre.

This year's theme for the Ashtorre artists was 'Tide Lines'. Highly suitable for the venue with its windows overlooking the ever changing Waterside scene. Around a dozen local artists had contributed works in all manner of styles traditional and modern but all on an aquatic theme.

Visitors were especially attracted to the displays by pupils of Burraton and Bishop Cornish Schools both on the themes 'flotsam and jetsam'. The Bishop Cornish children had created a large mural from items scavenged from local

beaches, including the Lego bricks which continues to wash up from a wreck. This was surrounded by colourful sailing dinghies made from scrap paper.

The Burraton Year 4 students had worked with artist Jill Coughman who had encouraged them to each create a small image and given them just under one and a half hours to work, including sgraffico work in oil pastels if so wished, blending and scratching to produce an overall work which proved especially eye catching and attractive in its colourful contrasts.

Council Staff May Enforce on Anti-Social Behaviour

Six members of Saltash Town Council staff have now been trained to act as 'enforcement officers'.

This does not give them authority to issue parking tickets, the Town Council was told. However, they can now issue tickets when observing such anti-social behaviour as littering, graffiti, painting or dog fouling.

'They are trained as being out to educate, inform and direct as to more appropriate action', said Town Clerk Ray Lane.

Youth Panel to Allot Grants to Young People

A panel consisting purely of the town's youth should have the responsibility of considering applications from young people for public funding. This was the decision of the town council who agreed to allot £500 from their budget to set up such a youth panel.

The panel could also be used as a source for advising the town council as to their concerns and ideas for the betterment of the town. On a recent visit to a local primary school, one councillor said, he had been impressed with the children who 'came up with ideas that never occur to us'.

The panel will include local school council representatives as well as members of the youth council's own youth membership. It is hoped that this will become a valued means of communication with the town's youth and involving them in local decisions that affect them and their future.

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A Level Results – 2017
saltash.net Community School:
What a Performance!



What a great deal our post-16 students have to celebrate at saltash.net this summer. Not only are our U18 footballers County Champions, but we have a wonderful set of Advanced Level examination results too.

Yet again, almost 50% of the A level cohort achieved A*-B grades, and with 107 students in the year group, that's quite an achievement!

There are so many individual success stories and we are incredibly proud of all the young people who have worked so hard and demonstrated exceptional resilience in the face of tougher new A level exams this year.

A special mention must go to our top performer, Ed Gilford with an impressive suite of 5 A* grades in Chemistry, Maths, Further Maths, Physics and the Extended Project Qualification. He is off to Cambridge University to study Natural Sciences.

Twins, Oona and Phoebe Svarc, netted an impressive 2 As, 3 Bs and 1 C between them and are both off to Southampton University to read Sociology.

Additionally, A*s were achieved by Elliot Weame-Gould in English Language and by Dan Le Corre in Maths. Katy James, Bryony McNally, Abigail Medland, Amber Pritchard, Kirsten Procter, Jenny Spencer and Rosie Thompson achieved two As and one B grade. What an amazing set of results and testament to both their incredible hard work and the dedication of their teachers.

These superb exam results mean that an unprecedented number of students achieved places at their first choice universities, many of which are in the prestigious Russell or Sutton Trust groups. Amongst them, Tamar Braddon will be reading Law at Reading, Mike Spencer has secured a place to read Physics and Astrophysics at Exeter and Bronwen Hall, one of our Head Students, is off to Bristol to read Geography.

There were some stunning results in Year 12 too, with Caitlin James and Harry Lockley securing 4 A grades each and Keith Harrison, Lewis Jones and Adam Oliver achieving three As and 1 B grade apiece. This bodes very well for continued A level success next year.

New Headteacher, Kate Littleddyke, was absolutely thrilled with the results: "I am very proud of all our students who have really shown the pertinence of the school motto: if you do believe you can achieve!"



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