

# SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

*Your only truly "local" newspaper ...*

September 2025 - Issue 397

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## Saltash Now Has the Best Rail Service for Over 40 Years



Photo: Richard Bickford

Saltash has gained a number of new rail services in the last few weeks. Three additional trains on a weekday and two more on a Saturday. Saltash now has the best rail service for many years with 58 trains per weekday, including 15 trains either to or from London Paddington.

The services have been introduced in order to give additional capacity during the works on the Saltash Tunnel. They are, the 11.27 from London to Penzance, 13.59 from Penzance to London and 16.00 from Penzance to London, Monday to Friday and 10.00 from Penzance to London and 15.24 from London to Penzance on a Saturday. These really are 'use them or lose them' services, and may be withdrawn if not popular after the tunnel works are complete.

Also, on the 15th of September an additional key commuter service was introduced at 8.10 in the morning into Plymouth from Penzance, arriving at 08.20, providing a fast non-stop service that we hope will be very popular with commuters.

The Saltash Rail Users Group continues to work with GWR to make further improvements to the timetable, especially at the weekends, but improvements are hard to win. The task is aided by the growing numbers choosing rail and we are likely to see further improvements if passenger numbers continue to grow strongly.

'Tap in - tap out' technology is also being installed across Cornwall and Plymouth. Using it will not be compulsory, and you can continue to buy your tickets on the train, but those opting to use a Smartcard should be able to take advantage of cheaper single fares and daily commuters might be able to make significant savings. Keep an eye out for more information when the scheme is rolled out.

This month sees national celebrations around Railway 200, although for Saltash we've only had a railway for the last 166 years! There are a number of free events at Saltash station, including talks on the Saturday and a free exhibition on Sunday the 28th when a steam special is also due.

The intercity 125 trains that are still operating through Cornwall are due to be retired soon and may not quite make their 50 years in passenger service. You can still make a few trips to Penzance and back for the next few months. It will be a sad day when they finally finish, I know many will miss them.

It is also hoped that the much needed platform modifications to improve accessibility could be

## South East Cornwall MP Demands Urgent Action on Bus Failures



Anna Gelderd MP for South East Cornwall is demanding urgent action after weeks of severe disruption to Stagecoach services in Saltash and surrounding communities. Many local residents have contacted Anna Gelderd MP's office to report buses failing to arrive, extensive delays, and overcrowded vehicles, leaving people unable to access work, school or medical appointments.

The situation has created widespread anxiety and additional financial strain for residents. Students have been threatened with disciplinary action for missing their classes, parents are worried about their children stranded, and our elderly residents have been left isolated without reliable transport.

Anna Gelderd, Member of Parliament for South East Cornwall, said:

"This disruption is impacting daily life, education, income, and wellbeing. Public transport is essential for our communities, and the experiences that local residents have shared with me are unacceptable.

"The Government has already invested in better bus services for Cornwall, and I call on Cornwall Council to ensure that money is spent in the best

interests of local people."

Anna Gelderd MP has taken action for local residents by writing direct to Stagecoach South West, raising concerns with Saltash Town Council and requesting further meetings with transport authorities. Ms. Gelderd has also taken South East Cornwall's concerns to Government, recently raising them with Simon Lightwood MP in his role as Minister for Local Transport, before his appointment as Minister for Roads and Buses.

Anna Gelderd MP is pressing for the reinstatement of direct college routes, more reliable peak-time services, better connections between towns, as well as clearer timetables and communication with passengers.

Residents experiencing problems are encouraged to contact Anna Gelderd MP's office. Evidence gathered will be presented to relevant authorities as part of her work to improve connectivity, reliability, affordability and modernise public transport for South East Cornwall.

delivered as part of the Plymouth Metro project. Please ask your MP to support this vital improvement and improved services at Saltash.

Richard Bickford

  
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# Town Messenger

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## News from Saltash Town Council

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#### Education Welfare:

Telephone: 0300 1234 101  
[educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk)

#### Housing Department

Telephone: 0300 1234 161  
Email: [info@cornwallhousing.org.uk](mailto:info@cornwallhousing.org.uk)

#### Social Services Department

Telephone: 0300 1234 101  
Email: [children@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:children@cornwall.gov.uk)

#### Social Services Department

Telephone: 0300 1234 131  
[adultcare@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:adultcare@cornwall.gov.uk)

#### Highways Department

Telephone: 0300 1234 222  
Email: [customerrelations@cornwalllimited.co.uk](mailto:customerrelations@cornwalllimited.co.uk)

#### Transport Department

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(Bus Pass) Telephone: 0300 1234 222  
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#### Fly Tipping:

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*Town Messenger news  
is supplied by the  
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### Cornwall Councillors/ Wards

#### Saltash Essa ED

Cllr Hilary Frank  
[cllr.hilary.frank@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.hilary.frank@cornwall.gov.uk)

#### Saltash Tamar ED

Cllr Keith Johnson  
[cllr.keith.johnson@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.keith.johnson@cornwall.gov.uk)

#### Saltash Trematon & Landrake ED

Cllr Paul Cador  
[cllr.paul.cador@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.paul.cador@cornwall.gov.uk)

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## From the Mayor of Saltash

Well, that's the summer over for another year and now we have that morning, autumnal, chill in the air. This time of year, always fills me with nostalgia, to my first day back at Longstone Infants School. Proudly wearing my new Clarkes shoes purchased from Parker's in Fore Street and my new pencil case (containing scented rubbers of course) which I'd purchased from Possums, a shop in Lower Fore Street. Dressed in her blue Mac and paisley headscarf, mum would hold my hand and walk me up across the park to Longstone Infants School. That sense of excitement and nervousness of my first day back, meeting my new teacher for the year.

Summer reading challenge: During the school break we have had lots of children enter the Saltash Library Summer Reading challenge, 275 to be exact! So far, 70 children have completed the challenge, with a target of 140 finishes, well done kids!

Saltash Library has also held a Creative Writing Competition – "Change and Adapt" As part of the BLOWATCH



environmental campaign supported by the Seed Bed initiative, this competition ran throughout spring and summer. It encouraged the community to reflect on environmental themes through storytelling and poetry. The response was fantastic, with entries from residents including those from St Anne's and Rowan House. I had the pleasure of meeting the winners and presenting them with their prizes.

When was the last time you used your library? Saltash Library Hub is more than just books; it's a community hub with lots to offer. They host a variety of regular groups, including Colouring Club, LEGO Club, Music Man, Knit and Knatter, Book Club, Writing Club, Dyslexia Cornwall and Story Time for pre-school children – all of these groups are FREE!

## Meet Your Councillor

*Cllr Sarah Gillies*

It is an incredible privilege to once again represent Tamar Ward as councillor for Saltash Town Council.

My time in this role has been defined by a deep commitment to our community's growth and well-being, and I am proud of the initiatives we've championed.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my service has been chairing the Town Vision Committee. Our primary goal is to monitor the success of the new business plan. We aimed to ensure that our strategic goals weren't just aspirational but were translating into tangible improvements for our residents and local businesses. This involves regular reviews of key performance indicators and looking at strategies to move forward in reaching our goals.

Community engagement has always been at the heart and I am delighted to be working as part of the Railway 200 working group to help deliver and host the forthcoming activities. All events will be held at Isambard House,



starting with the Friday Night Quiz on 26th September at 7pm, a fun and interactive way to kick off the weekend. On Saturday 27th we're excited to welcome our guest speakers at 10:30am and 12:30pm, and on Sunday 28th our exhibition will be running from 10am to 4pm, with plenty on offer for all ages to enjoy.

Don't miss out on the Photography Competition, which is open for entries now and you can sign up via our website at <https://www.saltash.gov.uk/for.ms.php>, or call a member of our team on 01752 844846 for further information.

All profits will be going to our Mayors chosen charities – Memory Box and Saltash Youth Network who are two of many valued community organisations!

I am grateful for the trust placed in me and for the opportunity to contribute to the bright future of our town.

Saltash Library also has some new community initiatives: Read Easy Partnership A new collaboration aimed at supporting adults in learning to read. A trial session is set to begin Friday 12 September. Cornwall Dementia Box Initiative: Cornwall Libraries are working with Cornwall Dementia Box to create themed suitcases filled with memorabilia from different eras. Saltash Library has been allocated the 1940s suitcase, which will be shared among local care homes. The team is currently working with Rose from the Dementia group to curate the contents. Library Loyalty Card Scheme Cornwall Libraries are launching a Library Loyalty Card to encourage engagement with library services. Key features include monthly activities for all age groups, loyalty stamps for completed activities, entry into prize draws and local discounts upon completing a card.

From the 8 September 2025 there will be a change to the library's operational hours, moving the opening time from 10:00 AM to 9:30 AM on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday,

## Saltash WW1 Pebble Memorial to Undergo Restoration

Saltash Town Council, in partnership with a group of former members of the Saltash Great War Commemoration Com-mittee (SGWCC), is pleased to announce the forthcoming restoration of the Pebble War Memorial located in the Saltash Memorial Peace Garden at Alexandra Square. This took place on Monday 8 September, at 12 noon. This meaningful community project saw the sensitive removal and restoration of 141 hand-painted memorial peb-bles, originally created as part of the Saltash Great War 1914 – 1918 Commemoration initiative.

The project was spearheaded and undertaken by the Saltash Great War Commemoration Committee and was one of their many inclusive, community-led projects marking the centenary of the end of the First World War. The unique memorial includes 140 named pebbles representing the known fallen from Saltash, plus an

and Friday. Saturday hours remain the same – 10am to 1pm.

August 15 was VJ80, the 80th anniversary of the official end of World War II. Organised by the Saltash & District Royal British Legion and The Royal Naval Association, a Civic church service was held at St Nicholas and Faith Church. It was an honour as mayor to be part of such an event. Following the service, organisations and public were invited to lay poppy wreaths at the St Nicholas and Faith war memorial. It was a beautiful occasion of commemoration.

The 30 of August would have been the Tincombe Tea Party. This annual event is organised by Friends of Tincombe and would have been their 5th event. Sadly, the wet weather meant the event had to be cancelled. Despite the weather the Friends of

Tincombe were still keen to have an event as such and compromised with an afternoon tea at Oaklands Community Centre instead. My husband and I attended along with the Deputy Mayor and Town Clerk. It was a lovely afternoon with entertainment by local singer Peter Manchini. There was plenty of tea and cake on offer too! Fingers crossed for dry weather for next year's event.

The Saltash to Royal William Yard Ferry service: If you haven't had a chance to use the Saltash to Royal William Yard ferry this year, then don't fret. This daily ferry, which departs from Jubilee Pontoon, is still in service and will run till the end of October (weather dependant) for more information, times, prices and availability please visit Plymouth Boat Trips website:

<https://www.plymouthboattrips.co.uk/ferries/rwy-saltash-ferry/>

#### Saltash Town Council Vacancies:

Do you fancy a career in local government? Saltash Town Council is currently recruiting for a number of roles. Why join Saltash Town Council? Be part of a positive, supportive and visionary team – help shape the future of Saltash – opportunities for growth and development – make a meaningful difference in your local community.

To learn more about our vacancies and apply: <https://www.saltash.gov.uk/jobvacancies.php>

Beating the Bounds: Tickets are now on sale for our annual Beating the Bounds event – a 5 mile community walk on Saturday 11 October 10.30am. Tickets are available on Eventbrite and Saltash Library Hub. The ticket price includes the bus and a cream tea. Hope to see you there!

*Cllr Rachel Bullock  
Mayor of Saltash 2025/26*

### Your Town Council & Wards

#### Saltash Essa:

1. Cllr Richard Bickford  
[r.bickford@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:r.bickford@saltash.gov.uk)
2. Cllr John Brady  
[j.brady@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:j.brady@saltash.gov.uk)
3. Cllr Rachel Bullock  
[r.bullock@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:r.bullock@saltash.gov.uk)
4. Cllr Lisa Mortimore  
[l.mortimore@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:l.mortimore@saltash.gov.uk)
5. Cllr Pete Samuels  
[p.samuels@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:p.samuels@saltash.gov.uk)
6. Cllr Alice Ashburn  
[a.ashburn@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:a.ashburn@saltash.gov.uk)

#### Saltash Tamar:

1. Cllr Sarah Gillies  
[s.gillies@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:s.gillies@saltash.gov.uk)
2. Cllr Sarah Martin  
[s.martin@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:s.martin@saltash.gov.uk)
3. Cllr Julia Peggs  
[j.peggs@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:j.peggs@saltash.gov.uk)
4. Cllr Jane Suter  
[j.suter@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:j.suter@saltash.gov.uk)
5. Cllr Peter Nowlan  
[p.nowlan@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:p.nowlan@saltash.gov.uk)
6. Cllr Mark Johns  
[m.johns@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:m.johns@saltash.gov.uk)

#### Saltash Trematon:

1. Cllr Steve Miller  
[s.miller@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:s.miller@saltash.gov.uk)
2. Cllr Brenda Samuels  
[b.samuels@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:b.samuels@saltash.gov.uk)
3. Cllr Brian Stoyel  
[b.stoyel@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:b.stoyel@saltash.gov.uk)
4. Cllr Gordon McCaw  
[g.mccaw@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:g.mccaw@saltash.gov.uk)

#### Mayor:

Cllr Rachel Bullock

#### Deputy Mayor:

Cllr Brian Stoyel

#### Town Clerk:

Sinead Burrows  
T: 844846  
E: [enquiries@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@saltash.gov.uk)

**Councillors' Telephone  
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additional pebble to honour those whose names may have gone unrecorded.

The restoration will be undertaken by artist David Whitley. Each pebble, painted by children and the local community, will be carefully cleaned, and restored to its original design. It will then be fittingly protected with a UV coating to ensure longevity, before being set into resin, as previously, courtesy of South West Surfacing.

The restoration process is expected to take approximately 3 months. However, if the restoration of the Pebble Memorial is still in process in November, in respectful recognition of the site's significance during Remembrance events a temporary poppy carpet will be laid over the memorial area. This ensures that tribute continues to be paid to those who served and sacrificed, even while the restoration is underway.

The WW1 pebble memorial has long been recognised as an official Saltash Town Council War Memorial, acknowledged

annually with a floral tribute during the Civic Remembrance service. A supporting information board listing the 140 Saltash WW1 fallen, along with a record of the painted pebbles, remains in place to educate and inform visitors to the Peace Garden.

Former SGWCC members Lynn and Tony Marsh, along with Sue and John Hooper, shared their reflections: "We are delighted that the Saltash Town Council continues to honour its Fallen, with this important restoration – and, in doing so, will give this unique WW1 Pebble Memorial a new lease of life most fitting and deserving to our brave and valiant Fallen of the Great War."

The Mayor of Saltash, Cllr Rachel Bullock, said: "This restoration project is a powerful reminder of our town's deep respect and gratitude for those who served and sacrificed during the Great War. The Pebble Memorial stands as a unique and heartfelt community tribute, and I'm proud that Saltash Town Council is working in

partnership to preserve it for future generations. We are grateful to the former members of the Saltash Great War Commemoration Committee for their continued dedication, and to all who originally contributed to this moving memorial. It is our collective responsibility to ensure their legacy, and the memory of our fallen, lives on."

Although the Great War Committee has now formally disbanded, its former members remain committed to supporting the ongoing preservation of the memorials and structures that they initially established. Observing some age and weather-related deterioration, they reached out to the Town Council with a proposed solution for restoration. The approach has been warmly received and reflects a continued shared commitment to honouring Saltash's dignified and honourable past.

We thank the community for their understanding and continued support as we work to preserve this unique and enduring tribute in honour of all those who served.



## Chamber Chairman Peter Ryland Keeping Us Updated

At the monthly meeting of the Chamber on the 1st September we had hoped to have our local M.P. in attendance but she cried off due to the need to be in Westminster.

However, there was much healthy discussion on various matters. One of the first was raised by Hilary Frank who had had an e-mail from the Cornwall Council Portfolio Holder re. parking. He was asking for opinions as to what was needed in all car parks in Cornwall with each councillor responding with respect to their particular areas. M/s Frank asked for opinions of members and it was agreed that the Chairman would write to all members asking for any particular thoughts. Matters raised in the room included improved white lining, a different cost regime, covered parking with solar panels and free parking on the days of the Christmas Festival and Mayfair.

Steve Miller was able to update on the start of work to improve the junction at Stoke-ton Cross re. the development of Treledan.

The idea of a residents card was raised to allow the people of PL12 to be able to get a further discount on the bridge and to have a reduced

car parking charge.

Updates were given on the Christmas Festival, the Christmas lights switch-on/late night shopping and the proposal for CCTV in Saltash which included Fore Street.

With respect to the work of Town Team, the Chairman told members that one of the thoughts emanating therefrom was the possibility of spreading the market stalls throughout Fore Street rather than consolidating in one location. This would provide the opportunity to avoid having the cost of closing Belle Vue Road within the costing. It was noted that the markets to December were being funded by the Town Regeneration Investment Programme (TRIP) which had also agreed to fund a feasibility into an alternative way to fund future ideas for the town centre.

Members were then advised by Lindsay Endean of Saltash Studios as to the popularity of her Visit Saltash social media. This was now getting thousands of hits and discussion then was around how this could be utilised to further promote Saltash.

Hilary Frank then gave the members heads up on a proposed dinner on the 28th February 2026 at the China Fleet Club which it was

## Looking Fabulous on her Wedding Day Faye from Newell's



*Faye's wedding to Alex, which took place on a beautiful August day. Faye looked stunning, and Alex was a proud and handsome groom. They'll be heading off on their honeymoon in December, booked through Newell's Travel, of course.*

hoped would raise funds for Mayfair, Regatta and Christmas Festival in 2026.

Finally, the Chairman raised the fact that our next meeting would include the AGM and asked members to consider whether there should be any specific matters raised thereat. He was then asked if he would be prepared to continue as Chairman to which he responded in the affirmative if there were no other nominations. The Treasurer, Doug Bond, also said the same.

## Pete's Point of View ...

I have been writing this column for just over two years now and I can say that the column this month is quite unique in comparison. Unique in that I am about to heap praise on the Lib-Dems at Cornwall Council, for joining with some others in cross-party support to back the growing call for the Duchy to achieve Nation status, something that I wholeheartedly believe in.

The desire for Cornwall to achieve Nation status should not be regarded as jingoistic, separatist, non-inclusive or a flight of fancy, there is a very rational motive behind this, which is rooted in the

## Important Update: Town Crier Auditions Postponed

Saltash Town Council regret to inform you that due to unforeseen circumstances, the Town Crier auditions scheduled for 10:30 AM on 2nd September, had to be postponed.

We understand this may be disappointing, and we appreciate your understanding and continued support. A new date will be announced as soon as it is confirmed.'

Contact the Observer  
**Mary Crawford**  
**Mob: 07971 484872**  
E: maryecrawford@hotmail.com

Devolution Bill which is currently before Parliament in Westminster. This presents a very real and present risk that Cornwall will be sucked in to a South West Regional body, together with Devon and possibly further afield.

Decisions about Cornwall should be taken in Cornwall, the Duchy should be proud of its history and identity, we should and must be heard. How many of us, not only in South East Cornwall but Duchy wide, would want decisions made many miles away, across the Tamar in what many Cornish folk, together with those who have made Cornwall their home, refer to as England.

Historically and also practically, Cornwall deserves its rightful place in the Union, we are already legally recognised as a national minority, Nation status would enable us to keep our identity

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and culture, whilst sharing a language and history with those across the Tamar. A forced union with English counties would surely dilute our heritage, whilst potentially damaging our prospects for the future, as I fear dominance from the other side of the river.

I'm sure there are those who would question why an 'incomer' such as myself, would be so strongly behind the Fifth Nation motion, but I'm happy to declare that whilst I was born in England, there is Cornish ancestry in the family and I feel that this is truly home, a place where I have felt so welcome and found the opportunity to become involved in many parts of the community. I sing Trelawny with pride, even when we get to the bit about London Wall, a five-minute walk from where I grew up!

A petition has been set up

calling for the government to formally recognise Cornwall as a Nation, which can be found online, search 'Grant Cornwall nation status - Petitions' and if you feel as strongly as I do, your signature could make all the difference.

I wish success to all those who are fighting for the future of Cornwall and for any Cornwall Councillors who did not support the motion, I would say "wake up and smell the coffee!"

**HILARIOUS COMMENT OF THE MONTH:** Following the Cabinet reshuffle in early September, a government spokesman stated "The Prime Minister is delivering reform". I would agree with that, he is delivering reform - Reform UK

**Pete Samuels**

*Any views expressed are personal views and not that of any organisation with which Pete is associated.*

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## Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly at the Forefront of New Health Service

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly one of the first locations nationwide to implement neighbourhood health services. The services will target working class areas with lowest life expectancy and longest waits - to tackle nation's stark and unjust health inequalities. Plan for Change sees care shifted from the hospital to the community to deliver an NHS fit for the future.

Anna Gelderd MP for South East Cornwall welcomes the Government's latest announcement on improving community access to healthcare. This means fewer trips to hospital, reduced journey times and lower travel costs. It gives local people more control over their own health.

Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly have been selected as one of the 43 national pioneer sites to deliver the Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme.

This scheme improves access to healthcare for communities by bringing services to residents' doorsteps. Anna Gelderd MP has campaigned for greater community health services in South East Cornwall since her election, with many residents relying on services outside of the area where they live. Anna has been working closely with colleagues in Westminster to fight for the Duchy's fair share of investment.

The Neighbourhood Health Service will redesign and join up existing health and care services, reflecting collaboration of local people and government officials to improve health services in Cornwall. The move will bring together leaders from across local healthcare, the voluntary sector and the wider community

## Scrapstore Team Attend Radio Cornwall Awards

Members of the team that have built up the Saltash Scrapstore to make its amazing contribution to art, craft and upcycling were honoured to attend BBC Radio Cornwall's "Make a Difference" award ceremony, having been short listed with two others in the "Green" category.

"Although we were runners up, we felt like winners sharing a table with the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, The Deputy Lord Lieutenant and the Chair of Cornwall Council" Rosie Waters told the Observer. She had shared a luscious cream

tea at the "Falmouth Hotel" with husband Dave, team member Saffy Tarrent and all of those from throughout Cornwall selected in the various categories for their contributions to the Cornish community.

"The Green category winner had spent 50 years creating a community orchard and we agreed that he well deserved to win," added Rosie.

Back in Saltash the Scrapstore is now re-introducing the wooden collecting boxes, beautifully hand crafted in The Shed, for contributions towards Saltash's fabulous Christmas festival. They will be distributed around businesses in the town so when shopping in the Scrapstore or elsewhere all are asked to look out for the boxes and perhaps put in some loose change to help ensure the future of our very own special Christmas event. Scrapstore also each year, funds the Lantern Parade, a favourite feature of this festival especially among the many children who take part.



*Pictured the Hardworking team of Volunteers*

Photos Mary Crawford

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## New Season of Films for Adventurous Kids

Saltash Studios Cinema is launching a brand new Saturday matinee season of 'Films for Adventurous Kids' this Autumn. This new season of family-friendly films brings together new and classic movies. Films packed full of adventure, childhood wonder, exciting journeys and magical creatures, with a few valuable life lessons along the way.

The season starts on 11 October with IF (U), a beautiful tale of imaginary friends and the children who create them, starring Ryan Reynolds. Free tickets are available for all imaginary friends who would like to attend this event.

This is followed on 25 October by the visually stunning Hugo (U), an exquisite adventure created by Martin Scorsese. This film follows the adventures of an orphaned boy in Paris and is widely considered to be one of the best 3D films ever made.

The Cinema will host a Halloween special on 30 October with the 1991 film The Addams Family (PG). Packed with gothic charm, sharp wit and a menagerie of unforgettable characters. Prizes will be awarded for the best audience Halloween costumes.

On 22 November we head into Space with Elio (PG), at tale of an 11-year-old space fanatic who is accidentally beamed up by an intergalactic organisation, and mistaken for Earth's leader. A fun filled animated film with bundles of heart, humour and visually stunning alien creations.

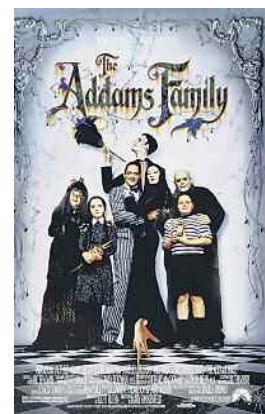
Getting everyone in the mood for Christmas on 13 December, you are invited to board The Polar Express (PG). Travel to the North Pole through stunning icy landscapes and discover the magic of Christmas.

The Films for Adventurous Kids season is generously supported by the BFI Film Audience Network, enabling the Studios to reach new audiences and bring the magic of movies to young people.

There will be plenty more family films to discover and rediscover in 2026 - so keep your eyes peeled for more information and future screenings. Since opening the cinema in April, Saltash Studios has hosted screenings of all genres of film, from blockbusters to documentaries and foreign language films. The cinema has brought film fans from across the region to Saltash and has been featured several times in the national press.

The Studios is a not-for-profit community enterprise and has been profiled as a great example of imaginatively bringing a disused High Street property back into use for the whole community.

If you would like to get involved in running Saltash Studios Cinema as a volunteer please get in touch with Director Lindsay Endean at lindsay@saltarts.org







## Anna Gelderd MP Unites Cornish MPs To Demand Greater Recognition of Cornwall's Culture and Heritage

All Cornish MPs from across the political spectrum have co-signed a letter from Anna Gelderd MP to the Chief Executive of Historic England, calling for stronger recognition and promotion of Cornwall's unique culture, language and history at historic sites.

The letter, signed by MPs from every Cornish constituency, raises concerns over a "significant educational gap" in how Cornwall's story is presented, particularly for younger generations. While many Cornish schoolchildren visit Norman or Tudor castles, they are far less likely to encounter Cornwall's own early heritage, including courtyard houses, decorated crosses and early Christian oratories, and when they do, there is often limited educational provision to bring these sites to life.

Anna Gelderd MP and her fellow Cornish MPs are calling for these sites to be given the same status, protection and promotion as other Celtic heritage sites in the UK, with on-site interpretation and learning resources that reflect Cornwall's distinct cultural identity, as recognised under the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

The letter also asks Historic England to work with English Heritage and other relevant bodies to close this gap, and to ensure National Minority

## Essa Voices

Three quarters of Cornwall's fire service comes from neighbours dropping everything at the sound of a pager. That's the reality for Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service, where on-call firefighters make up around 75% of the team.

Across Cornwall, there are about 400 on-call firefighters with just under 180 wholtime colleagues, spread across 31

Status is fully considered in their work relating to Cornish heritage.

Anna Gelderd, Member of Parliament for South East Cornwall, said:

"It is unacceptable that local young people can go through school without experiencing the most important parts of their own history when visiting heritage sites. Cornwall's history is not to be sidelined, it is a rich, distinct story in its own right that should be taught, celebrated and protected.

"Our young people deserve to learn about Cornish history and their own heritage, and our visitors deserve to understand the true depth of our culture. My work in Parliament, including my own Bill, is about building a strong sense of self and place, and ensuring our communities' stories are celebrated."

The letter builds on Anna Gelderd MP's work in Parliament to protect and promote Cornish culture through her Cornish Language and Heritage (Education and Recognition) Bill, introduced earlier this year. The Bill seeks to encourage the teaching and promotion of the Cornish language within educational institutions, as well as increase its visibility in public spaces and services across Cornwall. The Bill marked a historic moment for Cornish Culture in Westminster, with Kernewek being mentioned in the House of Commons for the first time in 26 years.

The MPs thanked Historic England's Chief Executive, Duncan Wilson CBE, for his decade of leadership and expressed hope that his successor will share his commitment to heritage while placing greater emphasis on Cornwall's national significance.

community fire stations. Ensuring those crews have the resources and support they need is part of Cornwall Council's role, as Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service is part of the Council. This means that the decisions made at County Hall, from budgets to recruitment policies, directly affect the service's ability to keep people safe. For me, it's a reminder that the work of Cornwall Council reaches right into our towns and villages, often in ways you only notice when you really need them.

Our Chief Fire Officer, Kathryn Billing, is someone I've known since before she took the top job four years ago. Kath's leadership, commitment and warmth make me proud she is at the helm. And in early August, her team celebrated a milestone: the first intake of wholtime firefighters in Cornwall for seven years.

Over 800 people from across the country applied for the role. Just 12 made it through the shortlisting and the gruelling 12-week training course. They range in age from 20 to 49 and bring diverse experience to the role: one was a secondary school science teacher, another served in the British Army. Two of them, Alice Pickett and Ben Russell, live right here in Saltash. Alice has experience as a Paramedic, while Ben is continuing a family tradition of service following in the footsteps of his father, Lee, who has been an on-call firefighter here for many years and is a well-respected figure in the community.

I was impressed not only by the individual skills of the new recruits but also by how they grew together as a team. Over the 12 weeks of training they demonstrated teamwork as well as courage and discipline, supporting one another through



Councillor Hilary Frank  
cllr.hilary.frank@cornwall.gov.uk

every challenge, while still finding time for plenty of fun. As one of the lead instructors said: "One in, all in. One and All."

At the passing-out ceremony, Kath told the recruits: "Welcome to the best job in the world in the best place in the world."

Keeping it the best service depends on all of us. Right now, councillors are working with Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service to set the service's priorities for the next four years. Meanwhile, residents and businesses are being asked to complete a survey to make sure resources are focused where they are most needed.

It's open on the Let's Talk Cornwall website until 30th October, with paper copies available by emailing [consultation@fire.cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@fire.cornwall.gov.uk) or calling 0300 1234 232. I really encourage everyone to take part.

Cornwall's Fire and Rescue Service is more than a uniform: it's neighbours, friends and local people standing ready to help when it matters most. From St. Ives to Saltash, they serve with courage and care. Ben's words capture their spirit: "I'm looking forward to working in and supporting our communities". Cornwall's firefighters: dedication in every call, in the best place in the world.



## Saltash Residents Turn Trash into Treasure with C.R.A.P\*\*\*



Local group helps save thousands of items from landfill while building a culture of sharing...

In Saltash, a local initiative is quietly transforming waste into opportunity. C.R.A.P Saltash - short for Conserving Resources Associating People - is a Facebook group where residents give away or request items that still have life left in them. Since launching in 2018, the group has grown to over 5,400 members, all committed to reducing landfill and embracing sustainable living.

"It's not about selling—it's about sharing," says one of the three strong Admin Team,

consisting of Tanya, Sho and Tracey, "Someone might want your old doors, your children's outgrown school uniform, crockery and cutlery after a clear out or even unwanted plants. You never know what someone can reuse."

In the past 28 days alone, more than 1,500 posts have helped divert items from landfill or incineration. From garden tools and timber offcuts to electronics and quirky odds and ends, the group has become a hub for resourcefulness and creativity.

Beyond its environmental impact, C.R.A.P Saltash fosters a strong sense of community. It's not uncommon to see

objects shared to enrich children's learning experiences at school or items gifted to help others in need.

"People who donate items are wonderfully generous, and those receiving them are deeply grateful," says one member. "It's inspiring to see what can be done when we choose to share instead of discard."

The group's motto is simple: Share it, don't hoard it and please don't take it to the tip - there are so many items we can reuse and extend the life of everyday items. With every post, Saltash residents are proving that sustainability starts wonder - where reuse meets early learning.



Wooden bowls & wonder - where reuse meets early learning.

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## Sustainable Saltash

*A regular column on changes Saltash residents are making to confront climate and ecological breakdown*

Top of my list of sustainability FAQs is still our heat pump. In light of that, nearly 3 years down the line from the first piece on the subject, I have decided to revisit it.

We are a family of 3 living in a 4 bed Victorian terrace, with windows and doors of varying ages, suspended floors and open chimneys. We have loft insulation to the current recommended thickness, but certainly do not live in any kind of 'eco home'. An 11kW heat pump does our heating and hot water. That's 11kW of heating ability, not 11kW of electricity when it is running!

The soaring cost of energy since we installed the system, plus the imbalance in market costs of gas and electricity, makes it really hard to say how the installation has benefited our finances over the old gas boiler. We're all worse off than we were 5 years ago, let's face it. I have tried to work out how our energy use has changed. Overall we are using around 30% less energy (electricity) in kWh per year than we were before (electricity + gas).

That is telling, and long term will only be of benefit. I can say no more.

What is it like to live with for an extended period? Well, it sits on the patio outside the kitchen window, against the wall of the house. Most of the time it is barely noticeable. On winter days when temperatures fall below freezing, the fan is clearly audible with a window open, and the compressor makes a noise for a few seconds on startup. That could be troublesome if we heated in summer, but we don't have the windows open for more than an hour or so on freezing days anyway. Simply put, it's no issue from indoors. I would say that with the gradual, even heating, there probably is less noise in the house than before. No boiler rumbling on and off, no clanking of expanding radiators.

The even warmth is my favourite part of owning a heat pump. We are frequently caught out leaving the house when it gets cold, because indoors you don't notice cold set in. We sit comfortably at the same temperature all winter long. We are also never short of hot water.

## Brass and Voices in Harmony

The amazing and multi award winning Saltash Town Band (STB) are presenting a special charity concert with proceeds going to Children's Hospital South West to be held at the Saltash Social club, (St John's Lane, off Saltash Fore Street) at 7.30pm - on Sat 27th Sept - under the very capable baton of Graham Easton.

There will also be colourful and talented guest performers such as the band's own award winning Training Band,

featuring outstanding young musicians, led by Christy Smith.

Furthermore, an added treat will be the staging of Saltash's very own popular and well-established Burraton Male Voice Choir (BMVC) under the direction of talented musical impresario Phil Taylor.

The concert entry is free, with donations on the evening for Children's Hospice South West (CHSW).

A spokesperson from the Band said: "We promise an evening of musical bliss with a mixture of fun, wonderful voices, brass band and outstanding musicianship from our young trainees."

"The band has chosen Children's Hospice South West in recognition of its longstanding care and support that is gives to families of very sick children - providing hospice care for babies, children and young people living with life-limiting conditions and their whole family. Hospice stays, emergency care, palliative care and end of life care at 3 wonderful children's hospices: Little Bridge House in Devon, Charlton Farm in Somerset and Little Harbour in Cornwall.

"We hope many concert goers of all ages, will come and enjoy an extra special musical extravaganza, and meet members of Saltash Town Band and Burraton Male Voice Choir - at the same time supporting this wonderful children's charity."

The concert entry is free with donations welcomed. There will also be refreshments and a raffle.

How to summarise? Technology changes. 60 years ago, many homes transitioned to gas because that made sense at the time, this should be no different. It's not for everyone, but neither was gas, which never reached some homes. For a suitable property, I'd recommend a heat pump over a new gas boiler. It's just a much more modern way to heat a home.

Initial outlay remains a concern but there is, at last, private money driving costs down- as well as government subsidy. It's well worth seeing what you are entitled to, but also what your energy company will offer. Want to see one in the flesh? Drop me a line.

-Marc Bramham

*This column is a conversation starter for our whole community. If you have comments on the subject, ideas of your own or suggestions for future content, please do get in touch at [sustainable.saltash@protonmail.com](mailto:sustainable.saltash@protonmail.com)*

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## Five Top Money Tips for Uni Students

Going to uni can be an exciting but expensive time. Learning to pay the bills and live on a tight budget isn't easy, so I thought I'd make this column quite specific this month and give you a few tips to get you financially ready:

### Build a budget

First, you need to understand how much income you have, when you receive it into your account and how much your expenditure is likely to be. This will help you live within your means. How much will it cost to do your laundry? Will you have to pay for gas and electricity? Will your parents be contributing toward a living allowance? Will you need to find a part-time job? All of these factors will impact your potential budget. Download CAP's budgeting guide at to build your own budget for university, and you can find out about on CAP's website.

### Keep costs down

To make your money go further, take advantage of any student discounts that you're entitled to. If you're likely to be using the train, then investing in

a young person's railcard is worth looking into. How much you spend on food and essentials can be cut back if you look around for the best prices and find ways to reduce how often you buy non-essentials. Identify your needs from wants; if you don't need it and can't afford it, cut it out completely. You could even try out CAP's to help you understand your spending habits and figure out what simple changes will make the biggest difference for you.

### Keep an emergency fund

Be prepared for unexpected costs. What would you do if your phone broke or you had an extra expense that you hadn't planned for? An emergency fund can offer huge peace of mind when these costs arise. If you have any savings, then set some aside for an emergency fund. You can even try adding a small amount to it each term.

### Go on a course

Whatever subject you've chosen to study at university, knowing how to manage your money will be one of the most valuable life skills you'll learn. So why not prioritise your financial peace of mind by

taking a free money course to give you confidence in how you handle your money? CAP offers budgeting and life skills sessions at various locations, and there might even be a course near your university. Visit to see what's available in your area.

### Get help if you need it

Living on a student income can be difficult, and with small budgets finances can become a real burden. If you find yourself struggling with unmanageable debt, call CAP's free helpline on **0800 328 0006**. Alternatively, visit for a wide range of support.

Managing your finances by sticking to a well-thought-out budget should help you avoid any money trouble this academic year, allowing you to focus on making the most of your university experience. Enjoy!

*Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a UK charity working with over 1,000 affiliated churches to deliver debt help, budgeting guidance, support to find work, life skills education and more. Visit [capuk.org](http://capuk.org) to find out more.*

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# Tamar Reflections

## Saltash Remembered VJ Day In the 80th Anniversary Year

Many readers of the *Saltash Observer* will have already read about the town's celebrations and commemorations marking VE80, the 80th Anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe. In those articles, I shared the tributes paid to Saltash's fallen during that milestone **Paying Homage**

This time, I wish to pay added homage to the VJ (Victory over Japan) campaign, which in this 80th anniversary year marks the final conclusion of World War II in the Far East. VJ Day brought relief across the world, but also deep remembrance of those who suffered and died in the final stages of the conflict. For Saltash, as elsewhere, the day carried both pride and sorrow.

### Moving Events

Saltash, through its splendid community organisations, arranged a series of moving events to honour this historic occasion. The Saltash British Legion and RNA Association - in association with Saltash Town Council - held a special memorial and thanksgiving service at St Nicholas and St Faith Church. With dignity and solemnity, the names of all the Saltash fallen—including civilians—were read aloud, followed by a wreath-laying ceremony at the town's War Memorial.

At Ashtorre Rock, a coffee morning and WW2 sing-along were held, with all proceeds donated to the Saltash British Legion. Meanwhile, the people of Forder Village created a striking tribute on the riverbank: a 'Tommy' soldier embraced with poppy stems, a moving sight for all who passed by. On the village green, residents gathered for a thanksgiving VJ80 service to remember the sacrifices made.

### Saltash Far East Casualties

Saltash suffered eleven known casualties during the Far East campaign. With gratitude to Peter

Clements for his research, we remember:  
John Herbert Blockley  
Arthur Bond  
William John Cowling  
William John Deacon  
William Alexander Godfrey  
Sidney John Harris  
William Cyril Richards  
Terence Austin Scripps  
Jack Widdecombe  
George Albert Williams  
Harold Eric John Williams  
Peter has noted that this list may not yet be complete; there could be others still to be discovered. Behind each of these names lies a Saltash family who endured long silences, anxious waiting for news, and in too many cases, the grief of loss. Their sacrifice is part of our town's story.

### Lessons and Legacy for Future Generations

These commemorations were only possible thanks to the dedication of volunteers, community groups, and local organisations—the Royal British Legion, RNA, Ashtorre Rock, Forder Village, and many on who gave time and care to ensure that remembrance remains alive in our community. Involving young people and schools in these moments of reflection ensures that the lessons and legacy are passed forward to future generations.

### Remembrance and Reflections

As Saltash reflects upon these anniversaries, we continue to remember with honour and gratitude all those who gave their lives—both near and far—for our freedoms. In remembering the men and women who served and fell in the Far East, we also honour those who returned home carrying memories and scars, and we reaffirm our pledge: We Will Remember Them.

*Sue Hooper MBE*

*Freeman and former Mayor of Saltash  
Tel: 01752 843073 Email: suehcf@msn.com*



*Continued from Page 4*

## Forefront of New Health Service

Health and Social Care Secretary Wes Streeting said: "We are building an NHS fit for the future, one that fits around peoples' lives and is an integral part of their community. "Neighbourhood health services fundamentally reimagine how the NHS works – bringing care closer to home while helping to tackle this nation's shameful health inequalities. "I'm particularly proud that Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly have been selected as one of our pioneering sites, and I'm pleased that local residents will be among the first to benefit from this transformed approach to healthcare. "Through our Plan for Change, we will stop people from being bounced around a broken system as we get the health service back on its feet."

Services will initially focus on supporting people with long-term conditions such as diabetes, arthritis, angina, high

blood pressure, MS, or epilepsy. It targets the areas with the highest deprivation to end the post code lottery in access to healthcare. As the programme grows, it will expand to support other patients and priority cohorts.

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## VJ Day Friday 15th August

My friends, this morning, as the tide moves gently beneath the Tamar Bridge, we gather here in Saltash not only as townspeople, but as stewards of memory.

Today is VJ Day, Victory over Japan Day, the day the Second World War truly ended. It is a day that asks us not to celebrate, but to reflect. To remember not only how the war ended, but what it cost, and who paid the price.

While the headlines of history often speak of Normandy and Dunkirk, let us not forget the war continued far beyond those beaches, in the jungles of Burma, in the prison camps of the Far East, in places where Saltash sons served, suffered, and in too many cases, never returned.

They were young men, dockyard workers, farmhands, fishermen, who left Cornwall with a kitbag and a promise: to do their duty.

They faced not only an enemy who would not surrender, but conditions that tested every ounce of human endurance. Many were captured. Many died in captivity. Some came home, but the war followed them in silence for the rest of their days.

These are the forgotten voices of victory. And here in Saltash, we will not forget them.

When you walk past our war



memorial, as so many of you have done today, you do not see strangers carved in stone. You see family names. You see echoes of this town's heart and history.

And when we speak of sacrifice, we speak not in abstract terms, we speak of real lives, real stories:

A father who never saw his child's first birthday.

A brother who sent home his pay to keep the roof above his family.

A young man who once watched the ferries cross the Tamar and never came back to see them again.

These are not statistics. They are Saltash. They are us.

So let this day be more than remembrance. Let it be a

renewal. A quiet, determined vow that we will honour them not only in ceremony, but in how we live: with integrity, with resilience, and with a deep respect for the freedoms they secured.

And let us also remember this: peace was not a gift, it was earned, at great cost, by people whose names may never appear in books, but whose courage shaped the world we now inherit.

May God bless those who served.

May God bless Saltash.

And may we always be worthy of their sacrifice.

*Thank you.*

*Cornwall Cllr Keith Johnson  
Saltash Tamar Ward*

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Just Thinking  
Aloud ...

Standing on Fore St outside The Bookshelf a few days ago, I found myself in conversation with a pal who shares with me an overwhelming care about matters political and social. We rarely agree on anything, but against the current worldwide background of horror – let us not name names – we found ourselves in total agreement about our support for free speech and our outright rejection of bigotry and hatred. But it was at this point that we both realised that neither of us could claim the moral high ground, that it is not enough to simply make claims about our personal “squeaky cleanness”. We need to demonstrate it by our actions, by the way we live our lives. And if we are folk of faith, we need to remember that prayer on its own is not enough! Well, that’s enough of Bob moralising and pontificating. Back to the usual:

I applaud what has been happening on Fore St, the new street furniture and so on, the improvements in street cleaning, the thought which

has clearly gone into making our main drag and many other parts of Saltash more attractive places in which Essanians of all ages can live and have our being. Congratulations to all whose enthusiasms, skills and capacity to co-operate are succeeding in making Saltash an even more welcoming centre for the curious. I was reading on a Fore St noticeboard something about Saltash and a Vision. I shall return to it – a thoroughly worthwhile Vision in my humble estimation. It just needs more of us to do our bit – merely being a tad more litter-conscious might help... But just in case you think I am going over the top in my enthusiasm, I must admit that I do not patronise tattooing establishments, I care not for the over-abundance of hairdressers and suchlike, and while I applaud the fundraising activities of charity shops and the sterling work done by Saltash Foodbank (which, like so many of you I support and wish there were even more of us) I have to say that for one of the richest countries in the world to need recourse to such ways of supporting the poor, the sick and the vulnerable in

our society is almost obscene. I will go further – it is obscene! I might expand on why sometime soon.

Definitely not obscene is a little place which my beloved and I frequent on a weekly basis. It was delightful under its previous ownership, and it remains so under Kerry and Mark and their charming staff. The Bookshelf is a place where we continue to feel at ease. If you haven’t yet sampled its delights, I encourage you to do so. It’s not just books. There is much to attract your gaze, and various light and slightly less light bites to stimulate the appetite. Go on – give it a go.

For October – possibly – some thoughts on politics local and national. And what has Bob been reading?

Bob Munro

Notice

Due to timing of our planned delivery for this month, it is possible you may miss an event happening, which I have allowed to go through in the editorial content. I felt it will still be a benefit to the charities as most papers will make it on time.

Editor Mary Crawford

Exciting Summer Developments  
at Brunel School

It has been a busy and exciting summer at Brunel School, with several major improvements transforming our School grounds for the benefit of all our children.

One of the most striking changes has been the revival of our school pond.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Co-op, this project was brought to life through the dedication of our parent community during Make a Difference mornings, and then completed to an incredible standard by Brook and his team from Total Landscape Ltd. The pond will provide our children with a thriving outdoor habitat to explore, helping them learn about ecosystems, wildlife, and sustainability in a hands-on way.

Mr Woolner, Headteacher, said: “The new pond area is more than just a feature in our grounds – it’s an opportunity for our children to connect with nature, nurture curiosity, and develop a deeper understanding of the environment around them.”

Another exciting development is the construction of a brand-new outdoor classroom in our school garden area. Funded through grants secured by the Brunel Friends Association, this space will give children a dedicated area for outdoor learning and will be a valuable addition to their

environmental studies.

In addition, we have been working with Early Excellence to enhance our EYFS classrooms, ensuring our youngest learners have an inspiring and well-resourced environment. Issy’s Nursery has also moved into a much larger space, allowing us to meet the growing demand from families who want their children to benefit from our outstanding provision.

Looking ahead, we are now turning our attention to further developing our outdoor spaces to give our children even more opportunities to learn, play, and thrive in a rich and stimulating environment.



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**ADVANCE WARNING**

**Roads closed for:  
Saltash Christmas Festival**

Road Closures for Event - 10:00 - 22:00  
A38 Sliproad (south lane) (Full Length)  
Fore Street (Full Length)  
Wesley Road (Full Length)  
Victoria Road (King Edward Road TO Wesley Road) Eastbound Only  
Belle Vue Road (Junction Car Parks TO Fore Street)  
King Edward Road (Essa Road TO Victoria Road) Northbound Only

Road Closures for Fun Run - 14:15 - 15:30  
Callington Road (Fore Street Roundabout)  
St Stephens Road (Fore Street Roundabout)  
King Edward Road (Fore Street Roundabout)  
Lower Fore Street (Fore Street TO Tamar Bridge Entrance)

Road Closures for Parade Lineup - 17:00 - 18:30  
Ellwell Road (Tavy Road TO 2 Lockyer Terrace)

Road Closures for Parade - 17:45 - 18:15  
North Road (Tavy Road TO Lower Fore Street)  
Tavy Road (Ellwell Road TO North Road)

Road Closures for Fireworks - 18:10 - 19:25  
Callington Road (Fore Street TO Glebe Avenue)  
St Stephens Road (Fore Street Roundabout TO Essa Road)

**6TH DECEMBER 2025      10:00 - 22:00**