

Saltash Town Council

Konsel an dre Essa

Town Messenger



www.saltash.gov.uk



Edition 30 : January 2013

Message from the Mayor

Hello Everyone,

I hope you have had a good Christmas and New Year break. The Town has been lucky with so few homes affected by the severe weather, and very little damage.

Congratulations

In November Hilary Frank was given the Olympic Torch Volunteer Award by Cornwall Tourist Board in recognition of all the hard work that she put in to make that day so special. Hilary has nothing but praise for all the volunteers that worked with her, and says the award is for all of them. Well done.

Poor

The weeds on our pavements are dead (whether that be winter or weed killer) but the untidy remains stay. We pay our taxes but get poor service. We are all contributing to the £4 million subsidy for Newquay airport but getting less for our Town. The appalling wet weather has revealed that some shops in Fore Street have guttering that is in poor condition and needs renewing (there are even plants growing from some of the walls). I have written to the offenders telling them that pedestrians, and probably their customers have been affected and that in some cases their own buildings are being damaged. Cornwall Council has made very little movement on the land that Saltash wants to lease so that improvements to our town can be made. They are asking for details of what organisations are interested in the Maurice Huggins room, so that they may consider that we, the people of Saltash may use it for the community! The land near the Ashtorre has now been leased so at last that community group can apply for its Art Fund grant. It is hoped that the money will still be available after such a long time persevering and waiting for the lease.

Movement Forward

The Town Council has subsidised car parking for another 3 months. All car parks in Saltash are FREE AT WEEKENDS until the end of March. The Town Council is also taking on the toilets at the Waterfront (details inside). The erection of the Cornish Cross has met some initial problems but will still be ready for Spring. It is expected that the official opening of Elwell Woods and the Cross pocket park will be televised and there will be celebrations, however, until dates are finalised details cannot be released. The town shops are undergoing churn as is normal in a busy shopping centre. Some shops have closed for personal reasons of the owners, one has closed because a commercial business is taking over from a charity shop, and there are offers by leaseholders to sell their leases. Another piece of good news is Sports Direct are advertising for management positions in Saltash. Is this store, new to Saltash, going to fill the old Focus site??

Future

The May fair preparations are moving forward with bookings for stalls due soon.

The elections for Town and County Councilors are on the 2nd May. Details inside.

The 25th anniversary of the twinning between Saltash and Plougastel takes place in May. This will be celebrated in Plougastel with representatives from Saltash travelling by ferry and there will also be a flotilla from our Yacht club sailing around Ushant. Let us hope for fair weather for them all.

Martin Gee - Mayor of Saltash



STAND (UP) AND BE COUNTED !

If you were ever interested in becoming a councillor, now is the time to decide whether to put your head above the parapet. **On May 2nd, all 123 seats on Cornwall Council (4 for Saltash) and all 16 seats on Saltash Town Council will be up for election. Nomination papers will be available from March 28th.**

This election, the names of the four Saltash Wards will change. Burraton becomes North, Essa becomes South, Pill becomes East and St Stephens becomes West. There are also some district changes, notably that Pillmere now becomes part of North rather than East, and the Coombe/Essa Rd area will change to East, all in the interest of equalising voter numbers. Each ward will elect one Cornwall councillor and four town councillors.

It is not necessary to stand for a political party – there are many independent councillors in Cornwall. The difference is that a political party may well subsidise your election campaign expenses such as leaflets. In this instance you should contact the party of your choice. You must be nominated as a candidate for Saltash by 4 ward constituents (16 for Cornwall and you will need to appoint an agent). Nominations close on April 5th.

If elected you should expect some measure of public abuse or criticism, since just about everyone has a view on the provision of public services. There is quite a demanding schedule of work for ward constituents, regular town and committee meetings and voluntary activities, often in unsocial hours. Few people are in it for the money – annual expenses for a town councillor are £200, and taxable!

The role of Cornwall Councillor is different, involving many daytime meetings and considerable travel throughout the County, and the responsibility for a budget of £1 billion. It is difficult to reconcile the role with full time employment and consequently payment and expenses are substantial - nearly £15,000. Many Cornwall Councillors are also Town or Parish Councillors – elections are the same day on May 2nd.

Can you stand for it? If you have strong views on particular issues and decide to stand or you simply think you can do a better voluntary job than present councillors, there is plenty of information to influence your decision:

To stand for Saltash Town Council: www.saltash.gov.uk or contact the Town Clerk. **The Clerk will also host an information session for prospective councillors at 17.30 on March 7th.** You can ask questions to present councillors, and even stay on for the later Council meeting to see what is involved! The annual Saltash Council budget is about £300,000 including issues relating to Industry, Commerce, Transport and Tourist issues, Civic Amenities such as allotments, footpaths and floral planting, the Cemetery and Town administration.

To stand for Cornwall Council : www.cornwall.gov.uk/beacouncillor or call Catherine McGrath on 01579 341234.

ON THE BUSES

Generally, Saltash enjoys an excellent main service to and from Plymouth city centre and an adequate service to other locations such as Derriford and neighbouring towns in South East Cornwall. The Town Council seeks to provide outlying shelters where there is a proven need, and other detailed service improvements such as relocation of the Fore St bays, and (soon to come) real time lit bus information, (as in Plymouth) on those shelters.

Continued on next page...

You may also have seen our new turquoise Community Minibus – the Saltash Hopper – around town. The operator, Gateway CIC, which used grants to refurbish it in this smart livery, has a pool of qualified drivers, and has used the bus for a variety of community events. It is also available for hire to local organisations & groups by calling Colin Brown on 01752 849709. In 2013, it is intended to experiment with local regular services to outlying districts and villages, starting with Blunts, Quethiock and Pillaton - to Saltash Fore Street, via Trematon, Forder & Saltash Waterside.

Note that under the terms of the VOSA Section 19 permit, the Hopper may not conflict with established services, concessionary bus passes cannot be accepted, and it is a requirement that all organisations or individual users must pre-register their interest through Saltash Gateway CIC. This is easily done online at SaltashHopper@aol.com or by calling 01752 849709.

Saltash Gateway CIC are looking for volunteers to join the Saltash Community Minibus Management team. For details, please contact Colin Brown at the above email address or phone number.

ELWELL WOODS and THE CORNISH CROSS

It had been hoped that the spectacular erection of the completed Cross would take place early in January, overnight on Saturday to minimise disruption to the Bridge traffic by two giant Macsalvor cranes. However, just before Christmas, upon checking the alignment of the base template with the brackets and bolts embedded in the completed oval wall, it was a case of “Houston, we have a problem.....”

The Cross is complete and waiting to go. Meanwhile the project engineers and Cormac engineers are working to resolve the problem, but there are certain to be several weeks delay at least. This will put the planned Launch on St Piran’s Day (March 5th) in jeopardy, and the date will almost certainly put back until later in Spring.

Despite the weather, work in the two acres of woods below continues apace and many people are starting to use the recreational space. Amongst forthcoming events co-ordinated by Cornwall Wildlife Trust in coming months, volunteers will be needed to :
Help plant in the clearings wild flower bulbs, such as wild garlic, bluebells and aconites
Complete a section of dry stone walling under instruction as a practical workshop
Collect and burn brushwood
There will also be a number of events held for children and teenagers

TOY(LET) STORY

Throughout the County, Cornwall Council is seeking to offload its responsibility for public toilets, and intends to get local town and parish councils to maintain them instead, by overt threats of closure in many cases and more subtle “blackmail” in others.

In Saltash, the Waterside toilets would certainly have been closed in January, but after a working party looked at several options, the Town Council has decided to take on the maintenance, at considerable cost, using Cormac as service provider. As a sweetener, prior to handover, Cornwall Council will spend nearly £9,000 on redecoration and refurbishment, including better lighting and hand wash facilities, and a survey of the drains. The Waterside is attracting increasing numbers of visitors, and we feel that long term provision of public toilets is essential.

A similar offer is on the table for the other town toilets NOT presently earmarked for closure (Belle Vue and Longstone), but as we go to press, it is unclear whether the refurbishment is scheduled to take place anyway, or only if the Town Council also takes them on. Watch this space.....

EVENTS IN SALTASH IN 2013

Saltash Lions May Fair

www.saltashlionsmayfair.com
Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th May

Saltash Regatta

www.saltashregatta.co.uk
Saturday 15th & Sunday 16th June

Christmas Event— 7th December
(TBC)

For an up to date list of events being held in the town please check the Town Council Website or the town notice boards. Events are also publicised on the Saltash Celebrates website
www.saltashcelebrates.org.uk

BATIK-ULARLY BEAUTIFUL

After positive feedback and requests for more arts workshops following our previous community projects, Saltash Town Council is investigating the possibility of working with small groups across Saltash to design and create a large-scale installation of batik flags. These flags will be larger versions of the colourful ones we created to welcome the Olympic Torch, and they will be displayed at a prominent public venue in South East Cornwall over the summer holidays. Please contact the Guildhall if you are interested in participating in a free workshop. We would particularly welcome interest from Forces families in the area.

New Train Timetable now available!

Download from www.srug.org.uk or collect from the Guildhall or Saltash Library.

Quiz

1. Where is Trematon Pound. What was it used for and what can you do it in today?
2. Like oysters ... where are the town's oyster beds ?

Answers to questions in Edition 28

1. St Barnabas Cottage Hospital in Higher Port View , run by nuns from 1894 to 1956 and afterwards by the Health Authority. Original building built by the owner of Claremont, Port View and given to the town .
2. In the fields between . Cross Park stores and Wearde Farm. Saltash people were very supportive and invited soldiers into their homes and out on many events for them.

**Don't forget if you have any concerns about the Town,
you can contact your local Councillors.
Councillors are also available at Meet the People events held on the
Saturday after the main Town Council meeting**

Burraton Ward

Peter Clements Tel: 842425
Sue Hooper Tel: 843073
Bill Phillips Tel: 518176
Colin Riches* Tel: **846843**

Essa Ward

Adam Killeya Tel: 848691
Colin Oakes Tel: 845207
Bruce Reid Tel: 308387
James Shepherd Tel: 847144

* indicates Cornwall Councillor

Cornwall Councillors

Bryan Preston Tel: 848240

Pill Ward

Joe Ellison Tel: 849340
Hilary Frank Tel: 845114
Martin Gee Tel: 513306
Derek Holley* Tel: **845418**

St Stephens Ward

Bob Austin* Tel: **844666**
Richard Bickford Tel: 841119
Jean Dent Tel: 303008
David Yates Tel: 843260

Town Clerk

Mr Ray Lane
Email: townclerk@saltash.gov.uk
Tel: 844846

Town Council Office Opening Hours:
9.30am—4.30pm Monday—Friday