

Town Messenger



Edition 15: Spring 2008

Message from the Out-going Mayor

Easter has now come & gone and we look forward to the spring. Various flower beds in the town are now coming to life, making it as colourful as ever. The planters and the seats in Fore Street have now been refurbished ready for the summer. Longstone Park play area is being well used by our young citizens, as is Salt Mill football pitch - both by professional teams such as Plymouth Argyle and our local teams, East Cornwall football team, Saltash Rugby Club, Saltash Ladies FC, Menheniot & St Dominick FC, Waitrose & Ginsters FC, to mention just a few. This, of course, is in addition to the community free play time held in the early evenings, which has proved to be a tremendous success.

Another highlight since writing the last Messenger is the opening of the new Elizabethan garden at Mary Newman's Cottage. The last time I saw these gardens was over a year ago and over the past twelve months the Page family have managed to secure a sizable grant, which enabled the Tamar Protection Society to build a new interpretation area, which can double as an outdoor classroom - they have also built a green oak pergola. March 19, when it was opened, was a most beautiful day and we were greeted by committee members and children wearing Elizabethan costumes. David Howard (Prince Charles' Head Gardner at Highgrove) opened the event, which was followed by a buffet of authentic Elizabethan food and mulled apple juice. During the reception in the courtyard music was performed by a local Elizabethan ensemble. My grateful thanks to the Page family and volunteers for making it such a perfect and memorable day. I can well recommend that you visit Mary Newmans Cottage, especially now this work has been carried out. They are open Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sunday afternoons.

The Town Council have been working hard on your behalf since my report in the last messenger. On the planning side, the supermarket application has taken up time and generated a great deal of publicity and the application was rejected for many reasons by the TC at our February meeting. Unitary meetings are also taking up a lot of our time now and for those who are interested we have formed a dedicated meeting, consisting of the full council, for unitary business.

Last but not least, special note to clubs & society secretaries. Our new website is up and running and we would like you to advertise your meetings on the site. We know there are 143 organisations in Saltash & we only have a small percentage involved so far. It is easy to enter, if you are not on the internet please ask a friend to do it for you.
www.saltash.gov.uk

Bob Austin – Town Mayor 2007-2008

New website for Saltash Town Council

Have you seen the redesigned website? There is a lot more information available including details of all your Councillors, agenda, minutes, events and details of local organisations. You can submit your own events or details of your organisation to be added to the site. Why not add the site to your list of favourites?

www.saltash.gov.uk

Saltash Town Regatta – Saturday & Sunday June 28th & 29th

Don't forget to come and join in the fun at Saltash Regatta. There will be championship gig rowing, the fancy dress England and Back race, dinghy racing and a new event to find the best council rowing team in Caradon.

There will also be Continental and Cornish produce markets, a constant programme of live bands, and lots for children to do – face painters, hair braider, Punch & Judy, bouncy castle & rides, even donkey rides !

Saltash Train Services

Saltash Station was once the busiest station in Cornwall, with trains to and from Plymouth every 15 minutes. Next year along with the Royal Albert Bridge, our station will be 150 years old. Your council along with other community groups plan big celebration for both.

Since those heady days the rail service provided at Saltash had declined, mainly due to the building of the road bridge, and increased use of the car. Often forgotten by the rail companies and indeed the Department for Transport, we have gone years with just a local service operated with old stock.

In 2006 First Great Western took over the Greater Western franchise, and became the operator for Saltash. Their initial timetable was introduced in December 2006, and cut a number of services, but introduced back High Speed Services to and from London Paddington. Saltash Town Council, along with Saltash Rail Users Group met with First Great Western, and a plan was agreed to return more services, and indeed 3 extra services were reintroduced last May, and from this May another three services were returned, including another service from London.

This has returned us broadly to where we were before First Great Western took over, but with the bonus that we have 3 excellent services that run direct to London, and 4 services back in the afternoon and evening. First Great Western have also spent some £200M refurbishing their High Speed trains to make them safer and more reliable with every seat now having a power socket for your laptop or dvd player. They are now working to refurbish the smaller local trains over the coming months.

The Rail Users Group (SRUG) are not yet content with the number of services and will continue to look for more, but this all depends on customer demand. So if you want us to have a better train service then why not try what we have. You will be surprised at the service and the price. Truro from under £5 return, Plymouth is just £1.65 return after 0930 (with a railcard), and London Paddington tickets start from just £13 each way! For regular commuters there are discounted season tickets and groups of 3 or 4 travel for the price of two adults on off peak services.

You can pick up the latest copy of the Saltash Train timetable from the Guildhall or Library, or download it from www.srug.org.uk. A range of leaflets relating to the train service is also available in the Guildhall, but if you have any questions then please call the Saltash Rail Users Group on 01752 841119.

New services in May

Plymouth 1401 – Saltash 1409 – Penzance 1601

London 1703 – Saltash 2036 – Penzance 2235

Penzance 1142 – Saltash 1329 – Plymouth 1338

Town Council initiative restores play equipment in Longstone Park

After long years of the public walking past the burnt-out remains of vandalised climbing frames, Saltash Town Council has secured state-of-the-art play equipment for Longstone Park. The play area was opened by Mayor Bob Austin on Friday 22nd February and is now in full use.

Through an innovative partnership with Caradon District Council and Groundwork South West, Saltash was able to access nearly £50,000 in funding from Viridor Credits Caradon and County Environmental Trust to build Phase 1 adventure equipment for 6 - 10 year olds on the previously vandalised site. The colourful metal-based features from leading manufacturer Wicksteed Leisure, were chosen by the children of Saltash from a choice of five schemes.

Then, using the proceeds from the sale of Saltash Station, your Town Council unilaterally decided to complete the renovation of Longstone by providing £25,000 for a complementary toddler play area on the site of the old swings by Longmeadow Road. This was also completed in January by Wicksteed, and Caradon provided resurfaced paths and fencing.

Cllr Joe Ellison says "We could never have financed such a major development ourselves, but by working closely with Groundwork and Caradon we have been able to provide something that we can all be proud of. The need for a central play area was obvious, and was demonstrated in the first week of operation at half term, when kids were almost literally queuing to use the new facilities."

Waste Incinerator

Plymouth City Council has recently decided to build a waste incinerator to cope with their domestic rubbish. As you may know the old Plymouth University playing fields at Ernesettle opposite Brunel Green was selected as a prospective site for this facility. After a hearing, a Government Inspector found the Plymouth incinerator plan 'sound', that is to say he found no valid grounds for objection. This decision was taken even though Saltash Town Council, Caradon District Council & local Ernesettle residents objected strongly to situating an incinerator in the Tamar valley opposite an area of outstanding natural beauty, in an ecologically sensitive area and a well used recreational area.

Councillors Colin Riches and Joe Ellison put the Saltash case at the hearing where they stressed the damage such an installation would do to the area & the detrimental effect it would have on our local economy plus the fact that Plymouth Council typically paid scant regard to any proper consultation with neighbouring town & parish councils.

Later, Councillor Riches accompanied the Government Inspector & representatives of other interested bodies on a visit to the Southampton waste incinerator which has a capacity of 165,000 tons of rubbish - one third less than the requisite capacity for Plymouth. Councillor Riches & his council colleagues consider a plant of this size to be totally wrong for siting in the Tamar valley opposite Saltash particularly when there is a better site, both in terms of vehicular & rail access & visual intrusion, at Coypool. Whilst acknowledging that waste management is a thorny subject we are resolved to fight against the building of this plant at Ernesettle in such a sensitive area.

The Messenger Saltash Walk No 3

Use Liskeard Road to pass the Ploughboy Inn, Burraton Methodist Chapel and the Latchbrook Roundabout; very soon, fork left down the narrow road towards the Cottages at Latchbrook. (Very limited parking available.)

At the Latchbrook Cottages take the signposted and yellow arrow way-marked Public Footpath that goes towards Burraton Coombe. After approximately 600 metres turn right to follow a crossing Public Footpath downhill to a Footbridge across the Latchbrook, over a stile into a field. Go straight on up the very steep hill to a stile onto the Public Bridleway not far to the left of Wadgeworthy Farmhouse. Cross the Public Bridleway to a Field Gate and follow the 'Signposted' and yellow arrow Way-marked Public Footpath through fields and stiles to the Field Gate leading onto the road at Longlands.

Turn left: then at Longlands crossroads go towards Elm Gate. Continue along the road: passing Burell Lodge. About 200 metres further find a stile on the right that leads into the corner of a field. Go diagonally across that field to steps over the wall in the field's right hand corner: cross the next field. Go along the next fields left hand edge to a Field Gate and onto the road.

Go along Trevollard Lane on the opposite side of the road. At Trevollard there is a Public Footpath Signpost: follow the yellow arrow way-marked path to steps over a wall into a field. Go downhill, inclining to the left through a Field Gate: continue downhill to a stile in the field's right-hand corner. Go down steps, and continue down-hill, inclining left, to a Footbridge, then uphill to a Field Gate near Bagmill Farmhouse.

Follow the tarmac drive downhill to Bagmill Barn: remaining on the Public Right of Way. At the bottom of the drive cross the stream, go through the gate in front of you and follow the way-marks along the crooked lane, going uphill all the way, to Cumble Tor Farm. The approach to Cumble Tor Farm House is very likely to be extremely wet and very muddy. Continue through a Field gate to a short, very wet, Green Lane at the left hand edge of a field, through another Field gate to a track that goes immediate to left of the Farmhouse. At the Farmyard main entrance follow the tarmac lane from Cumble Tor Farm to Alma Cottage at Trematon.

At Alma Cottage turn left and go along the road for about 60 metres: then turn right through Penvintle Farmyard Gate and continue straight on through more farmyard, gates and fields (Trematon Hall can be seen through the hedge to your left) to a stile in the field's corner. Then down steps in a wall and go straight on to a 'boardwalk' across a pond or deep swamp. Go straight on uphill to a crossing footpath: turn right; then almost immediately left into a sunken lane going uphill to a Field Gate. Continue straight on along the field's left hand edge to a stile. Then diagonally across the next field to a stile at the field's far left hand corner. Then straight on along the left hand edge of a field to another stile. Then initially along the left hand edge then straight on across the next field: going down hill to a stile and steps just behind the Latchbrook Cottages and onto the road.

Trematon Hall Festival of Arts & Music for all the Community – Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th July 10.00am to 6.00pm
For more information visit www.suehcf.org.uk

Your New Mayor

At the recent Mayor Choosing Ceremony, Councillor Derek Holley was elected Mayor for the coming year. Councillor Mrs Sue Hooper was elected Deputy Mayor.

Allotment Land Needed

There is a long waiting list for the allotments in Saltash. The Town Council is keen to hear of any small pockets of land that might be available to provide more allotments in the town. Perhaps you have spare garden capacity that you would be willing to share with a keen gardener? Please contact the Town Clerk if you are able to help.

Trees

Do you have any trees in Saltash that you are particularly fond of or have a special history which might be worthy of noting? If so, do please let the office know the location in order that they may be looked at.

Quiz Answers to last month's questions were:

1. In 1588 Saltash Town Council fitted out and commissioned a frigate to fight the Armada. What was it called? John Trelawney
2. What year was the Tunnel opened? 1988

Questions this month

1. Where is the last remaining section of cobbled paving?
2. A branch railway line from Saltash was planned but never built. Where to? And where was a level crossing planned – there is still a “gap” in the housing today?

Can you believe it?

Ordnance Survey are asking for routes of walks to be added to their website. Saltash Town Councillor Peter Clements tried to add a route that goes via Cock's Lake; a stream that's part of the border of Saltash. The route was refused because of 'obscenity'.

VISIT Saltash



Visitor Guide to Saltash and major town events
Produced by Saltash Town Council
www.saltash.gov.uk



New map guide of Saltash.

A new guide to Saltash has been produced by the Town Council. Designed for visitors and residents alike, the guide details current opening times of our museums, with a brief history of many places of interest. A detailed map shows key facilities within the town.

The guide is available FREE from the Guildhall and library.

Don't forget if you have any concerns about the Town, you can contact your local Councillors
(Caradon District Councillors shown in bold)

Burraton Ward

Peter Clements	Tel: 842425
Sue Hooper	Tel: 843073
Colin Riches	Tel: 846843
Neil Challen	Tel: 242931

Essa Ward

Adam Killeya	Tel: 848691
Sheila Lennox-Boyd	Tel: 07808164388
Bruce Reid	Tel: 308387
Colin Oakes	Tel: 845207

Pill Ward

Joe Ellison	Tel: 849340
Martin Gee	Tel: 513306
Derek Holley	Tel: 845418
Fran Knight	Tel: 847970

St. Stephens Ward

Bob Austin	Tel: 844666
Peter Stephens	Tel: 846597
David Yates	Tel: 843260
Richard Bickford	Tel: 841119

Phil Beamont is a District Councillor only for the Burraton Ward

Tel: 845802

Glen Renshaw is a District Councillor only for the Essa Ward

Tel: 01579 351857

Cornwall County Councillors

Joyce Mepsted	Tel: 845802
Bryan Preston	Tel: 848240
Barbara McTaggart	Tel: 01579 320909

Town Clerk

Mrs. Marilyn Small Tel:844846

E-mail townclerk@saltash.gov.uk

Fax Tel: 840914

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

Piano For Sale

A Young Chang upright piano in the Guildhall is for sale. Offers in excess of £1200 are invited. Please contact the Town Clerk for further details as soon as possible.