

# Town Messenger



Edition 28 : July 2012

## Message from the Mayor

Hello All

This is my first Town Message and I hope it keeps you up to date with Town news and events.

### Good Times

It was marvellous to see virtually all our Town out to say farewell to the Olympic Torch after a fabulous day of sporting and music activities. This was followed, 2 weeks later, by the Queens Jubilee celebrations with 15 street parties (some overcoming torrential rain), Beating the Bounds, a picnic in the park and 2 tree planting ceremonies. The Mayfair in its new location was hailed as a success and the Regatta too was a resounding success, despite the weather. A new theatrical and music group Page2Stage started in late June. Chris, Andy, Paul and Niall from the Cecil Arms who while breaking a Guinness record for playing darts for over 41 hours raised a staggering £3000 for Parkinson's Disease UK. Two new shops opened – More than Art and the Original Factory Shop. Our shopping centre is thriving and has only 4 empty shops which is a very different case to many other towns in Cornwall.

### Not so good

We live in an area with an extremely low crime rate, so it is sad to note that in June we have some less sociable members of our town who feel emptying and stealing grit bins is enjoyable. What it means for us is we have to pay more taxes to put things back to ensure we are ready for winter.

### Getting better

Our Town Council has regained its Quality Status. We have also adopted the General Power of Competence under the Localism Act, which means that now we can do anything an individual can do unless specifically prohibited by law. It will enable us to be more pro-active, for example we will now be able to give grants for education.

### Better Still

Hurray! Our Town will have FREE PARKING all day on Saturdays from 7<sup>th</sup> July until 1st December to be ready for Christmas! The cost is £395 a day to Cornwall Council using money from the supermarket developments. This is good news for everyone.

### Still to Come

The Government has given our Town the opportunity to have some say over planning. This means creating plans for all and parts of the town. This will need lots of work from everyone, because the Government wants (actually demands) that the plans are created by the people of the area. If we have no plans then developers will have a free hand.

I am preparing training sessions with Cornwall officers and will announce a launch event for our plan soon. More details later using all media (again a Government edict).

A footbridge over the A38 at Carkeel becomes more of a possibility after a recent visit by the Minister of State for Transport.

The Maurice Huggins committee ends on 31<sup>st</sup> July leaving the building in Victoria Gardens empty. Are there any groups interested in using this building? Please let the Town Council know.

A Christmas Committee to organise a Victorian shopping day/Christmas lights switch on will be formed in August. We'd welcome your active support. Please let the Town Council know if you'd like to help out.

I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported me in my role and for those who have volunteered so much to make our Town so special.

**Martin Gee**  
**Mayor of Saltash**

Published by Saltash Town Council



## **STAND UP, STAND UP AND STAND FOR SALTASH !**

We are now in to the last year before elections that are due to take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2013.

Every seat on Cornwall Council, and every seat on Saltash Town Council will be up for grabs, so if you are one of those people who want to serve your community and believe that you can do a better job than the present councillors, but don't know how to go about it, here are some basic facts :

Saltash Town Council has 16 councillors, 4 for each ward (Pill, Burraton, St Stephens and Essa) and all must stand for re-election next May. Councillors are usually elected for a four year term, though because the Cornwall unitary Council came in to being two years ago, many councillors have actually served for six years. The most recent councillor is John Pickering who was co-opted in June to replace Cllr Peter Stephens.

You will not be in it for the money – councillors receive an allowance of £200 per year – before tax ! More important is your belief of what you can do for your town and what skills you can contribute. If you want to know what is involved and what time commitment it will involve, have an informal chat with any councillor.....

It is not necessary to belong to a political party – you can stand as an Independent, and fund your own election campaign. As an example, Saltash has 8 Independent, 6 Lib Dem and 2 Conservative councillors. If you want to stand for one of the main political parties, contact their South East Cornwall offices.

It doesn't matter how old you are (age 18 minimum) or whether you live in the ward you want to represent, so long as you live in Saltash itself. It may help if you have interests in community groups, but it's not a necessity. Interest in the good of the town is paramount.

In the 2013 elections, the Saltash ward names (and some boundaries) will change, and become North, South, East and West, roughly equivalent to Burraton, Essa, Pill and St Stephens.

The most significant boundary changes, aimed at equalising the number of electors, will be

- the transfer of Pillmere and the Pollards Way housing areas from Pill to Burraton (North)
- the transfer of Coombe Valley and Port View/Essa Road electors from Essa to Pill (East).

Cornwall Council elections take place on the same day May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2013. Saltash has four Cornwall Councillors, one for each ward, elected to the 123 strong Cornwall Council in Truro. One of their main tasks is to fight for the interests of Saltash and South East Cornwall, and to seek a fair distribution of expenditure and resources from a unitary council that is generally considered to discriminate in favour of Truro and the west of Cornwall.

You can represent both Saltash and Cornwall as a councillor – indeed of the four Saltash based Cornwall Councillors, three are also members of Saltash Town Council.

As above, you can stand as an Independent or for one of the main political parties – Conservative, Liberal Democrat, Labour or Mebyon Kernow. For information, of the 123 Cornwall Councillors, 47 are listed as Conservative, 38 as Liberal Democrat, 32 as Independent, 5 as Mebyon Kernow and just 1 as Labour. Therefore, Conservatives control Cornwall Council, replacing Liberal Democrats when the Unitary Council was established in 2009.

It is however difficult to reconcile being a Cornwall Councillor with a working career. Many meetings take place in Truro or elsewhere, with many daytime meetings. Consequently Cornwall Councillors are eligible for substantial allowances.

## **STIG update – Free Weekend Parking coming your way!**

Fans of top gear will be familiar with The STIG – the mystery driver who gets behind the wheels of cars that are dynamic, exciting and forward looking – it is with these qualities in mind that The Saltash Town-centre Improvement Group (The STIG) was formed. The STIG is a partnership of Traders, Chamber of Commerce, Saltash Gateway Community Interest Company (CIC) and the Town Council, with some input from Cornwall Council officers. STIG works on projects to boost the town centre such as:

- From July to November parking in the 4 Town-centre car parks will be free ALL WEEKEND.
- This follows the very successful and popular 'Free Christmas Parking' last December.
- The Fore St hanging baskets – now coming nicely into bloom.
- The professional street clean – making our pavements much brighter and shinier.
- New 'Welcome to Saltash' signs.
- Coming soon: more new signage, a talking bench, a town Smart-phone 'app' and more.
- Into the future we are investigating partial street coverings, markets, publicity and more.

As a result the street is looking very good, traders are reporting that business is better than expected, and we have had a number of exciting new businesses opening.

Feedback and ideas are welcome – please email [admin@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:admin@saltash.gov.uk)

### **What a load of rubbish.....but getting better !**

It is now four months since the nationwide private firm Cory started the contract for collecting the refuse and recycling from our streets. At last it seems to be settling down to a normal pattern of collections. If you live on a main road or clearly defined street then you probably have not experienced any problems. Regrettably, many people in Saltash who live in narrow roads, some cul-de-sacs or whose collections are not from the front of the house have had real difficulty with the new service and your councillors have spent much time trying to sort it out. There appear to have been six main problems with the management of the service by Cory:

1. the old teams of drivers and collectors were dispersed rather than keeping them on the same rounds
2. the new teams were not given proper instructions or maps to explain where they should collect from, sometimes just satnavs and postcodes
3. new lorries were provided which were too wide for many Cornish lanes and streets
4. schedules of litter bins and dog waste bin collections were not ready for the start of the service on April 1<sup>st</sup>
5. the delivery of the garden waste wheely bins was late and not organised properly
6. the numerous problems around Cornwall caused swamping of telephone and email lines for a long time.

Sadly the people on the rounds were sometimes blamed for this, which was very unfair ; it was a management problem and not their fault. It is a hard and sometimes dirty job to do and yet the workers nearly always manage to keep a smile on their faces!

However, the service is improving as difficulties are overcome. Please keep on recycling because it is not only good for our environment but if recycling levels fall then Cornwall Council is fined (and that means us paying the fine). If you do have future problems then please ring 0300 1234 141 or use the Cornwall One Stop Shop at Saltash Library.

### **Saltash has a new Residents' Association.....**

Latchbrook Neighbourhood Association is a newly established residents' association, formed to investigate and question the Core Strategy of Cornwall Council which plans the future housing needs of Saltash over the next 20 years. Their aim is to influence this decision and make the views of the people of Saltash known.

Since formation at a well-attended public meeting at Burraton Methodists :

- A committee member, John Pickering has been co-opted on to Saltash Town Council.
- As part of a drive to raise funds and increase awareness, Latchbrook NA had a stall at Saltash Regatta, raising over £700 through tombola, the sale of cakes and a raffle.

In addition, views were canvassed of some of the people attending the Regatta, 96% of whom came from Saltash. Most respondents (84%) want 1000, and not 3500 houses to be built in Saltash over 20 years. Saltash Town Council intends to produce its own Neighbourhood Plan, and Latchbrook NA hopes to be influential in this process and work with other similar groups elsewhere in Cornwall.

Contact details : Leslie Rust Chairman Email : [info@latchbrookna.org.uk](mailto:info@latchbrookna.org.uk) or [latchbrookna@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:latchbrookna@hotmail.co.uk)  
Interactive Website (newsletters, photos, constitution etc) : [www.latchbrookna.org.uk](http://www.latchbrookna.org.uk)

Latchbrook joins other established Saltash residents groups - Saltash Waterfront Residents Association (SWRA), Pillmere Community Association and Forder Community and Conservation Association.

**Saltash Waterfront RA** : Website : [www.saltashwaterfront.org.uk](http://www.saltashwaterfront.org.uk)

Chair Liam Bradley Tel : 845514 Email : [bradleyla@msn.com](mailto:bradleyla@msn.com)

**Forder CCA** : Contact Glyn Gough 841095

**Pillmere CA** : Secretary Pam Collins [pillmere-saltash@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pillmere-saltash@yahoo.co.uk)

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/pillmere-saltash/>

### **ELWELL WOODS and THE CELTIC CROSS**

The woodland works are now almost finished – specialists have rebuilt the walls, surfaced the main paths, built steps to access the different levels, and cleared the upper terrace, ready to plant a small orchard of about a dozen old Cornish apple trees in October/November. Information boards on the project plans are now in place.

The word from the Lottery funders is that they consider our Saltash project the most exciting one of the thousand UK projects. The project team has been encouraged to apply for three extra grants worth up to £70,000 for Sustainability, Supporting Change and Supporting Impact. Our applications include plans for maintenance equipment, a water supply and a secure store, volunteer workshops to carry out dry stone walling, establish a wetland area and build fitness items. A number of events are planned, including a Forest School in school holidays, and funding for a part-time warden and community organiser.

Decisions are expected on these applications in mid August.

## WALK & TALK : SALTASH

A popular walking-for-health group for all ages and abilities every Monday in Saltash. It's a great way to meet new people, explore your area, improve health, and it's free! Please wear comfortable clothing, sturdy footwear, and be prepared for the weather! Bring a drink and snack to make the rest stop more enjoyable.

The programme and more details are available to download at [www.tamarvalley.org.uk](http://www.tamarvalley.org.uk) - or pick up a leaflet at Saltash Guildhall.

For more information call Dave Readman (Walks Coordinator) on 07792 483669 or email [walkscoordinator@tamarvalley.org.uk](mailto:walkscoordinator@tamarvalley.org.uk).

## VOLUNTEERING IN CORNWALL

Almost one third of people in Cornwall undertake some form of volunteering which means we are leading the way nationally when it comes to volunteering. However, it is important that we don't take our volunteers for granted and you can now help by making a nomination for a volunteer in Saltash. You will be helping to recognise and thank one of Cornwall's greatest assets - its volunteers.

A simple nomination form is available to download from the Volunteer Cornwall website [www.volunteercornwall.org.uk/ccv](http://www.volunteercornwall.org.uk/ccv). The closing date for nominations is 14<sup>th</sup> September, and the awards will be presented at a ceremony on 26<sup>th</sup> October. Let South East Cornwall be recognised !

## TOWN COUNCIL PUSHES FOR A BETTER RAIL SERVICE

Councillors and the Saltash Rail Users Group recently met with Theresa Villiers MP, Minister of State for Transport, to lobby for better services at Saltash. She was impressed with our arguments and the large recent rises in passenger numbers - passenger footfall is up by 130% over the last 5 years and is now 80000 journeys per year, the largest percentage gains on the mainline.

The Town Council continues to promote the service, by funding the bi annual 'Saltash Train Timetable'. Copies are available in the Guildhall, or can be downloaded from [www.srug.org.uk](http://www.srug.org.uk).

The Council is also still actively seeking solutions for the former station building and have a dedicated working group, but funding continues to be a major stumbling block.

**Don't forget if you have any concerns about the Town, you can contact your local Councillors**

### Burraton Ward

Peter Clements	Tel:	842425
Sue Hooper	Tel:	843073
Bill Phillips	Tel:	518176
<b>Colin Riches*</b>	Tel:	<b>846843</b>

### Essa Ward

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

### Pill Ward

Joe Ellison	Tel:	849340
Hilary Frank	Tel:	845114
Martin Gee	Tel:	513306
<b>Derek Holley*</b>	Tel:	<b>845418</b>

### St Stephens Ward

<b>Bob Austin*</b>	Tel:	<b>844666</b>
Richard Bickford	Tel:	841119
David Yates	Tel:	843260

\* indicates Cornwall Councillor

### Cornwall Councillors

Bryan Preston	Tel:	848240
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### Town Clerk

Mr Ray Lane  
Email: [townclerk@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@saltash.gov.uk)  
Tel: 844846

### Town Council Office Opening Hours:

9.30am - 4.30pm Monday - Friday  
Website: [www.saltash.gov.uk](http://www.saltash.gov.uk)

## QUIZ

1. What was in 1889 "intended for the benefit of people of both sexes residing within 15 miles of Saltash" .  
Clue : it had a charge of one guinea which gave you a ticket for three weeks.
2. Where were the soldiers of the Kings Own Lancaster Regiment stationed before going to war in 1914. The huge number of war casualties caused it to become Queen Alexandra's Convalescent Hospital.  
Clue: the local park people were not happy about it , nor were the strange people.

### Answers to the last quiz:

1. What famous thing did the steam collier "Thordis" do in 1915 on her way to Saltash with a cargo of coal for the gasworks ( most towns made their own gas then and the gasworks were behind the Sailing Club)

Answer : She came across and rammed a German submarine in the English Channel

2. What wonderful thing started when the Norman rulers at newly built Trematon Castle realised their market and new borough community outside the castle walls (present day Forder) was not doing very well ?

Answer : They moved the market and borough to a new site we now call .....Saltash.....down by the present day bridges. There were probably a few houses there already serving the river crossing.