

Town Messenger



Edition 27 : April 2012

Message from the Outgoing Mayor

Writing my first column for The Messenger after becoming Mayor seems, in one respect, ages ago and yet, in another, only yesterday.

As my term of office draws to a close, I can honestly say that I have had a tremendous year and although it has been incredibly hard work at times, the benefits have far outweighed anything else.

Until I became Mayor, I didn't really appreciate how much Saltash Town Councillors, the Town Clerk and the Guildhall staff all work incredibly hard for the town during these difficult times and I would like to thank them all for their efforts and support during my Mayoral year.

I will always be grateful to you, the people of Saltash, for, not only electing me to the Town Council initially, but also for making me and Marilyn so welcome at the various events that we have attended this year. We have enjoyed every single one and will miss the busy schedule and the buzz from listening to your stories and sharing laughter and conversation.

Saltash is such a special town in which to live, with a great community spirit, which is evident by the amount of groups for all ages. As many of you will know, my aim as Mayor was to bring some of those groups, across the ages, together and Saltash people have done just that. I couldn't be more delighted and thank you all for your hard work and enthusiasm. Likewise, I must give thanks to our emergency services, the Fire fighters, Police, Ambulance Service and First Responders all working hard for our safety. And I must thank our Scouts, Cadets, Town Band & the Royal British Legion for their attendance at my Civic events throughout the year.

I would also like to give special thanks to two people who are not directly connected to the Town Council but have helped me tremendously. The first is Hannah Smith, Mayor's Scout and the second, the Reverend Nicky Slateford, Mayor's Chaplain. Both have been a great support to me and taken on the extra duties so willingly although it has meant extra work for them both, so thank you very much, I really appreciate the help you have given me.

I must also mention Audrey Miller who has, not only followed the Mayor's diary tirelessly but has also been a great help by providing information and keeping us on our toes. Thank you, Audrey, we will miss your company!

Finally, I must thank my family for their support. They have taken a bit of a back seat during my Mayoral year but have always been there to support and encourage, which has been greatly appreciated and of course, to the Mayoress, my wife Marilyn. We have always worked together as a team and this year has been no exception. I know that it has not been easy for her to fit her duties around her work but she has managed to be with me on so many occasions and for that, I am grateful.

I have focussed my energy this year on trying to support and raise awareness of, the many charitable organisations within our town. Many of you have supported the various charity events that we have organised this year including a Barn Dance, Community Friendship Dinner and Mayor's Ball. As a result, I am looking forward to presenting cheques to my two main charities, "The League of Friends of St.Barnabas Hospital" and "Saltash.net Academy Trust" along with smaller donations to other charities within our town and this would not have been possible without your support.

All that remains now is to wish the new Mayor & Mayoress, Councillor Martin & Maggie Gee and the new Deputy Mayor & Mayoress, Councillor David & Stephanie Yates, a great year in office. I know that they will all do an extremely good job and I wish them all the very best for the year ahead.

What about Marilyn & I? We will be taking a short holiday to celebrate our Ruby Wedding but will end the year with a great deal more friends and acquaintances than we started with a year ago!

With best wishes

Colin Oakes

Saltash Town Mayor 2011—12

A Time to Celebrate!

This year marks the 60th anniversary of The Queen's accession to the throne. And with the Olympics in July, this summer promises to be time of celebrations. The festivities kick off early in Saltash, though, as we are particularly fortunate to be one of only 20 communities in Cornwall where the Olympic Flame will be carried in a Relay on the first day of its journey to the Opening Ceremony. Read on to find out more about our celebrations.

Picnic in the Park in Longstone Park on Sunday 3 June, from 2pm

Building on the already popular Big Lunch initiative run by the Eden Project, Saltash Town Council will host a Picnic in the Park. Bring your picnic and share time with neighbours and friends. Music and entertainment will be provided, but anyone wishing to organise games is invited to contact Saltash Town Council.

The Olympic Flame in Saltash on Saturday May 19th

The first Torchbearer will set off from the Burraton crossroads at 19:15. The Torch will be carried along Callington Road and down Fore Street. It will cross the bridge over the A38 before going over the Tamar Bridge at 19:30.

Come and line the Route to cheer on the Torch. But there are plenty of other ways you can join in ! They are all FREE and you do not need to book in advance.

Be a Torchbearer !

Students at Saltash.net Community School have designed our very own Salt Torch. Come and carry it aloft on a lap, or two, of Saltmill Park. The Salt Torch Relay will run from 7am to 7pm.

Competition to Design a Torch

Your torch can be of any medium. It must be no smaller than 50cm and no larger than 100cm, and it should not carry a naked flame. Please design your torch so it can be hung on a wall and bring it to Saltash Library by May 5th. All torches will be displayed in the Church of St. Nicholas and St. Faith on the day of the Torch Relay, and the winners will be invited to accompany the Mayor as he waves the Olympic Flame out of Cornwall!

A Day of Sport (10am to 4pm)

Various venues throughout town are offering taster sessions in a sport. Free Passports will be available at all the venues. You'll get a stamp for each session you've completed, and the first 50 people to fill their passport will receive a specially-commissioned Olympic coin. More venues will be joining the Passport to Sport – check out www.saltashcelebrates.org.uk for the latest details.

Canoeing, Sailing & Rowing at Jubilee Green	Climbing wall at K3
Trampolining & Gymnastics at Zero Gravity	Archery at the Air Cadets Drill Hall
Tennis at the Tennis Club	Bowls at the Saltash Bowls Club
A lap of Saltmill with the Salt Torch	Badminton at the Wesley Church
Treadmill at Saltash Sports on Fore Street	Tag rugby at the Rugby Club

A Day of Music and Arts

A day brimming over with music and arts starts at 10am in Longstone Park. Local musical talent will be showcased, but there will also be sessions to reflect the cultural diversity of the Olympics, such as Japanese taiko drumming ,a tango dance workshop and an energetic Cornish bluegrass band will play to get us in the mood to cheer on the Olympic Torch. The entertainment focus shifts to the Waterside after the Torch has gone with an outdoor theatrical extravaganza, a mass choir and other musical entertainment.

Help Saltash set a World Record for the world's largest Tai Chi lesson

Be in Longstone Park at 5pm and be counted as Saltash attempts to set a World Record. The teacher will focus on breathing techniques in this 30-minute Tai Chi Qi Gong lesson, so anyone of any age or any physical ability can participate. You do not need any prior experience of Tai Chi and you do not need to register in advance. You'll be able to tell your grandchildren that on the day the Olympic Torch passed through Saltash you helped set a World Record !

With Toddler Games on the green by Ashtorre Rock, an Alternative Games for people with limited mobility at the Wesley Church and a football tournament at Saltmill it promises to be a day to remember. Flyers giving full details will be available at the Guildhall and the Library nearer to the date. Or go to www.saltashcelebrates.org.uk Please be advised that parking in Saltash will be extremely restricted on the day of the Torch Relay.

New Waste and Recycling Arrangements

Cornwall Council has introduced an entirely new single waste contract for Cornwall, to replace the six separate contracts of the former District Councils. The contract has been won by the multinational William Cory company and will save at least £2 million each year of the five year contract. The changes are radical, and are inevitably leading to a multitude of problems during the initial changeover weeks.

Cornwall's Cory call centre is currently receiving over 7,000 calls per day, and complainants must expect to be on a call hold system for up to an hour, despite the centre recruiting an extra 60 call handlers. Saltash Town Council hopes the system will have improved drastically by the time the Messenger goes to press, but in the meantime if you have a query about the new arrangements:

call in to the One Stop Shop at Saltash Library,
e-mail refuseandrecycling@cornwall.gov.uk,
or telephone **0300 1234 141**.

To check the day that your waste is collected go to www.cornwall.gov.uk and insert your postcode.

Saltash Lions May Fair Committee decided to hold May Fair in Warfelton Sports Field off Callington Road this year. The wide open space has allowed them to put on a much grander affair, and we now have a full-blown carnival weekend to look forward to. Saltash Town Band will start the festivities at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 5th when a full Civic Parade will begin from St Anne's home followed by the Mayor's Parade of Youth. All children are invited to join this parade through Warfelton Field to circle the arena for the Mayor's official opening.

The usual food, craft and charity stalls will line the field. The Fancy Dress Contest on Saturday morning has a choice of Olympic or Diamond Jubilee themes. Saltash Town Band will start the day's musical performances, which includes Wreckers Morris, and there will be Punch & Judy, face painting, a bouncy castle and Elfic the jester with circus workshops for children. Don't miss the highlights of the day: a Field Gun Run contest by the Sea Cadets, followed by the Arrow Barrows! For our teens and young adults, there will be a MUSIC FEST on the neighbouring Saltash United football field on Saturday afternoon and evening organised by Live Wire Youth Project.

Sunday sees a full day of entertainment, beginning with our Saltash Trotters Half-Marathon and Fun Run. Mark's Magic Show is a *must see* and there will be an It's-a- Knock-Out competition in the afternoon hosted by Callington Lions Club. There is also a Photography Contest for digital pictures taken at Saltash Lions May Fair.

All residents will be receiving a full programme of events, or you can pick one up at the Guildhall. Alternatively, visit www.saltashlionsmayfair.com.

Elwell Woods and the Celtic Cross – an update

Following three successful Volunteer Days organised by SWRA residents association, the woods are clear of rubbish, ivy and brambles. Work is proceeding apace in the woodlands, and should be finished at the end of April. Traditional skills are being used to make walls safe, and improve pathways, and the top area has been cleared for an orchard of traditional Cornish apple trees and maybe a vegetable area, reflecting the former uses of this recent woodland.

Meanwhile, the fabrication of the Simon Thomas Cross (20 metres tall) is taking place in factory units at Bristol and Newquay Airport. The composite design is in glass and carbon fibre, incorporating copper powder in the resin for a verdigris effect. Erection should take place in October.

Two new information boards will be installed shortly opposite the Drill Hall and at the entrance to the woods below, showing detailed Cross and Landscape designs and information.

Rambling on.....footpaths news

Ramblers Walking Environment Introduction Day at Pensilva Village Hall 5th July.

This day course is a practical introduction to rights of way and access with sessions taking place both indoors and out with a walk in the afternoon giving you the opportunity to discuss and put into practice some of the ideas that you have gained in the morning.

To apply for a place please contact Ed Wilson, Volunteer Support and Development Officer, by e-mail at: ed.wilson@ramblers.org.uk or contact :The Walking Environment Team, The Ramblers 2nd Floor Camelford House, 87-90 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TW

Active groups of walkers meet regularly to explore our beautiful countryside through programmes organised by Tamar Valley AONB. Tamar Valley Walk and Talk meet on Wednesdays and the Saltash Walk and Talk group meet on Mondays. Listings for both groups are on the AONB website : www.tamarvalley.org.uk/walkandtalk

Dog Fouling: The Council's Powers

Dog Fouling is always a contentious issue, and is a concern at the moment for many residents in Saltash: although the vast majority of dog owners act responsibly and clear up after their pets, some do not, affecting amenity and hygiene for everyone. SWRA residents association has a particular name and shame campaign in progress on the Waterside...

Providing dog bins, and organising enforcement against owners who do not use them, is legally the responsibility of Cornwall Council. However the Town Council has recently sent three staff on a training course to qualify them to issue fixed penalty notices for dog fouling. These employees are now legally empowered to issue the fines for anyone who they catch : dog foulers be warned!

Saltmill All Weather Pitch Managers Report

We now have our new steel goals thanks to Waitrose Community Matters and their customers' generosity.

Groundwork are fully supporting Saltash Town Council in celebrating the arrival of the Olympic Flame on Saturday May 19th by organising an U'11's Football Tournament and a 12 hour Marathon Flame Relay. We are also running an exciting programme aimed at all ages over the school holiday periods as well as Football Coaching for 4 to 7 year olds on Tuesday evenings from April to September.

For further information on any of the above please contact:

Pete Densham on 01752 848804/07816841127

Email : Peter.densham@groundwork.org.uk

Did you know ?

- There is a new Police telephone number for non-urgent crimes that you wish to report. The simple number is **101**. Or you can email 101@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk . If you want to speak directly to an officer, a regular surgery is held at Saltash Library on Thursday mornings from 10.00 to 11.30
- And if you want a face to face interview on any matters relating to Cornwall Council or the town in general, our four Councillors take it in turn to hold a surgery for constituents at Saltash Library on Saturday mornings
- Concerns have been expressed about the future of bus services between Plymouth and Saltash. However the Town Council has received a letter from the First Bus Regional Customer Services Manager, assuring us that the service will remain unchanged from April 1st, excepting a reduced frequency on Sundays.

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 was behind the Sailing Club)
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 ?

Answers to the last quiz

1. *Why are the beaches around Churchtown Farm covered with broken bits of pottery?*
Street sweepings from Plymouth including horse and human dung and general rubbish was bought as fertiliser by farmers and Saltash gardeners. It was called "Dock Dung".
2. *Take the view from the riverside conical hill at Churchtown Farm. Why is that hill there?*
This hill is a particularly resistant bit of undersea volcanic lava that pushed through the 400 million year old slates. Look for bits of bubbly rock, the froth of the lava.

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
Colin Riches*	Tel: 846843

Essa Ward

Adam Killea	Tel: 848691
Colin Oakes	Tel: 845207
Bruce Reid	Tel: 308387

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
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
Tel: 844846

Town Council Office Opening Hours:

9.30am - 4.30pm Monday - Friday
Website: www.saltash.gov.uk

Meet the People

Meet your Councillors in Fore Street on Saturday mornings following the main meeting of the Town Council. Details are published on the town notice boards.