

Town Messenger



Edition 26: January 2012

Message from the Mayor

I hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year. Thankfully the weather this year has been milder and Marilyn and I managed to get to all our engagements without ice and snow and although we had a very busy December, it was also a very enjoyable one. Our term of office, so far, has given the opportunity to visit so many people in our community from organisations and businesses and we have thoroughly enjoyed meeting each and every one of you. Between now and the end of office in May, we hope to continue to do so and will have some very special memories to look back on.

As I have said before, Saltash is a great town and I feel very privileged to part of it.

One of our personal highlights from last year is, of course, meeting HRH Princess Anne. She came to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Tamar Bridge and made a quick visit to the Guildhall where we were thrilled to be able to welcome her. 50 years ago we had both lined the Bridge for the opening, one each end and it was wonderful to be part of the day. I was also thrilled that students from Saltash.net were invited to meet her too, as invitations were sent from the Bridge office and places were very limited. By the grin on their faces, I think they were very happy to be a part of the town's history!

It was also fantastic to see so many people in Fore Street this year for the Christmas Lights switch-on. The lanterns, made by the children from all the Saltash Primary Schools, made a wonderful spectacle and the event was enjoyed by all.

I hope that many of you were able to take advantage of the free parking after 10am, in town during the Christmas period. The residents that I spoke to, thought it was a good idea and hope that the Town Council will do it again next Christmas.

We are now in the season of Pantomime and I know that there are groups in Saltash that will be staging their annual Panto, so do watch the notices and go along and support them if you are able.

I must give my thanks to our emergency services, who have been on duty throughout the Christmas period, the Police, Fire fighters, and Ambulance Service, who have all worked incredibly hard to look after our welfare. It is difficult work at the best of times and they all do a fantastic job.

In the 2 weeks up to Christmas, Marilyn and I visited many residential and nursing homes and St Barnabas Hospital where we met many nurses and carers, who were also due to work over the Christmas period. The First Responders (who are all unpaid volunteers working for the Ambulance Service) were also on duty and not forgetting our Armed Forces, my thanks go to you all.

With a new year to look forward to, the Council are busy preparing the precept budget for 2012/2013. Ever mindful of the needs of our town, it is a huge task and one that requires a great deal of planning to ensure that we get the best deals for our residents. I am fortunate to have a strong, hard working and united Town Council and Guildhall staff and I am very grateful for their support.

I am pleased to let our smaller residents know that the train is now freshly painted and back on the waterside quay, ready to be played in. Please let the children know.

In my column in the last Messenger, I gave you some information on where we were with my aim to encourage our young people to spend time with and help our elderly residents. I held a meeting in the Guildhall recently and was very encouraged to see many in attendance. Organisations are now beginning to communicate with one another and Saltash.net students are putting together an interesting programme, along with other group leaders, on their strategies to put these plans into action.

You may be aware by now that the Olympic Torch will be passing through Saltash on it's way to Plymouth on 19th May. We are delighted to be part of this historical event and it will give organisations an opportunity to co-ordinate events for this very special day. It will also put Saltash well and truly on the map, once again. If you are interested in becoming involved please contact the Guildhall and also check www.saltashcelebrates.org.uk.

Finally, a date for your diaries. My Mayor's Charity Ball will be held at The China Fleet Country Club on Saturday, 31st March. Details and tickets at £30, are on sale from the Guildhall, so please book early as places are limited. We look forward to seeing you there.

I wish you all a very happy and peaceful New Year.
Councillor Colin Oakes Town Mayor

Free Parking Success

This December the Saltash Town-centre Improvement Group (STIG) pioneered a first for Cornwall – a free parking scheme for the whole run up to Christmas. From 1st-24th December parking was totally free every day from 10am in Saltash's four town centre car parks. This was aimed at boosting trade in the town centre for the critical Christmas period.

Over two-thirds of town centre traders surveyed said that the scheme had noticeable increased trade (none said that it had been reduced). Numerous members of the public also gave positive feedback, and Saltash got excellent publicity on both ITV Westcountry and BBC Spotlight. One trader told the interviewer that trade had 'almost doubled' expected trade, whilst another stated that the scheme had made up for an otherwise difficult year.

There has been interest in the scheme from all over Cornwall, and the Town Council, as part of the STIG, is now considering various follow-up options for car parking. This may include running the scheme again for Christmas 2012, and possible other parking schemes aimed at boosting town centre trade.

Elwell Woods and the Celtic Cross

2012 will be the year when the 20 metre Celtic Cross is built, and when Elwell Woods will be fully accessible to Saltash residents and visitors. There has been a great deal of activity during the last six months, and a highly professional team is in place to implement the plans overwhelmingly approved by the general public nearly two years ago.

- Three companies are currently tendering for the fabrication of the carbon and glass fibre Cross and a contractor will be selected by the end of January.
- Glendale (formerly Silvanus) have been selected to carry out the woodland management works and improvement to the paths within the woods. They will start before the end of January, aiming to finish before the bird nesting season begins – most of the substantial ash and sycamore trees within the woods will remain, and selective replanting of mature trees is planned, including a Cornish apple orchard.
- Concurrently, the Tamar Bridge Committee will improve the steep and boggy perimeter footpath around the woods so that access is improved.

THE TEAM IS KEEN TO ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN THE WOODLAND AND A VOLUNTEER WEEKEND WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE WEEKEND OF **JANUARY 28th and 29th**. SATURDAY WILL BE MAINLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, SUNDAY MAINLY FOR ADULTS, WORKING UNDER SUPERVISION OF GLENDALE.

The objective will be to clear rubbish and remove tangled undergrowth, so volunteers should bring heavy duty gardening gloves and rakes.

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THIS EXCITING PROJECT!

Olympic Torch to be carried through Saltash on Saturday May 19th

The Flame for the London Olympics will be lit in a ceremony involving maidens and a parabola in ancient Olympia in Greece. From there, it will be flown to the UK and carried in relay by 8000 Torchbearers across the country on a 70-day journey to the Opening Ceremony, where it will be used to light the cauldron at the Opening Ceremony.

Cornwall has been selected to host the first day of the Relay. The eyes of the world will be on Land's End when the Torch Relay sets off at 7am on **Saturday 19th May**.

For logistical reasons, the Flame will be carried in a truck for a great part of its journey through Cornwall. There are just 20 communities where the Flame will be taken out of the truck and carried, hand to hand, and Saltash is extremely fortunate to have been selected as one of those 20 communities. Neither the timing nor the exact details of its route have been released for security reasons, but we expect the Flame to arrive here at around 6pm and we know it will cross the Tamar Bridge.

It is a thrilling, historic occasion, and in conjunction with various community groups Saltash Town Council is busily planning a range of projects. From a football tournament in Saltmill to an arts project to create batik banners there will be plenty for everyone. On the day itself children will be given an opportunity to participate in taster sessions of various sports in the 'Passport to Sport'. Details of all these exciting projects will be listed on the dedicated website that the Town Council has set up: www.saltashcelebrates.org.uk

The website also has an area for you to supply us with your ideas and you to offer your help. Alternatively, please contact the Guildhall. Please get involved. This is an opportunity for Saltash to shine as brightly as the Olympic Flame!

USE YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY !

Saltash has one of the best libraries in Cornwall, used by up to 450 people each day yet many Saltash residents remain unaware of the wide range of services available.

- The library welcomes new members – you can get a library card in minutes, simply by providing proof of your address.
- The library card entitles you to borrow up to 18 books or audio books at a time, for up to three weeks – books can be renewed online or by a 24 hour phone line. Your card gives access to books held at libraries throughout Cornwall, and staff will be pleased to arrange reservations at a cost of 75p per item.
- The library has 5 computers with printing facilities –all members are entitled to free use for half an hour, and concessions are available.
- Like many towns in Cornwall, the Library also acts as a One Stop Shop for matters relating to Cornwall Council. Trained staff will be pleased to help Saltash residents on a diverse range of services – to mention but a few, bus passes and disabled parking badges, housing register and benefit issues, payment of council rent and council tax, clearance of fly tipped rubbish and abandoned vehicles, and the supply of recycling bags.

Saltash Library is a friendly, vibrant place, much loved and valued by regular users. It also offers some surprising services :

- In case you need to talk to one of the four Cornwall Councillors representing Saltash, they take turns in holding an open surgery every Saturday morning.
- Each Tuesday morning, up to 50 young mothers and toddlers enjoy a sing-along of children's favourites with David and his guitar.
- There is a popular Knit and Natter group on Tuesday afternoons, from 1pm – 3pm.
- Volunteer Cornwall meet at the Library on the last Friday morning of the month.
- A Scrabble Club meets on Monday afternoons, and would welcome new members.
- There are several reading groups, and occasional visits by Jazz, the Therapy Dog and an expert from Bearnas Auctioneers, who can value your antiques.

OPENING HOURS ON MONDAYS, TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS ARE 9.30am to 5.00pm.

ON WEDNESDAYS, THE LIBRARY IS CLOSED ALL DAY

THERE IS LATE NIGHT OPENING ON THURSDAYS UNTIL 6.30pm.

THE LIBRARY IS OPEN ON SATURDAY MORNINGS TOO, FROM 10.00am to 1.00pm

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE AND BEATING THE BOUNDS 2012

To celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June, Saltash Town Council has plans to mark the occasion in style!

- On **Sunday June 3rd**, we will be holding a Picnic in the Park again in Longstone Park, similar to the event staged for the recent Royal Wedding. There will be stalls, games, music and children's entertainers, organised by Councillors Hilary Frank and Merryn Killeya.
- On **Bank Holiday Monday, June 4th** (the actual Jubilee Day), we will be repeating the highly successful Beating the Bounds Walk, last held two years ago. This a walk with a difference, since the southern boundary of Saltash is the Lynher river !

The plan is to set off at about noon (from the Waterside by bus up to Carkeel or meet at Waitrose). We then walk down to Moditonham Quay on the Tamar, and follow minor roads and footpaths through Botus Fleming, crossing the A388 at the Holland Inn at Hatt. The route continues over the fields to Notter Bridge.

Along the way, the current Mayor and dignitaries may well be "bounced" on the various boundary stones that mark the boundaries of Saltash !

The walkers, led by Councillor Peter Clements and Martin Lister, will be collected by coach there and taken to the quay at St Germans, where they will embark on the "Plymouth Belle" at high tide, for a pleasurable cruise along the Lynher and back to Saltash.

Capacity for the Bounds Walk is limited to 60-80 people (the capacity of the boat) and based on experience, demand will be high. The cost will probably be £10 per person, to cover the costs of hiring the coach and the "Plymouth Belle".

TICKETS MUST BE PRE-BOOKED AND SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM EASTER – LOOK OUT FOR POSTERS ADVERTISING THE EVENT (AND THE PICNIC IN THE PARK)



Dates for your Diary

Monday 13th February—BBC Gardeners Question Time recording at Saltash.Net, Wearde Road.

Saturday 31st March—Mayor's Ball

Saturday 5th May—Saltash Lions May Fair

Saturday 19th May—Olympic Torch Relay

Sunday 3rd June—Diamond Jubilee Picnic in the Park

Monday 4th June—Beating the Bounds walk

Saturday/Sunday 16/17th June—Saltash Pirates Regatta and Waterside Festival

Radio 4 Gardeners' Question Time

On Monday February 13th from 5.30pm, the Lynher View Allotment Association will host a national **Gardeners' Question Time** recording at Saltash.Net School on Wearde Road. The public are welcome to submit their questions and the admission cost is £2.50. Tickets are available from Piglets in Fore Street or Ken Walsley tel 843432.

Quiz

- Why are the beaches around Churchtown Farm covered with broken bits of pottery?
- Take the view from the riverside conical hill at Churchtown Farm. Why is that hill there?

Answers to the last quiz:

Question 1...What is this all about ?...”the people came so fast...both men and horses were so brutish...they leapt in like dogs....it became quite a battle to get in first by fair means or foul “

Going shopping in Plymouth in the old days? This was the (daily) Waterside fight to get a seat on the rowed ferry, told by a visitor in 1760. In 1832 the first steam ferry took over.

Question 2: What is this about?”the animal carcasses were brought in, then skinned and cut up, they were treated in pits, scraped and hung out to dry. Where did it take place? You have probably driven past lots of times!

This was the Saltash Tanyard at the bottom of Fairmead Road on the left as you go down. A long dark building on the corner of Burraton Coombe, now flats. Must have been a smelly place. All the tanned leather was sent up country by rail. Run by the Nancarrow family.

Traffic Road Orders

Cornwall Council are implementing a number of new Traffic Road Orders in Saltash in the first quarter of 2012. These will be in Fore Street, Belle Vue Road, Glebe Avenue, Taylor Road, Berry Park and St Stephens Road and will address a variety of ongoing problems such as access and congestion issues caused by inappropriate parking and use as a shortcut . A disabled parking bay will also be installed at Berry Park.

In addition, a consultation is about to be held regarding a proposed one way system for Barkers Hill, from Back Hill to St Stephen's Church.

Further details on all these orders and the consultation can be obtained from the One Stop Shop or the Guildhall.

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 Killeya	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
Peter Stephens	Tel: 844846
David Yates	Tel: 843260

* indicates Cornwall Councillor

Cornwall Councillors

Bryan Preston Tel: 848240

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

New Website Launched!

Saltash has a new website devoted to public events in Saltash, such as the Olympic Torch day and the Queens Diamond Jubilee events. For further information, go to :

www.saltashcelebrates.org.uk