

## Waterside Green Lights

Saltash Girlguiding hosted a Tea Party on Waterside Green, complete with a glorious cake celebrating the Queen's birthday. Hundreds of people bought squares in the Treasure Map created by Ashtorre Rock in the hope they would win the special coin issued by the Royal Mint in honour of the Queen's 90th birthday. The Lions held a quiz, and donations came in from the Saltash Cine Group and the Inner Wheel. Everyone was united in trying to raise enough funds to pay tribute to the Queen in her 90th year by installing a string of year-round lights along the lamp posts on Waterside Green.



Recognising the popular support for this project, Saltash Town Council agreed to supplement the funds that had been raised. Town Council staff worked hard to get the permissions in place, and thanks to the support of local businesses the new lights were switched on by Waterside heroes Kelly Pritchard and Beryl Bond (see photo below right) in a ceremony hosted by the Mayor on 12th June – the day of the Queen's Picnic in the Mall.

The lights are a shining (excuse the pun) example of collaboration between Saltash Town Council, community groups and businesses.



The **Town Council's Annual Report** for the year beginning May 2015 has now been published. Please contact the Guildhall if you would like a paper copy.



## Storybook Dads

[www.storybookdads.org.uk](http://www.storybookdads.org.uk)

Our Mayor has chosen two worthy organisations as her charities this year. Both have children at their heart. Next issue we will look at Girlguiding Saltash, but here we introduce you to Storybook Dads, a charity that was launched in 2003 in an empty cell in Dartmoor Prison by the Saltash lady Sharon Berry, who is now CEO of the charity.

Every year in the UK, over 200,000 children suffer the trauma of parental imprisonment. Storybook Dads helps to maintain the vital emotional bond between parent and child by enabling imprisoned parents to make bedtime story CDs and other educational gifts for their children. It has grown since 2003 and now operates in about 100 prisons across the country, reaching over 15,000 children every year. For many families these story discs are a lifeline, helping to heal rifts and enabling



prisoners to maintain or build vital relationships with their children. Here is what Jacob, aged 7, says: "I miss my Dad so much. When I feel lonely I listen to my CD and hearing his voice makes me feel better."

Statistics show that prisoners who keep in contact with their families are up to 6 times less likely to re-offend, too. Luke, a prisoner who edits CDs produced by other prisoners said: "If you ask me who I am now, I no longer reply: A criminal. One of life's screw-ups; just existing day to day in no real rush to get out of prison because I can't function on the outside. I'll tell you who I am now: I am a father, artist, editor, producer, a teacher and a friend. I am all of these and more. That's what I have found out about myself with the help of Storybook Dads."

The Mayor has been a trustee at Storybook Dads for 3 years, alongside the two renowned Saltash gentlemen Bob Munro and Arthur Hearl. Hilary says: "Two prisoners came along

to our Trustees' meeting in HMP Channings Wood last month, and spoke with us, saying how Storybook Dads has helped them change and grow. Hearing their powerful stories left all the Trustees feeling a bit emotional."

If you want to find out more, take a look at the Storybook Dads website: [www.storybookdads.org.uk](http://www.storybookdads.org.uk)



## Your Town Council

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|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
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| Bill Phillips<br>t.518176     | Sue Hooper MBE<br>t.843073 | Julie Rance<br>t.07525 932022 | Jean Dent<br>t.303008      | <b>Mayor:</b><br>Hilary Frank          |
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