

# Town Messenger



Edition 18: May 2009

## A message from the retiring Mayor

Dear Residents

By the time you read this Councillor Mrs Sue Hooper will be your new Mayor. This will only be good for the town as Sue is an experienced and caring Councillor; I am confident that your affairs are in safe hands. You also have a new Deputy Mayor in Adam Killeya who is an able Councillor and has special skills in both planning and in dealing with the new Cornwall Council.

The coming year will not be easy for them because the Town Council is still in more or less continual negotiation with the new Cornwall Council in order to ensure a good deal for our community. These negotiations are tied in with getting to grips with a new working arrangement called a Community Network. Effectively this means working more closely with our local parishes and also with Torpoint and its parishes. Lots to do!

One of my aims as Mayor was to encourage the formation of Residents' Associations around the town; this has proved a failure but I live in hope! Perhaps a seed has been sown somewhere! There is a good deal to be gained by such a group which, for example, can really effectively lobby both us on the Council and other bodies for improvements to their area. It need not be highly organised or complicated and it usually turns out to be a good fun, social thing as well!

More successful has been the Mayor's Charity Fund this year for the Scouts and Guides. If you remember good times in these organisations when you were younger or just wish to help then we are still keen to raise the fund – please tell the Guildhall or any Councillor.

A continuing concern of ours has been to fill the demand for allotments. Our drive is to get private householders with a garden area they cannot manage to make a simple arrangement with someone who wants to grow some vegetables or flowers....we have a long list of these people....we also have a simple agreement form to protect both parties. Please let us know if you can help.

So what has the year as Mayor been like? I have had a helpful Deputy in Councillor Mrs Sue Hooper, good Guildhall and outside staff and the team of Councillors have been great – they have a huge variety of skills and the willingness to use them for the town. Thank you to you all. There have been lots of highlights, too many to list and it would not be fair to pick out some and not mention others. There have been sad times too but even on these occasions I have been proud to represent you. A special thank you to my Margaret for being a supportive wife and a lovely Mayoress! The year has been at different times challenging, frustrating, difficult and very often tiring, but it has always been interesting and rewarding. It has been a privilege and an honour to represent you and serve Saltash.

Derek Holley.  
Mayor 2008-2009

## Antisocial Behaviour Meetings

One of the major concerns that have been put to the Town Council by members of the public is the antisocial behaviour in Saltash and its hinterland. For the last two years the Town Council has been responsible for running a regular meeting every other month and those attending are: - County and Town Councillors, Police, Leaders of the K2 and Livewire youth clubs, members of the Youth Offending Team, The County Youth officer for South East Cornwall, also Members of the County Courts, also some young people representing members of the public.

This has become a very successful forum where those mentioned above have a platform on which to discuss the latest issues relating to anti social behaviour. Various subjects are discussed such as:-

- Current Crime statistics,
- Reports from the Pub Watch Committee
- Reports from the Offwatch (the Off Licence Committee)
- CATS scheme (Community Action Through Sport)
- Street alcohol licences
- Local trouble spots
- Traffic calming and parking

From the last meeting there are two points that have been highlighted and need to be considered by the general public.

### Crime statistics

Violent crime	Down by 15% from 2008 figures
Criminal Damage	Down by 12% from 2008 figures
Vehicle Crimes	up by 20 on the same period last year
Household burglaries	up by 9 on the same period last year

With reference to last two items the Police would like to remind the public of the following precautions.

1. Vehicle crimes      PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ANY ITEMS ON VIEW THAT WOULD TEMPT CAR THIEVES TO BREAK IN.

A high percentage of the car crimes are committed by opportunist thieves and if items are locked away in the boot they are out of sight and out of mind!

2. House burglaries.      Again this is mainly opportunist, so please keep your garages and out buildings locked, as well as your house.



### Digital Switchover – are you ready?

The Caradon Hill transmitter will begin the switch to digital on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2009.

If you have any questions visit [www.digital.co.uk](http://www.digital.co.uk) or call 08456 505050 (call charges may apply).

### The SALTASHCARD has arrived

This month sees the launch of the SALTASHCARD scheme. The card is aimed at helping both residents and local businesses by encouraging you all to shop locally in return for a discount on your shopping. It has been proved that money spent in local businesses and therefore staying within an area is worth far more than money spent at national chains. The idea is not to tell you where to shop or indeed where not to shop, but encourage a little more money to be spent in Saltash.

The card has been produced by the Saltash Gateway Community Interest Company with the help of a grant from the Caradon Area Community Grant scheme, and has been done so with the full support of the Town Council. We have even proudly put our name to the card and have allowed the town seals to feature. The cards cost £2, with all money staying within the scheme. Cards will be available from some participating shops and the Guildhall.

Around 20 shops and businesses have signed up already and are to offer a variety of discounts. If you are a business and want to join at any stage then make contact via the website [www.saltashcard.co.uk](http://www.saltashcard.co.uk).

We wish the scheme success and that businesses and residents find it useful during these challenging financial times.

## ELWELL WOODS

In previous issues of the Messenger, details were given about plans to transform the two acres of scrub woodland (between the Drill Hall and the Tamar Bridge) into a public wildlife park. Since that time, an application has been submitted to the Lottery Community Spaces award scheme, and we can report that an application for a Flagship Award of over £200,000 has passed Stage One. This means that a professional Facilitator has now been appointed to work with us on the application.

There are outline plans for pathways, picnic areas and benches to enjoy magnificent views upriver to the junction of the Tamar and Tavy, marsh areas for wildlife, and possibly planting of an orchard of Cornish apple species to reflect the use of the area in the 1850s. If you want to see the present state of the woodland, Public Footpath 24 bisects the site from the Tamar Bridge to Sand Quay Lane.

In the near future, we hope to exhibit plans and artists impressions of Elwell Woods in Fore Street on a Saturday morning so that Saltash people can have their say and contribute their ideas to the project.

## Messenger Walk number 6. (Distance 2.4 miles)

From Fore Street via Jubilee Green, Saltmill and Pill to Avery Way (near Waitrose Superstore).

Start by going down Lower Fore Street past Saltash Guildhall to the Public Footpath on the left opposite Boscundle Way. Follow the path under the Road Bridge and then up-hill alongside the Bridge to just past the grey Gas Valve complex and follow the path to the right through Elwell Woods Lane. At the rippled concrete path turn right and follow Sand Quarry Lane down-hill to Old Ferry Road.

Go across Old Ferry Road, the Green and Boat Park ahead to the River Tamar railings. Turn left along the tarmac path past the Brazier and over the slip-way and Brunel Green. Then, depending on the state of the tide, from Brunel Green go either along the River Tamar fore-shore: or along Old Ferry Road to Glanville Terrace and along Saltmill Lane; to Saltmill Recreation Ground.

From Saltmill Recreation Ground continue along Saltmill Lane past Shute Cottage on the left and Cross Park Lodge to the right. Just past Cross Park Villa take the Public Footpath to the right that leads to Beaumont Terrace (unadopted) lane. At the end of Beaumont Terrace lane turn left onto the road leading to a staggered cross road. Continue straight ahead towards Pill Farm. Follow the road around to the right to Cockles Park and the Unclassified Road signposted Public Bridleway past Byeways. Continue on the Unclassified Road that eventually does become a Public Bridleway, to Avery Way (near Waitrose). This is the end of walk 6.

For a further 5 mile walk from Avery Way see Saltash Walk 4. The Six Boundary Stone 'Beating the Bounds' walk. To return to Saltash Town either catch the First Bus 76 at the roundabout at the bottom of Avery Way or cross the A388 turn left and then cross the A38(T) and walk past Lidl to the Pillmere housing estate then to catch City Bus 26 service to Fore Street.

## GARDENS for ALLOTMENTS (GfA) SCHEME.... The saga goes on (and on)

You may remember that the GfA scheme was first mentioned in a 2008 edition of the Messenger.

The Town Council had a good response of about 16 gardens offered for use as allotments, with the aim of reducing the waiting list, which now stands at over 60. A lot of work went into drafting a form of legal agreement between those offering gardens and those wanting allotments.

However, almost half of the offers of gardens were from tenants of Caradon District Council. Caradon Housing Services, after expressing initial support for the scheme, then sat on the request to use tenants gardens for over six months, and finally, in February, recommended refusal to allow Council gardens to be used for this purpose. The delay by Caradon lost a crucial six months when the gardens could have been prepared for cultivation in the planting season.

So for now, we are left with just seven gardens where we can match those on the waiting list for allotments, and offers will be made during early May, with a form of legal agreement to safeguard the interests of both the garden owner and the allotment "tenant".

Councillors are still convinced that the GfA scheme has enormous potential, both for garden owners who may now be too elderly or infirm to look after them, and to those who want to grow their own fruit and vegetables. So please, if you have such a private garden, we would be really grateful to consider your offers to bring it into cultivation. Needless to say, this request cannot apply to municipal tenants .... for the present at least! (the fight goes on)

## Pillmere Buses

The Industry, Commerce, Transportation and Tourism Committee has been discussing the provision of bus services on the Pillmere estate. It has been decided that a questionnaire will be distributed to residents after the summer.

## Public Bridleway Sign

Following the request in the last 'Messenger' for information about the Public Bridleway sign in paving in the passageway between Brunel Heights and Regal House from Fore Street to the Car-park three people replied.

One said that I needed to look at Cornwall County Council GIS Map or Ince Estates records that clearly show a Bridleway from Fore Street to the Car park. That is because this is a Public Bridleway there are no steps anywhere along this section of the passageway. Also the Bridleway sign points to the position of the Bridleway – not along it.

Another said that "he had made enquiries about this 10 years ago" and found out that "it's just a convenient sized metal plate to cover a drainage channel – last time the drainage channel was cleaned out the plate was replaced the wrong way up. It should be the other way up so that the writing does not show."

The third agreed that it's just a convenient metal plate covering a drainage channel that at sometime has been replaced the wrong way up.

Councillor Clements checked the Definitive Map that shows all recorded Public Footpaths and Public Bridleways. He also contacted Cornwall County, Definitive Map Officer who confirms there is no recorded Public Bridleway in that position.

However though the Definitive Map is conclusive evidence of what it shows: it is not conclusive evidence of what it does not show. If there is evidence other than the Definitive Map that it is a Public Bridleway then maybe whoever has that evidence needs to produce it and apply to have the Definitive Map modified to show that this passageway is a Public Bridleway.

## Quiz

- (a) What is a "Saltash Rig"?
- (b) Which Saltash person became a concert pianist, known worldwide?

## Answers to the last quiz

- (a) Saltash was a desperate and dangerous place in the Civil War and its population fell to 387. How many times was it taken and retaken by either the Royalists or the Parliamentarians?  
Saltash was taken by different sides eight times. Fore Street to the Waterside was a scene of devastation for many years.
- (b) Where is the Civil War gun battery, now a scheduled "Ancient Monument"?  
The last remains of the Civil War is a gun emplacement near Wearde Quay, just over the railway bridge and in the field on the left where stones are just visible.

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

### Burraton Ward

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

### Essa Ward

Adam Killeya	Tel: 848691
Merryn Killeya	Tel: 848691
Colin Oakes	Tel: 845207
Bruce Reid	Tel: 308387

### 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
Richard Bickford	Tel: 841119
Peter Stephens	Tel: 846597
David Yates	Tel: 843260

### Cornwall County Councillors

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

### Town Clerk

Mrs. Marilyn Small  
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9.30am – 4.30pm Monday – Friday  
Website: [www.saltash.gov.uk](http://www.saltash.gov.uk)

Thanks from Churchtown Farm Nature Reserve

The Town Council has very generously funded a wooden seat which has now been put in place in "Points Field" at the southern most tip of the reserve overlooking the River Lynher. This is one of the most picturesque places on the reserve. Please go and visit it some time – but pick a lovely sunny day.