



SALTASH TOWN COUNCIL

# TOWN MESSENGER



Issue 35  
September 2014

## Message from the Mayor

Firstly I would like to thank The Town Council for having elected me as Mayor for this year. It has been a very enjoyable first few months, amongst other events, meeting other Mayors and Deputies at civic occasions (as far distant as Truro) has been very interesting. I believe we are known generically as “The Chain Gang!”

What are my hopes for this year in Saltash? As I said in my very short speech at The Mayor Choosing I think Saltash will see 12 months of endings and beginnings.

As an ending, hopefully we will see the final emergence of The Royal Albert Bridge from under its grey plastic tenting to become the magnificent edifice that Brunel first designed. Although I understand this won't be happening any time soon, possibly in the autumn.

As for beginnings, we know that there are several planning applications for building within Saltash at present. Whatever we feel about this, it is a fact that Saltash will be expanding over the next few years. I want to make sure that we don't lose the character and sense of community that makes Saltash the vibrant town that it is. We have an amazing variety of associations, clubs and societies from Age Concern (Age UK) to The Youth Council, and a proactive Town Council. These all work together to help us keep our character intact.

Bill and I have thoroughly enjoyed our first engagements and are looking forward to meeting as many people as we can throughout this coming year.

We hope to be at the important town occasions too, such as the Regatta, May Fair and Christmas Event. Which other local town can do it as well as we can?

My charity is Saltash Children's Appeal. A local charity supporting local children and their families; they provide help in meeting expenses for families and carers of ill and disabled children. As an example of their work, they might support a family taking a poorly child to Great Ormond St Hospital by offering a taxi fare between Paddington Station and the hospital. A trip on the underground after a tiring train journey just wouldn't be good for them all.

The Mayor's cadet is Michael Larkin from the local Naval Training Unit, and very smart he looks too!

I am looking forward to working with Bill and Jean as Deputies; they have already been very supportive attending events that I can't make.

However you read this Town Messenger I trust you will enjoy it.

**Councillor Mrs Jean Dent**

**Mayor of Saltash**

## **Tombstoning**

The name is said to come from the aim of entering the water upright and straight, like a tombstone, but for many it is all about the thrill.

Jumping into the water has occurred around the Devon and Cornwall coast for generations, unfortunately over the recent years it has gained attention for the wrong reasons, with people being killed and with a large number injured.

According to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, over the last 8 years they have recorded 20 deaths and the craze has left more than 70 seriously injured, some for life.

More recently due to the media attention, the activity has been highlighted within Saltash. The problem is that this is a very high risk activity that puts every participant in danger.

Tombstoning is a personal choice for those who chose to take part; however as an agency that promotes life, I would personally ask those to consider their wellbeing for example jumping off scaffolding from under the Royal Albert Bridge is dangerous and not acceptable.

If you do want to dive into the water, please consider the following :-

Check for hazards, there may be rocks and objects that are submerged and difficult to see.

Check the depth, the tides can rise and fall quite rapidly.

Check for access, make sure there is a safe route to exit the water.

Never jump whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Wear protective clothing, the shock of the cold water may make it difficult to swim.

Don't jump under pressure, it puts your safety at a higher risk.

Finally, as members of the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary we will respond to reports of tombstoning, individually assess each incident and take the most appropriate action.

**PS 5043 Chris Chilcott**

Neighbourhood Team Leader  
Saltash Police Station

**PC 6186 Gemma Andrews**

## **Saltash Christmas Festival - Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

Year after year our Christmas festivities here in Saltash become increasingly magical. This year will be no exception, with favourites from last year such as the evening Christmas Market on Fore Street and the Lantern Parade being woven together under the new theme of Pantomime. Start thinking of your costume now! Fireworks, Santas on motorbikes and snow cannons will be back, too. This year will also provide local businesses with the opportunity to sponsor a large lantern. Please contact the Guildhall for details. And anyone wishing to sing with the Community Christmas Chorus that will be leading the outdoor Civic Carol Service is invited to attend the rehearsal on November 21<sup>st</sup>. It is free and open to anyone – just contact the Guildhall to register your interest. Details of the event will be given on our Facebook page '[Saltash Christmas Festival](#)' as soon as they are finalised.



## A38 Carkeel Roundabout Improvements

### What is happening?

The Highways Agency will be carrying out works to improve the A38 Carkeel roundabout westbound approach and westbound exit to Carkeel roundabout and installing a pedestrian footbridge on the A38 eastern arm. These works are part of the national Pinch Point Programme. The Pinch Point Programme forms part of the UK Government's growth initiative, outlined during the Chancellor's Autumn Statement in November 2011.

### When and where is this happening?

Construction is planned to start in Autumn 2014 and the scheme is estimated to last for 6 months.

### Why is this happening and what will it cost?

The Carkeel Junction suffers from severe congestion and subsequent delays in particular on the A38 westbound approach in peak periods.

The estimated cost is approximately £1.5 million

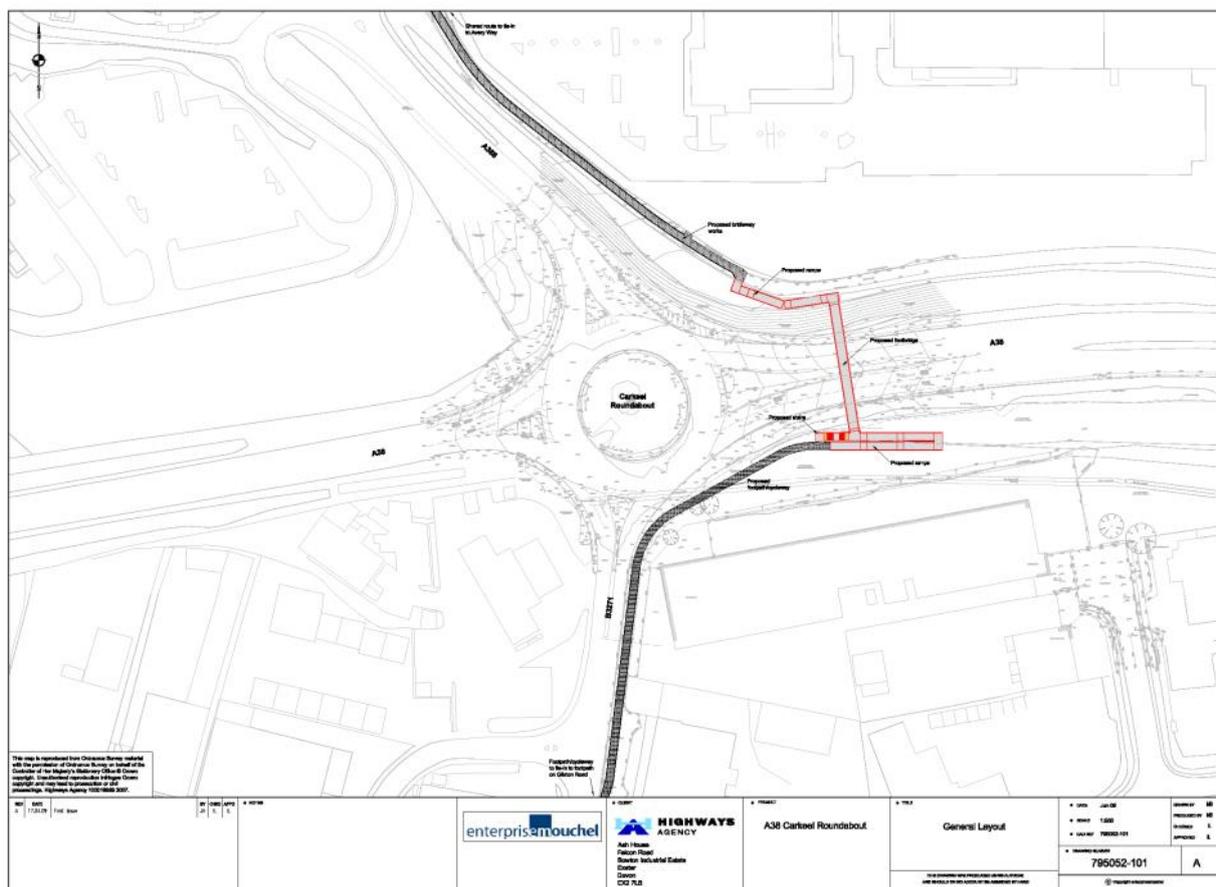
### How will the scheme be carried out?

We are widening the westbound approach from two to three lanes and widening the westbound exit to allow for a two lane exit. A pedestrian footbridge will be installed on the A38 eastern arm.

### What are the benefits?

The scheme improvements will result in improved flow through the junction and reduced conflicts between merging traffic streams. The proposals achieve wider benefits in supporting growth in the surrounding area, such as development at Carkeel and Saltash.

More details as they become available will be posted on the Highways Agency website:  
<http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/road-projects/A38-Carkeel-Roundabout->





## **More Allotments for Saltash Residents**

### *Churchtown Farm Allotment Phase 1 Churchtown Farm Allotments Phase 2*

Many Saltash residents have been waiting a long time for their allotments, and the waiting list at the Guildhall rose to above 70 four years ago. Saltash Town Council took this very seriously as this is one of the mandatory requirements of a Town Council to supply allotments for their residents.

At the same time the Council decided that there was not much room left in the main cemetery at St Stephens Church, so they bought some land near the current cemetery and used it as an extension across Churchtown Farm Lane.

After the cemetery was completed in 2010 Saltash Town Council decided to allocate some of the land to make room for 27 allotments to be installed under phase 1 of the allotment supply. This is with a contractual agreement with the Allotmenters that when the land is required for cemetery use it would have to be returned for burial space. This took our requirement figure down to around 43 which obviously did not meet the need, so this year (2014) another 22 were created in Phase 2 at Churchtown south of phase 1. Together with 3 extra allotments in Grenfell Avenue, where the council has devolved from Cornwall Council, will make a total of 52 more allotments for the town. This now leaves around 29 people left on our waiting list at the time of writing; including additional people who have been added to the list recently.

Prior to the new allotments coming on stream some people have been waiting up to 7 years for an allotment we can now say that the latest waiting time is down to around 12 months.

All the Churchtown allotments have a water supply connected where an additional fee of £5/year is added to the standard allotment fee of £31/year. They have a very keen committee who oversee the day to day usage of the allotments and they also have a social section of the committee who organise various events. If any Saltash residents are thinking of applying for an allotment then please contact our receptionist at the Guildhall where you can obtain more details and add your name to the list if required.

### **Vacancy for a Mace Bearer (Reserve)**

Following the recent retirement of Mr Malcolm Matthews after many years service to the Town Council, there is now a vacancy for a reserve Mace Bearer. The post holder would be required in the event of the current Mace Bearer or Town Sergeant being unable to attend a Civic event. There are normally four Civic events during the year and the Mace Bearer (with the Town Sergeant) acts as attendant to the Mayor as well as carrying one of the Maces. A uniform is supplied and an honorarium is paid per attendance.

If you are interested in the post please contact the Town Clerk for further details.

### **Moonlight Memory Walk Returns on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October**

After the resounding success of last year's Moonlight Memory Walk when we raised over £30,000, Saltash will again be the backdrop for a walk to raise funds for Children's Hospice Southwest. Your £10 entry charge includes a t-shirt, fundraising pack and a candle bag for you to personalise. As the clock strikes 10pm we'll set off from Longstone Park and walk over the Tamar Bridge to England and back before walking along the starlit streets of Saltash. Back in Longstone Park around midnight you'll be rewarded with a medal, a pasty and the happy knowledge that you've helped raise money to create special memories for families of life-limited children. You'll have created some lasting memories of moonlit companionship, too. The event is open to ladies aged 14 or over. There is no upper age limit - in fact, our oldest walker last year was in her 80s! Not sure of the age of our oldest dog participant last year...

Register today for just £10.

[www.chsw.org.uk/moonlight](http://www.chsw.org.uk/moonlight) or telephone 01726 871800

### **At last! A Cinema for Saltash**

One of the high priorities that was identified in the survey of residents in 2013 was for additional leisure facilities in the town. A project has now been given approval to start a pop up community cinema in the Guildhall starting in October, co-ordinated by a local trader with the support of the Saltash Town Centre Improvement Group and Section 106 funding.

The Cinema Club will be run monthly with a Kids Cinema Club and a Classic Movies Club for a six month trial period to see how popular it is. Tickets will need to be bought in advance (prices are still to be confirmed) – there will be advertising around the town, details will be on the Town Council events diary and there is also a Facebook community page Saltash Cinema which will provide up to date information. The Kids Club will show recently released films to family audiences (children will have to be accompanied by a responsible adult). The Classic Movies Club will show older films such as Breakfast at Tiffanys and Casablanca. Refreshments will be on sale at all screenings.

The Guildhall is an ideal venue with a spacious room for the screenings holding up to 120 people, toilet facilities, full disabled access, baby changing facilities and public transport as well as car parks within walking distance.

If the project is a success it is hoped to run it beyond the six month trial period.



# **Coming soon!**

## **Those Pesky Seagulls**

Recently several residents of Saltash have complained about the large amount of gulls that seem to have set up home, or rather nest, in Saltash. They are noisy, aggressive and always appear to be able to target my car! It makes feeding small birds almost impossible, but can anything be done about this problem?

Our neighbours in Plymouth have set up a scheme with a bird of prey to deter them, but this is in quite a small area and not across the city.

At a recent Discovery Day at Churchtown Farm Nature Reserve Councillor Bob Austin noticed that during the falconry demonstration, within minutes of the two falcons taking off, there was a swarm of seagulls, up to around 20 trying to attack the falcons. He has run this show for 9 years and never seen seagulls there before - only flying away! No harm done—the falcons soon showed them who was boss!

One problem is that seagulls are finding such a good source of food from people's rubbish that they are reluctant to move away. This means that one answer to this dilemma is for us to make this our rubbish less available. Putting out black rubbish sacks in metal or plastic bins whilst they are waiting for the bin men, or buying the seagull-proof sacks which can be purchased at the One Stop Shop at Saltash Library might be part of the answer.

Nobody wants to target our wildlife, but keeping them in their best environment would make everyone's life easier and most comfortable.

Further information on Seagull Proof Sacks can be found here: <http://bit.ly/Vf8tBd>

## **Find Your Lost Dog Online**

The Stray Dog Register has always been available for the public to view, but it is now being published as a live document on Cornwall Council's website and will automatically update when a new case is reported. [www.cornwall.gov.uk/straydogs](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/straydogs)

It is hoped that this will help the owners of lost dogs to locate their pets more quickly and lead to an overall increase in the number of stray dogs that are returned to their owners.

The enhanced service is launched as it is reported that the number of stray dogs handed in has fallen for the second year running: from April 2013 to April 2014, there were 1,295 stray dogs reported – down from 1,574 in 2012/13.

In partnership with the Dogs Trust, Cornwall Council has been holding free dog micro-chipping events, and over 1500 dogs have been micro-chipped. It is hoped this will lead to a further reduction in the number of stray dogs. Free dog micro chipping is available until March 2015. To book an appointment, call Dog Welfare and Enforcement on 0300 1234 212.

## **Don't lose your vote!**

The electoral register, also known as the electoral roll, is a list of everyone who is entitled to vote. It's updated every year from the registration form you receive from Cornwall Council each autumn in the annual canvass of households. Names can also be added or removed from the electoral register at any point under the rolling registration procedure. You can now register online to vote or by paper if you prefer. If you are not registered you cannot vote!

In summer 2014 the way in which people register to vote is changing to individual electoral registration to address concerns over potential voting fraud. For more information please visit <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/elections/electoral-registration/>

## Do you know what your Council does?

Although all the meetings of the Town Council are open to the public it is not very often that the public gallery is full unless there is a planning application that has generated interest! Unless you have attended a meeting you might not know how the council operates. The council has four committees which meet regularly as well as a number of sub-committees and working groups.

**Full Council** – 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday (full council) and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday (planning and urgent items only)

**Main Responsibilities:** Planning, Cornwall Council Liaison including taking on services, Approving Committee Minutes & (Financial or Policy) Recommendations, Finalising Budget/Precept, Dealing with Major Correspondence and Consultations, Police and CIC Reports, Meet the People; Major Policy Issues, Appointments to & relations with most Outside Bodies

### Burial Board

Meets Quarterly, Church & Funeral Director reps also attend this committee.

Co-Chairman – Councillor + Rev Alan Butler

**Main Responsibilities:**  
Existing and New Cemetery:  
Cemetery Regulations,  
Cemetery Maintenance,  
Cemetery Health and Safety,  
Liaison

### Policy and Resources (P&R)

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, alternate months

**Main Responsibilities:**  
Overall precept preparation  
Budget Monitoring  
Finance/Audit  
Community Chest & Festival Fund  
Guildhall  
Equipment (inc computers)  
Civic Regalia  
Policies (not staffing)  
Quality Status  
Town Messenger  
Anti-Social Behaviour  
Transport Policy

### Services Committee

2nd Wednesday, bi-monthly

**Main Responsibilities:**  
Bus Shelters & Street furniture  
Allotments  
Grounds maintenance & environmental works inc. Footpaths  
Christmas Event  
Community Toilet Scheme  
Signage & Noticeboards  
Industrial Estates  
Tourist Leaflets / Packs  
Town Centre Regeneration  
Highways Issue & Salt Bins  
CIC and Chamber reps also attend .

### Staffing

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday alternate months

**Main Responsibilities:**  
Appointments  
Disciplinary & Grievance, Staffing  
Procedures & Policies,  
Health & Safety  
Appraisal  
Training and Development, Staffing  
Structure  
Staff Liaison

## Questions for your Councillor?

Councillors are available to speak to in Fore Street between 10.00am and 12 noon on the Saturday following the main Town Council meeting . Alternatively you can contact your councillor by telephone or via their email address on the Town Council website. If you are not sure which ward you are in you can enter your postcode on main page of the Cornwall Council website. This will not only tell you which ward you are in but also the name of your Cornwall Councillor, the days of your refuse and recycling collections and details of services in your area.

## Your Town Council:

| Saltash North   | Saltash South                  | Saltash East                 | Saltash West                   |
|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| John Brady<br>t.07792 941743  | Matthew Coot<br>t.847542       | Richard Bickford<br>t.841119 | Bob Austin*<br>t.844666        |
| Joe Ellison*<br>t.849340  | Mrs Hilary Frank *<br>t.845114 | Martin Gee<br>t.513306       | Mrs Gloria Challen<br>t.840620 |
| Bill Phillips<br>t.518176   | Mrs Sue Hooper MBE<br>t 843073 | Derek Holley*<br>t.845418    | Mrs Jean Dent<br>t.303008      |
| Lee Russell<br>t.07966089366  | Adam Killeya<br>t.848691       | James Shepherd<br>t.847144   | David Yates<br>t.843260        |
| Town Clerk: Mr Ray Lane<br>t. 01752 844846<br>Email: <a href="mailto:enquiries@saltash.gov.uk">enquiries@saltash.gov.uk</a> |                                | * also Cornwall Councillor   |                                |

## New Look for the Town Council Website

The Town Council website was last redesigned in 2008 and it was felt that it needed to be brought up to date to bring it into line with current developments and search engine optimisation. As the Town Messenger goes to press the launch of the new look website is imminent and may already be 'live' by the time you read this. The new clean design and clear navigation links have been designed to work well across a comprehensive range of devices including tablets and mobile phones.

If you wish to hire the Guildhall you can now download an application form—please contact reception for current hire rates and details of the facilities available.

There is also a new Mayor's Page which includes a photo gallery. If you see the Mayor at an event please take a photo and send it to [enquiries@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@saltash.gov.uk) to include in the gallery. You can also send photos via the Town Council Facebook page and Twitter.