

## Mayors Column

It might be September, but there is a little blast of summer to keep us outside and enjoying our beautiful surroundings. There are so many wonderful walks on our doorstep that take you to the far edges of the Saltash boundaries, from one river to another. You can find a range of Saltash walks on the Town Council website, or the QR code link on this page will take you to them.

During August, Sarah and I have been lucky enough to attend several wonderful events. We were honoured to attend Saltash Bowls club's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration match, against Devonport Bowls Club, in 1923 the Devonport team arrived by train (there was no road bridge then), and were welcomed by the Town Band, so it was fitting that the band played again 100 years on for this rematch held on a beautiful sun kissed day. Saltash won, but this was more of a celebration, and we were so impressed by the number of members the bowls club have and the surprisingly mixed range of ages. If you would like to meet some new people, or try your hand at bowls, then I can thoroughly recommend popping into the clubhouse and saying hello.

The Bank Holiday weekend, saw a more mixed weather picture, but we enjoyed visits to the Fire Station Open Day, and the Tincombe Tea Party. Thankfully no one was put off by the odd shower. The Fire Station was buzzing with families enjoying a good look over fire appliances, police vehicles and more, I hope some children are inspired to consider these careers, or maybe a parent might be encouraged to look at becoming a retained fire fighter. It became clear to us that our retained fire fighters show real commitment in having jobs or pursuing careers where they can be called away at an instant, and must have employers that support them in doing this. A big shout out to all Saltash employers that allow their staff to become retained firefighters, indeed any employer that allows their staff to carry out roles in our community, whether paid or not. Your flexibility often goes unnoticed or not thanked.

From the hustle of the fire station, we made our way down to Tincombe Green, where we were met by James Jenkins, the driving force behind the Friends of Tincombe group, who showed us around and introduced us to many of the volunteer team who spend many hours keeping the area in a beautiful state, mostly wild, but managed so well. The event was well supported, with a range of live music, stalls and refreshments, well done all.

I must also mention that we, along with Councillor Julia Peggs (Deputy Mayor) attended another anniversary, the 50<sup>th</sup> year of the Abbeyfield Association that runs Cresta House in Saltash. Thank you Kirsty and team for your warm welcome and hospitality, and thank you to the long serving volunteer trustees that keep the charity going.

The Tincombe Tea Party and the Saltash Bowls Club are just two organisations that have benefited from Saltash Town Council grant funds. We would welcome applications from other organisations for projects that support people in Saltash. Why not visit the Town Council's website, or the QR code link on this page will take you direct.

I would like to sign off with many thanks to our Service Delivery Team, a surprisingly small team that puts so much effort into maintaining the things that the Town Council look after. They try to strike the right balance between tidy and clean cut while allowing some areas to be a bit more wild to support wildlife. I think they have got that about right, but we will always review and adapt. Please remember that much of the Saltash public realm is owned and maintained by Cornwall Council. Roads, footpaths and large open spaces are almost certainly their responsibility, and they maintain them.

We have however recently agreed to take on Victoria Gardens, we consider it a manageable space and one that is important to our residents to maintain to a high standard. Councillor Julia Peggs, our Deputy Mayor and her team of volunteers have been leading the way in improving the gardens, thanks to everyone that has dug, pruned, weeded, or planted, along with those that have generously donated plants.

We hope you can enjoy the Autumn sunshine whilst it lasts.

Councillor Richard Bickford  
Mayor of Saltash 2023-24

#### Saltash Area Walks



[www.saltash.gov.uk/walks.php](http://www.saltash.gov.uk/walks.php)

#### Saltash Town Council Grants



[www.saltash.gov.uk/grants.php](http://www.saltash.gov.uk/grants.php)