

Deputy Mayors column

I am very pleased and honoured to be elected as your Deputy Mayor again for the year 2023-24 working with our Mayor Councillor Richard Bickford who is also serving a second year.

Richard and I have very similar aims and ambitions for Saltash. This working relationship has led to a great deal of work trying our hardest with funding applications to enhance our town.

I do hope that you all took the opportunity to attend the two public consultations to view potential options for a green open space in the town and to begin a community discussion on public space, flood protection and a broader vision for the future of the Waterside. Your views are very important so if you haven't had the chance to look at them, please visit the following sites and take part in the online surveys:

Green open space in the town: <https://sites.google.com/view/saltash-community-space>

Saltash Waterside: <https://sites.google.com/view/saltashwatersidecct/home>

Those of you that know me well, know how passionate I am about supporting our youth organisations. The Town Council awarded Livewire and The Core £29,938 for the financial year 2023-24 to support the increased need for detached professional youth work in Saltash. Unfortunately mental health issues seem to be a growing need amongst our young people in the town.

Compared to many towns in Cornwall we are so blessed to have the many volunteers who give their time to Badgers, Cubs, Brownies, St Johns, Cadets, football and rugby along with many more organisations. They are all looking for more volunteers, if you have a few hours a week spare, please let them know.

I have had the great pleasure of setting up "Friends of Victoria Gardens", meeting lots of new people who are volunteering to make it a lovely place to sit and ponder. We meet regularly on Saturday mornings at 10.30am to plan what's needed for the week ahead, have a cuppa and chat. Thank you also to the many people who have donated plants and vegetables, again please continue to do so.

If you would like to join us, please register at the Guildhall or at Victoria Garden's on a Saturday morning. Look forward to seeing you there!

Saltash Town Council has approved a five-year Leasehold from Cornwall Council for Victoria Gardens and the Maurice Huggins Room, I have lots of ideas for the future of Victoria Gardens and the Maurice Huggins Room. I would be delighted to hear some of your ideas too.

Lots of community groups are getting together to raise funds for their local play parks to be reinstated, there is also some match funding available for play parks from Saltash Town Council, please visit the Town Council website https://www.saltash.gov.uk/edit/stuploads/8868_180600019.pdf for further information or contact the Guildhall 01752 844846.

Please look out for the dog poo signs that the children of Saltash made (if you would like one for your property you can download the signs from the Town Council website https://www.saltash.gov.uk/edit/stuploads/8859_2129086324.pdf) to try and rid Saltash of this disgusting behaviour of some dog owners!

Being a dog owner myself you may have noticed in some Civic parades that she has been the Deputy Dog (consort) a few times now. I do love it when I'm in the park and people call her name and say hello to her, but don't know my name!

Lastly, I'm always out and about, I'm pleased to stop and chat, or if you have a concern or idea you wish to share.

During my term as Deputy Mayor I will continue to do my best for the people of Saltash.

Councillor Julia Peggs
Deputy Mayor of Saltash 2023-24

Remembering Joe Ellison



I was saddened to learn of the passing of former Mayor of Saltash Joe Ellison. Joe (Geoffrey) was Mayor in 2006-2007 and was a Town Councillor for over 10 years. Joe also served Saltash as a Caradon District and Cornwall Councillor.

Joe was a key member of SWRA, a residents association of great renown, where Joe helped mastermind several projects, such as the opening up of Huntley Gardens in Lower Fore Street and the addition of mosaics to Silver Street, as well as being one of the driving forces behind the clearing and renovation of Elwell Woods and the construction of the Saltash Cornish Cross that sits proudly at the top of the woods. The play train at the Waterside is another SWRA project which Joe was instrumental in installing.

Revitalising and reimagining the town's regatta was another of Joe's passions, his vision, alongside others, helped turn a dying event into what is now the thriving, Saltash Regatta and Waterside Festival.

Joe was always happy to share his expertise and knowledge to anyone that asked, so it was no surprise that he helped the residents of Pillmere get another residents association off the ground.

Joe and his wife Clare moved to Wales in the Autumn of 2021 to be closer to family.

I was fortunate that some of my time as a councillor overlapped with Joe's and that I was able to work alongside him on a number of SWRA projects and on the Regatta Committee. He will be greatly missed, by myself as a good friend and others that were lucky enough to have known him. For Saltash he has left a tremendous legacy in all that he achieved.

Councillor Richard Bickford

Mayor of Saltash 2023-24