

Mayors column May/June

Yes, I am back. After an eventful, but amazing year I am honoured to be able to continue as Mayor for a second term, and I must start with thanks to my fellow councillors who supported me for the role of Mayor, and Councillor Julia Peggs as Deputy Mayor at the Town Council's Annual meeting on the 4th May. I would not have been able to, or wanted to carry on without the support of Julia who has done a fantastic job as Deputy Mayor, and I know will continue to do so, as well as Sarah my wife who has fulfilled the role of Mayoress admirably.

Reflecting back on the year, we had the privilege of being part of the Platinum Jubilee, an event so well celebrated in Saltash, as well as the sadness at events following the death of Queen Elizabeth II. The accession of King Charles and eventually the Coronation were truly once in a generation events and it was a pleasure to play a small part in ensuring Saltash did things properly. None of this is ever possible without the support of many volunteers as well as our dedicated Town Council staff, be it our admin team, or the Service Delivery team out and about putting up bunting, flags, and planting so much red, white and blue.

Time does fly though, and now with only 11 months left we hope to continue to support and represent Saltash across Cornwall and beyond. I want to further strengthen our working relationship with Cornwall Council to benefit Saltash and ensure we get our fair share of the stretched Cornwall Council budget. The new Community Area Partnership in South East Cornwall will be an important part of how we achieve this, I am confident that alongside our Cornwall Councillors we can work as a team.

We have several key projects moving ahead, the Waterside Coastal Communities Team have started consultation on ideas around the Waterside and flood prevention schemes, the Town Team will exhibit exciting proposals for the Town Centre later in June, and our Connectivity project funded through the Community Levelling Up fund will have started its work by the time you read this. We must see these through the public consultation phases in a proper and true manner, and this is where I ask you all to take the time to look at the ideas and proposals and have your say. Your views will shape any plans going forward.

Just a few key moments from the last month..

We loved being part of the combined Mayfair and Coronation events, the weather came good and the Mayfair committee (Hilary and her support team) did an outstanding job. The Town Council continue to help with funding and boosted its normal financial support to £4,500 to help with the rising costs involved in running these events. Please continue to support all our public festivals both with your attendance and by donating pounds where you can.

I am also very pleased that the Town Council have agreed increased funding to support young people through additional funding of almost £60,000 split evenly between the Core and Livewire who can target this money to support those who need it.

It is almost the start of the Big Green Week, and there are a number of events planned to help raise awareness and encourage people to explore our beautiful town. Please seek out the Saltash Great Big Green Week Facebook page and see what is going on. Why not try the Green Week challenge and see if you can become a Saltash Green Champion by doing a few simple things that could all make a small difference.

I also invite you to join the Friends of Victoria Gardens on Sunday the 18th of June to round off the week, where you can join the friends group led by Councillor Julia Peggs and Councillor Sarah Gillies for a spot of gardening and some good company. Bring a trowel and picnic and see what the new friends group have been up to.

The Town Council's Facebook page is also the place to keep up with the latest news and I would encourage you follow the page if you have an interest in what we do.

Councillor Richard Bickford
Mayor of Saltash 2023-24