

## Mayors Column March 2024

As spring begins to come along our Service Delivery team will be out and about ensuring the Town Council's managed areas are looking good and are well maintained. You may have seen recent pictures of works undertaken at Silver Street, Huntley Gardens and large areas of Pillmere. You can keep up to date with the team and other Town Council news, as well as valuable community information by following our Facebook page.

Sarah and I have been out and about a fair amount over the last month meeting more amazing people. It was a pleasure to both open the festival and attend the gala concert evening for the Music, Speech and Drama Festival held over two weeks and hosted at the Saltash Wesley Church. Congratulations to Phil Taylor and all his dedicated team in running another successful festival. Once again, the Town Council supported this event with funding from our Community Chest Fund. If you are involved with any voluntary group in the town, please look into it, we may just be able to help you get a new project off the ground.

I have a couple of dates for your diary. Firstly, Saltash Comedy, masterminded by Saltash resident David Chapple, are running a Comedy Night at Isambard House on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March. Profit from this show will go to the Mayor's Charities, and I am very grateful for their support. If you like comedy, search for Saltash Comedy on Facebook where you will find more information.

On Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup> March the Town Council are running a Trial Transport Day, where different transport types will be available in and around Saltash Waterside, this includes ferry services on the river. There will also be minibuses stretching further across Saltash, please make use of these too. The project is funded through the Community Levelling Up fund and we hope it will lead to some permanent solutions. Please come and take part, all the transport will be free, although we would like your opinion on preferred options that may be developed further. Please see elsewhere in the Observer and on social media for details of routes and things to do on the day.

Elsewhere, in the Guildhall, we are putting the finishing touches on our first Business Plan. This might sound a bit strange for a council, but like all organisations, large and small, we need to plan our work and projects, ensuring they are efficiently resourced, achievable and match what the town wants. One of the main principles is to engage with the community and make adjustments as we deliver the plan. Don't worry, it won't mean big changes, but should mean that we do the things we do now, better.

Our annual call for nominations for the Civic Awards is now out, with nominations closing on the 25<sup>th</sup> March. If you know an outstanding volunteer, please have a look there may be a category for you to nominate them in. Please see elsewhere on this page for details, or visit the Town Council's website or Facebook page.

I'll be back with a roundup of the last 12 months in the next edition, until then I hope you all have a lovely Easter, and if you see Sarah or me around the town come and say hello.

Councillor Richard Bickford  
Mayor of Saltash 2022-2024

## Meet your councillor

Councillor Julia Peggs – Deputy Mayor  
Tamar Ward



Well another Council year is coming to an end, I can't believe it's gone so quickly!

As Deputy Mayor for the last two years, I've worked closely with the Mayor on such a lot of projects.

Trying to get funding is such a long process, but we have been successful in getting funding for ideas for redevelopment of Saltash Waterside, and connectivity from Fore St to Saltash Waterside. Also an application to encourage more people to shop in Fore St with food markets, greening planters, generally making it a more attractive place to visit.

Beryl bikes will be here soon, I might have to have a go, but never having ridden a bike I'll put the warning signs out before I attempt it!!!

We are waiting for the formal contract from Cornwall Council to obtain the lease for Victoria gardens. I'd like to thank the few hardy Volunteers who have turned up with me every Saturday morning, rain or shine through the winter, to litter pick and generally keep the gardens tidy. I look forward to seeing the volunteers return with better weather. If you would like to volunteer please contact [j.peggs@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:j.peggs@saltash.gov.uk). We would be delighted to see you, no matter how great or small your contribution. The Queen Elizabeth rose garden is almost complete and will be officially unveiled when it looks a bit greener( and not just a few sticks in the ground) on May Fair Day (4<sup>th</sup>) I'd also like to thank Saltash Rotary club for their donation of some much needed tools and Hi-Viz vests.

D-day 80 will soon be upon us, 6<sup>th</sup> June, and whilst Saltash itself didn't play a huge part, we did have many service personnel who lived in camps in Saltash go across the river to what's known now as Normandy way. 36,000 troops walked down that hill for what was to be the largest Naval, Air and Land operation in history. We will be lighting the beacon on Saltash Waterside along with the rest of the country and the commonwealth. We would like residents and traders to light lanterns and lights as a "Light of Peace"

If you're a knitter, crocheter, sewer please make some poppies to decorate Fore St and Victoria Gardens, especially if you're very creative, for the top of the post boxes or hanging baskets. The final details will be announced soon, but please get knitting!

We are so lucky to have such an amazing community spirit in our town and I feel very privileged to have met and worked alongside some amazing people who work so hard for our residents on a voluntary basis, for the young and elderly, those struggling and in need.

I have had such a busy and exciting year with too much to put in this article. However please continue to stop and have a chat, (my husband says it takes hours to go shopping now!).

Councillor Julia Peggs  
Deputy Mayor