

Well, another month has passed us by, and the weather has been spectacular, at long last!

I missed about 10 days of the lovely weather because I had the dreaded COVID. I was absolutely floored with it and didn't go outside the door for a week. I felt so ill, so beware it's still around, and if you had it, or got it, my sympathies are with you.

I've been very fortunate to have been invited to many Mayor Making Ceremonies across Cornwall, and have met some interesting people, and garnered lots of information that we might be able to use in Saltash. Most importantly I've been telling everyone about our fabulous town, and all the things that happen in our town, festival's, our amazing youth groups, of course all our voluntary organisations of which we are so fortunate to have in Saltash, our success with funding that we have applied for to help enhance our town.

Hence everyone now wants to come to Saltash to see what we're doing and to visit our beautiful town that we are so proud of.

We're seeing so many new visitors since the ferry to the Royal William has started from the Jubilee Pontoon. Visitors have enjoyed Mary Newmans Cottage, Saltash Heritage Museum, Elliott's Store, the independent shops and the great new Banking Hub! Many people are stopping off on the train to see our lovely Isambard House building for hire and to visit the Trackside Café for a bite to eat or to use the public waiting area and toilet facilities. Trackside Café has been operational for approximately two months and is doing very well. Dawn Couch and her team are very welcoming and offer a good choice of refreshments. The Food Standards Agency recently visited and issued a food hygiene rating of 5!

At a recent Meet your Councillors Session held in Fore St, 90% of the people we spoke to did not live in Saltash, but came from either Plymouth, Liskeard, Callington and beyond, but loved coming here because of our community spirit, independent shops, leisure centre, Victoria Gardens, and other facilities that we are lucky to have. Sometimes we do forget how fortunate we are compared to many towns in Cornwall.

We have an Olympian in Saltash! The lovely Lola Tambling, age 16 has qualified to compete in the Olympic Games in Paris for skateboarding. I'm sure the whole of Saltash will be behind her, and we know that Lola will do her very best. Many congratulations to her and her family.

Saltash Town Council will be supporting Lola and the Olympics by displaying Olympic flags along with Union flags in Fore St.

By the time you read this our amazing Regatta will have come and gone. I do hope that you had the opportunity to see me in the sludge bath and that you also watched the cardboard boat race! Having competed in it myself a few years ago, I can tell you it's one of the most hilarious things I have ever done in my life, and if you haven't signed up to it this year, I suggest you start preparing for next year, I might even have a go again myself!

All the Councillors and Staff are starting to think about our precept (Budgets) for the year 2025/2026, a little early you may think? but this is a huge piece of work and in next month article I'll try and explain a bit more about how we do this, and how it affects you as a resident of the town.

I do love speaking to you all, wherever I am out and about, and was thrilled the other day when a group of children in the park shouted over "Hi Mayor Julia" Love it!

Councillor Julia Peggs  
Mayor of Saltash 2024-25

## Meet Your Councillor

Councillor Brian Stoyel – Trematon Ward



Born in Tavistock my first 'real' association with Saltash started when purchasing a house in North Pill in 1972. This was to be our first real home as we were teaching in a boarding school. However, setting up our own education consultancy and tutorial college brought us to live permanently in Saltash from 1979 soon after which I joined the Saltash Chamber of Commerce and in 1981 the Saltash Rotary Club.

We needed to move to Plymouth for a few years as travel played an important part in our business life, but I continued with my Rotary commitments and on our return to live in Saltash I sought election to Saltash Town Council eventually becoming coopted as a Councillor for Trematon Ward.

My somewhat flippant answer to one of the questions posed at interview took nearly three years to come to fruition. My quest to see the Fore Street clock showing the correct time on both faces was the subject of much searching to find a competent clock engineer to put the matter right. Glad to say all is now tick-tickity boo!!!

Joining a proactive Town Council showed me the many aspects of local government and having served with three mayors I now have a much better understanding of the connection between local and county councils. A system of colour coding might be useful during council meetings, this would alleviate questions and complaints being aimed incorrectly - who owns a piece of uncut land, potholes, road layout, parking, Carkeel roundabout to name a few.

Apart from serving on Full Council, Planning and Licensing, Services, Policy & Finance Committees I also serve on Personnel, Property Maintenance, Safer Saltash and the War Memorial – the provision of two granite seats for extra names has been delayed through scarcity of suitable granite.

The long-term plan for Saltash is crucial and together with our stake holders, residents, and businesses the Saltash Town Council's five-year business plan aims to provide stability of effort over the years instead of one-year silos. The potential layout of Fore Street and connectivity to our Waterside and Plymouth must be sorted. There are many opportunities to review and discuss all our plans so please help us to make it a town to be proud of.

Saltash has a rich heritage to be nurtured for future generations and I am proud to have the opportunity of representing you.

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