

I have had the pleasure this month of meeting some incredible people who volunteer their time for the great many organisations in Saltash. I have also been impressed by how a lot of these organisations are encouraging young people to be part of them, musicians, singers, craft makers, gardening, and many more. It was fantastic to see the opening of the Community shed, and the many projects they have planned for the future, again including teaching young people skills.

At the other end of the scale I went to meet a lovely lady and her family who was 100 years old, when I asked her secret to looking so amazing she said “Just keep your mind and body fit mi dear” a plan I intend to adopt!

Many of our community organisations are all struggling financially, and I was sorry to hear that the Community kitchen has had to restructure to enable it to stay open. I know that they have enthusiastic and committed volunteers, and I'm sure that they will find a way forward.

If you find that you have time on your hands even for a few hours a week there are many organisations that would be delighted to have your help.

Exciting plans are being submitted for funding for a new play park and sensory, wellbeing garden on Jubilee Green. Also, the funding for two play parks on Pillmere commenced w/c 10 September. Play parks are essential for families and young children to be able to enjoy the fresh air, exercise, communicate with other children, and are FREE!

By now we all know that the Saltash tunnel works will probably start in November 2024. National Highways has refined the project to try to minimise disruption and to deliver in two phases.

First Phase - Civil Engineering:

This phase involves installing advanced warning signs on both tunnel approaches to communicate various information to users.

Second Phase - Technology Works:

This phase involves Civil Engineering works.

This work must be done, as all the electrical components inside the tunnel are now out of date, and spares are just not available anymore. The tunnel will **not** be shut, but one lane of the three will be closed to allow this essential work to be completed. Yes, there will be queues, and yes, it will take longer to go to and from the bridge.

Saltash Town Council have been working hard to engage with the National Highways and key stakeholders of this project because we are aware of the impact on Saltash will be severe. The National Highways confirmed their final mitigation plan is to be published six weeks before the commencement date.

For further updates, refer to the National Highways website (link below), follow Saltash Town Council Facebook page @SaltashTownCouncilOfficial or refer to Saltash Town Council minutes (link below).

<https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/south-west/a38-saltash-tunnel-technology-upgrade/>

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

In the meantime, I'm getting my Christmas shopping locally in our lovely town to support our traders. I would also suggest car sharing as much as possible, catch the train when you can, use a Beryl bike if your fit enough or walk.

If you attend regular appointments in Plymouth, you may wish to book them outside of peak periods. We know it will be painful for many, but as previously said this work is essential to secure the future of the tunnel.

On a lighter note, many people call me The Mayoress, I reply jokingly, "No I'm the Mayor, my husband is the mayoress" (consort really) He was in the park walking the dog when someone came up to him and said, "Hello you're the Mayoress" oops think I'd better stop saying that!

Warmest regards

Councillor Julia Peggs  
Mayor of Saltash 2024-25

## Meet Your Councillor

Councillor Jean Dent

Tamar Ward



Well, here we are again, it's my turn to write something for the Observer.

I must have done it quite a few times in my Saltash Town Council career over the last few years, but it's like this my hair was brown when I first joined the Town Council, and look at me now!

Obviously, things have changed over the years, not necessarily better or worse, just different.

In many ways we have become more professional, see the Town Vision and Business Plans for example. Also, Community Infrastructure Levy funding applications for children's play parks in Pillmere and improvements to Saltash Waterside, as just some of our current initiatives. This has required a great deal of work from our staff and consultants.

From a personal perspective I will be very happy to see the library refurbishment finished, and the war memorial benches in place..... amongst many other projects before I move on to retirement!

However, what has not changed is our Councillors' and staff's hard, and conscientious work for our community.