

It was so lovely to see so many people at the Wesley Church and on Fore St for Remembrance Sunday, and then again on Armistice Day at 11am on 11 November.

What really impressed me that there were so many young people in attendance wearing poppies and holding Rosemary for Remembrance. I asked two little boys, who were with their dad, why they were wearing poppies, and they both knew quite knowledgeably what they represented.

I found it all quite emotional especial when the two new benches were blessed in St Nicholas and St Faith with all the missing names of those who died in conflict from Saltash were at long last finally given their recognition.

With a tear in my eye, I lay a wreath from us all in Saltash on the 06.35am Poppy train to Paddington for the remembrance service in London. **We will remember them.**

I love Christmas, no I don't have my decorations up yet, but I love the lights, the atmosphere, carols, children's nativity and Christmas pud! However, this year especially, when finances are tough for many people, and with the growing population of homeless people, its good to try and give a little back, maybe to our local foodbank or the Community Kitchen, also to our Baptist and Wesley Church who do great work for the local homeless, and Christmas lunch for those alone this year.

Saltash Town Council is really busy, finalising our precept (budgets) for 2025/26 in line with our business, and neighbourhood plans. We are also eagerly waiting to see if our funding application has been successful for the new play park and sensory garden on Jubilee green. We hope that this will be the start of many projects on the Waterside area that the Town Council can Lease from Cornwall Council to make it a welcoming and lovely area for residents and visitors to enjoy.

We are also looking to find ways of enhancing Fore St with more planters, seating, wayfinding and possibly markets early Spring next year.

Of course, we are also looking to finalise taking over our beloved Victoria Gardens, which is going to take a lot of work from our Service Delivery Team, who do an amazing job around our town.

The Saltash Health Action Group, which I chair, are at long last seeing some light at the end of the tunnel. Talks with Derriford Hospital, also NHS Integrated Care East Cornwall, with providing more services in Saltash, like phlebotomy, to save us going over the bridge for a blood test, Virtual nursing care, as everyone knows you recover better at home, and other services we may be able to provide in our home town.

I love meeting you all, and our young people in the schools, I can't wait to start helping with the lantern making for our Christmas Festival.

Please continue to say hello when I'm out and about.

Warmest Regards to you all

Councillor Julia Peggs

Mayor of Saltash 2024-25

Meet Your Councillor

Councillor Matt Griffiths, Essa Ward



When I wrote my article this time last year, we were in the throws of putting together Saltash Town Council's business plan. I was delighted that this was ratified at the meeting of full council in March. A significant moment as the business plan is the first of its kind for Saltash Town Council as far as we can tell.

The business plan is for the three-year period April 2024 to March 2027 and is published on the Saltash Town Council website. In addition the website also provides regular updates on how it's progressing i.e. are we doing what we said we do and outlining any changes we've made. The job of monitoring the business plan is primarily the responsibility of the Town Vision Sub-Committee, which I'm pleased to Chair. In addition, we are also monitoring the environmental impact of Saltash Town Council's operations and projects. This is important to ensure we're all doing our bit to address the climate emergency.

This strategic planning work is an area I really enjoy as a Councillor. As Benjamin Franklin famously said, 'fail to plan, plan to fail'!

I'm also enjoying being part of the Saltash Healthcare Action Group. We're really persevering with this to ensure health services are available locally in the community for Saltash residents rather than having to travel further afield. It's not an easy task to move the NHS juggernaut but I'm pleased that thanks to the persistence and evidence building from this proactive group, practical improvements are being made with more to come. Watch this space!

Lastly, and probably closest to my heart, is the work we do to support young people in the town. As a Town Council, you'll have seen we're improving play parks and have continued to increase the budget for the delivery of professional

youth work. Livewire and The Core are recipients of this grant funding in 2024/25 and continue to provide creative, warm and safe spaces for young people day in day out, This and the other excellent activities provided by youth organisations within the Saltash Youth Network is something to be really proud of. It's pretty unique and much needed in these challenging times to support the next generation.

Very best wishes to you all and see you around the town!

Cllr Matt Griffiths