



Saltash Regatta Committee

19/08/2024

Regatta Reflections – Chair's report
Regatta 13th and 14th July 2024

[REDACTED] Chair and [REDACTED] (Diverse Events CIC), along with the volunteers organising the annual Regatta and Waterside Festival, would like to share that the event was a great success. We were blessed with good weather and great attendance. Sponsorship was sourced in the main from Saltash Town Council, which we were extremely grateful for, in addition we gained financial support from South West Surfacing Specialists LTD as our main business sponsor.

We attracted new sponsors this year from Saltash Opticians and Rowan House. Financial contributions were also gained from Cornwall Council, Carlton Plastics, Waterways, the Sue Hooper Charitable Foundation, Grove Nurseries Boarding Kennels, Infinite, Nicky's Glow Beads, Shaped Interiors and a small number of other businesses locally.

We had the usual challenge with support to run the event. We have not been successful in finding more volunteers, leaving the main tasks of fundraising, managing the event, organising the entertainment and all marketing down to very few people. We used an external company to help with marketing which was okay they but needed input and direction from the organisers.

As always, the expertise of Diverse Events for event management plans, stall bookings (amongst many other things) is invaluable. The money raised through stall bookings increases year on year and contributes to the costs. This year it was just under £6700; increase of £1000 from last year.

We could also not have had other key activities such as the Cardboard Boat Race, without the support of Redeemer Church, Saltash.

We lost our Royal Navy support and had to rely on very young marshalls from Saltash Community School who manned road blocks etc. They were committed and invaluable but also inexperienced, which is not always a good representation of such a large event. The future needs to be with increased staffing, this must be a priority going forward.

Other crucial supporters included Mike Pitches Photography and The Saltash Red Bus, which was very used and donations were given by passengers. We have had feedback to say that this really increased footfall to Fore Street.

The Saltash Town Council service delivery team was really helpful throughout every stage of the preparations.

A huge thanks to the Mayor at the Civic and Children's Parade. The Mayor opened the event and supported it in several other ways.

Saltash Town Band led the procession safely to the Waterside where prizes were handed out.

A huge thanks to SEA (Saltash Environmental Action) and the litter rangers who worked hard to keep the site clean.

We were fortunate to have an undercover bar area provided by Born Hectic events and the addition of the disco caravan. We were pleased to promote a new talent; Tom Hannigan made his debut this year and was very good.

Finding acts for the smaller stage can be a challenge as everyone now wants to play on the big stage. We tried having Waterside Green as a child-friendly space and will improve on this in the future. This will just be improved organisation and communications.

Other improvements would be to find more external parking for the Gig rowers, to keep the roads clear. Increased security will also help with this and reduce parking rage. We feel that the younger marshals do not get the same respect and vehicles would just ignore them and drive in. We need to manage this, with the event being so well attended.

We could not find a free recycling service this year for the boats, so had to use our budget for the removal of cardboard.

The future date for Regatta has not yet been set but this date will come through negotiations with Caradon Gig rowers, Saltash Sailing Club and Born Hectic, who run the bar.

We could not have run this event without the financial support received by Saltash Town Council. The increased grant allowed us to stay in credit, which is quite an achievement. We may have even made a small profit; we just have a few invoices to chase.

We became a CIC this year, which was another success.

As the Chair, I have given up, giving up! We shall do it all again next year, providing we can continue as we are, and keep getting successful grants and sponsorship. An AGM will vote in roles, and I will put my hat in the ring again I am sure.

Yours Sincerely

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Chair

