



Saltash Regatta Committee CIC

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Annual Parishioners' Report

Saltash Regatta and Waterside Festival 2025

This report is submitted on behalf of the organising committee of the Saltash Regatta and Waterside Festival to inform parishioners, Town Councillors, residents, and visitors of the event's achievements, ongoing challenges, and future aims.

The Saltash Regatta continues to be a well-attended and valued community event, bringing together residents, local organisations, and visitors to celebrate the town, its waterside, and its strong sense of community. The event is delivered by a very small core team of volunteers, supported by Diverse Events and is responsible for fundraising, planning, event delivery, entertainment coordination, marketing, and compliance.

Funding, Fundraising, and Financial Pressures

The Regatta continues to face increasing financial pressures due to rising costs associated with safety, infrastructure, waste management, and services. While grant funding from Saltash Town Council remains essential to the event's viability, it is not sufficient on its own to cover all costs. As a result, fundraising and sponsorship activity has become increasingly important. Income from stall bookings continues to rise year on year and provides a vital contribution to the overall budget. The organising committee continues to seek additional sponsorship, grants, and fundraising opportunities to ensure the event remains financially sustainable.

Community Engagement and Development

This year we will work on improving a dedicated children's and family area on Waterside Green. This space will be designed to provide a safer, more inclusive, and engaging environment for younger attendees and families. The introduction of this area was piloted in 2025 and will continue to be developed and improved in future years.

The Regatta also continues to benefit from strong community involvement, local organisations, and partner groups who support activities and logistics across the event site. Environmental considerations remain important, with ongoing efforts to maintain cleanliness and reduce waste where possible.

Entertainment and Cost Management

In response to rising costs, the organising committee is actively reviewing the costs of running two stages and intends to use the space outside Livewire this year, enabling stall bookings on Waterside green and reducing sound engineer costs. We will continue to have an undercover bar and the popular disco caravan.

Successes, Challenges and Future Considerations

The successes have been the Cardboard Boat race, paint party, sea shanty singers and stalls. The challenges are the children's parade which lacks support and is labour intensive, with road closures. Finding affordable entertainers continues to be difficult for us. Volunteer recruitment remains a significant challenge, with the event continuing to rely on a small number of committed individuals. Security, traffic management, and parking arrangements also require ongoing review as attendance continues to grow.

Securing long-term funding, increasing fundraising capacity, and maintaining volunteer support will be key priorities to ensure the Regatta can continue in future years.

Governance and Conclusion

The Saltash Regatta operates as a Community Interest Company (CIC), providing a stronger governance structure and improved transparency. Planning for future Regattas will continue in partnership with key stakeholders, with dates confirmed following discussions with relevant clubs and service providers. This year's event will be held over the weekend of July 25th and July 26th, 2026.

The Saltash Regatta remains a much-loved community event that delivers social, cultural, and economic benefits to the town. Continued support from the Town Council, local businesses, volunteers, and parishioners is essential to its long-term success.

Submitted by:

Karen Lilley

Chair, Saltash Regatta and Waterside Festival

End of report