



Saltash Regatta Committee

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Regatta Reflections – Chairs report

Regatta 4th & 5th September 2021

Karen Lilley, Chair and Aaron Monk (Diverse Events CIC) along with the volunteers organising the annual Regatta and Waterside Festival, are delighted to celebrate another successful event enjoyed by many visitors, near and far.

Feedback has been very positive overall.

After the postponement last year due to Covid, and delays organising this year's event, for the same reason; it was a challenge to pull everything together in time for the 2021 Regatta. The Gig rowers were unsure if they could attend and there was great concern that the event would fall flat, but thankfully; they came, along with Saltash Rowing Club and the sail by from the Cargreen Regatta. The Tamar was awash with activity and Brunel green was packed.

With only days before the event, toilets could not be sourced, and volunteers could not be engaged. It was a scramble at the end that saw Karen and Aaron and everyone who could, begging for toilets. In the future we will take no chances and payments will be made in advance to ensure we are not in this situation again. We will use a new supplier after being let down badly, despite booking our toilets.

The kindness of many supporters who contributed through our Go Fund Me Appeal, along with a monumental donation from John Lawler from Waterways Drainage Specialists in Saltash, meant we were able to bring in a truckload of sand at the end of July, just in time for the school holidays. I believe that waterways will probably always sponsor the sand, it has been suggested already. I think "Go Fund Me" has probably run its course now for sand.

Sponsorship was sourced from Saltash Town Council as the main sponsor, with financial contributions gained from Cornwall Councilors, Carlton Plastics, Spinnaker International, Grove Nurseries Boarding Kennels and Ambers Angels. This was significantly lower although Jolly's have expressed an interest in future sponsorship.

Carlton has confirmed they will always sponsor the event. Nonetheless, this year we did make a loss so are starting the New Year without a lot of money. This is a concern and needs the most attention.

The support the event received from the Royal Navy Submariners was exemplary. They helped with all aspects of the management, in particular roadblocks. Additionally, they had a great attitude and got involved in the races at the same time.

The event supporters included CBL Hire and Sales, Sky View Media, Waitrose, Redeemer Church, Mike Pitches Photography and Community Enterprises, PL12.

We were grateful to have the Saltash Hopper Bus expertly arranged by Alan Marks to help visitors get up the hill! This year we did not pay for the buses, and we usually have to. It was very helpful to not have to run Gig rowers around and to not need to find more money for the buses. In future we will not provide transport for Rowers, but we expect we will need to pay the buses.

The Saltash service deliver team, (Mike and Steve) proved to be really helpful throughout every stage of the preparations and the event itself. We were grateful to be able to access power, although on reflection, we did not actually use any notable quantity. It was helpful to know we had it if needed.

The team kept toilets in order and kindly ensured we had the portable covid units. It makes all the difference to know that the Town Council are rooting for you!

A huge thanks to the Mayor at the Civic and Children's Parade. The Mayor opened the event and spent some time visiting the stalls and selling cakes at Ashtorre. Special guests included Brunel School who made a huge effort; along with a few Dinosaurs to add to the spectacle. Saltash Town Band led the procession safely to the Waterside, where prizes, donated by Truly Scrumptious Sweets, were handed out. The parade had fewer children due to its timing in September, when schools are not engaged. Perhaps in the future we need to plan this more with the schools. Karen also feels that she may have missed some invitees and will address this for the future. Namely, the High Sheriff and other dignitaries.

Saturday afternoon saw the popular Wild Swim and the introduction of a new fun race: The Regatta Relay. Paddle boards were kindly be provided by Mai adventures to local businesses and groups to have plenty of watery fun. The outright winners were MoreCore Gym, Saltash, who took the top spot from the Royal Navy Submarine Service. This was fun event, cleverly put together by Redeemer church and will be continued, I am sure. Mai Adventures enabled this to take place with use of paddle

boards etc. There were many people saying how paddle board hire at the Waterside would be a good thing.

Activities on Sunday included the glorious Paint Party and the thrills and spills of the Cardboard Boat Race. Jon and Dee White, along with their team of volunteers from Redeemer Church, have been organising this infamous spectacle for four years now, setting up a workshop in Studio 79 on Fore Street as a hub of remarkable creativity and cardboard. Intrepid sailors competed for coveted titles including the Most Impressive Sinking and the Brunel Award for the Best Eco-creative Design.

This year was so popular that we had a waiting list! This is no doubt the highlight. Plans for the future could include having the boats carried down in the parade...watch this space!

Another public appeal saw a local company called "We Dump 4 U" kindly collect the large amount of cardboard waste for us as a kind help. The Tamar was expertly cleaned of all debris. The site was also constantly being cleaned by "Saltash Environmental Action", alongside "Clean our Patch". I feel confident the site was very clean after the event.

The future is creative fundraising, the Regatta will return again but we need to push very hard for community support and sponsors, as despite it being a great event; sadly this year we did end up over budget and these costs rise year on year

We could not have run this event without the financial support received by Saltash Town Council and we are very grateful.

Yours Sincerely

Karen Lilley

