

Saltash Rotary Club, Report to Annual Meeting of Saltash Town Council, March 2022

Over the past 12 months, the Rotary Club of Saltash has bounced back from the confines of lock-down and is again very active in the local community. We can reflect on a number of projects and achievements, some of which have been well publicised in the local press, whilst some may have drawn less attention but are nonetheless of equal importance.

After much work by both the Rotary Club and Saltash Town Council, the Phone Box Defibrillator outside Isambard House was finally unveiled and made operative in October of last year and was actively used in just a matter of days. Members of the Rotary Club had spent many hours removing layers of old paint from the phone box before repainting on the official telephone box Currant Red. Missing and damaged panes were replaced and the previously redundant and neglected box was brought back to life, with the official opening performed by the Mayor, Cllr Richard Bickford.

Another defibrillator, the one in Fore Street, was replaced to coincide with the opening of the phone box defibrillator, to bring this installation up to meet latest requirements. There is a programme of regular checking and minor maintenance provided by members of Rotary.

Two of Saltash's most famous residents, or should we say statues, were given a facelift, with Anne Glanville and I K Brunel now looking resplendent at their homes on the Waterside.

Whilst on the subject of the Waterside and the Waterfront, members of the Rotary Club repainted the benches in readiness for the Jubilee of her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, having received the necessary permissions and approval to carry out this work.

Saltash Rotary Club provided marshalling for the Beating of the Bounds event held in September 2022 and will do so again in May of this year. Members of Rotary also assisted with providing refreshments and freshly baked scones for those returning to Isambard House at the end of the day.

Saltash Rotary has been active in supporting the residents of Ukraine to help bring some relief from the awful effects of Russian aggression and the illegal invasion. A coffee morning saw funds raised to help with urgent medical supplies, whilst Saltash Rotary also joined the Shoebox scheme, which saw essential hygiene and everyday medical supplies packaged into shoebox size cartons, before being transported to Ukraine and handed to those most in need.

Saltash Rotary Club enjoys a great relationship with Ashtorre Rock and has provided pasties, together with delicious home-made cakes for the enjoyment of visitors to events such as Regatta, the Saltash Model Club weekend and more besides. We also provided pasties, filled rolls, pastries and home-made cakes at the Christmas Craft Day in the Guildhall during December 2022 with the profits being donated to the Mayor's Charity.

Our popular annual Quiz Night was held at the Guildhall, raising £500 for the Carol Lay Foundation, with the funds being donated to Childrens Hospice South West.

Rotary continues to maintain the beautiful flower boats that can be found in various locations around the Town. A replacement boat, kindly and generously gifted by the Sailing Club and facilitated by Mayor Cllr Richard Bickford, was sited at Pillmere, where it replaced an earlier boat that had suffered damage and deterioration over recent years. The new boat, named as Pride of Pillmere II, will be planted in conjunction with the Pillmere Residents Association, over the coming weeks.

Since the beginning of the covid vaccine programme, Saltash Rotary has been assisting the healthcare professionals by providing meet and greet personnel, car parking marshals and other supporting roles, with the past year being no exception, including the most recent programme held at Isambard House in late 2022.

Probably our most high-profile event takes place at Christmas when Santa visits Saltash and can be found on his favourite Rotary Sleigh, or at various locations around the Town. In November 2022 Santa gave the Mayor a lift in his sleigh, proceeding to Victoria Gardens from where the Town's Christmas lights were switched on. Our presence alongside Santa is our main fund-raising event of the year and we pay tribute to the amazing generosity of residents and visitors, which did not wane during the current cost-of-living crisis, enabling Saltash Rotary Club to continue with the charitable work and assistance we provide.

Pete Samuels, President of Saltash Rotary Club 2022-23