

Councillors may wish to note that I was kindly contacted by Mr Andrew Tritton, suggesting that my late mother's swimming achievements be displayed on the Saltash Chronicles. I can do no better than ask Councillors to read my report below. I hope this helps, and whatever the outcome, myself and my late mother's immediate family were very honoured and humbled to have received such a kind and unsolicited approach from Andrew and his team.

THE LAST RIVER TAMAR LONG DISTANCE SWIM 1938

Just before WW2 broke out in 1938, the late Florence Mabel Tout swam in the annual long-distance River Tamar race from Neil Point (Landulph) to Saltash Pier.

It was a 3 & 1/2 mile sprint, in the Women's section of the race, and my late mother won the race by many lengths.

(This was the last such annual event due to WW2 breaking out in 1939); the race was never staged again.

The race was for the David Jordan Perpetual Silver Trophy; which was a magnificent and valuable solid silver Cup.

Champion swimmer, Florence Tout aged 17 years at the time, was the youngest and fastest person ever to win this most prestigious event, and she swam the race in an astonishing 59 minutes! Swimming in turbulent waters.

Florence had won previous races for the under 16 years (across the River Tamar from Saltash Passage to Saltash Slip) – however, the long-distance swim from Landulph to Saltash was a great and notable challenge for the competitors at the time.

Following her passing in 1997, when I was Mayor of Saltash during that same year, in memory of my mother, I proudly presented her coveted Silver Trophy to the Saltash Heritage Museum, and I was

delighted when I saw it on display for the first time during the Museum's 'Three Rivers' display some years ago.

The Trophy is currently on display again at the Saltash Museum for the current exhibition.

Thank you

Sue Hooper MBE