



Saltash Regatta Committee

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13/09/2023

Regatta Reflections – Chairs report

Regatta 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Karen Lilley, Chair and Aaron Monk (Diverse Events CIC) along with the volunteers organising the annual Regatta and Waterside Festival would like to share that the actual event was a great success. However, it has to be noted that financially, it was the hardest year we have had. We were rejected by a number of sponsors and grants and had to set up a Community fundraiser through Crowdfunder to raise the capital needed as a combined fundraiser with the Christmas Festival and Mayfair. The target of £15000 was reached but we had to use money from other pots to achieve this or we would have not been able to keep the money we raised. Unfortunately the target amount was less than the cost to run this event so we are in a deficit.

Sponsorship was sourced in the main from Saltash Town Council, which we were extremely grateful for, in addition to the Crowdfunder and South West Surfacing Specialists LTD. Financial contributions were also gained from Cornwall Councillors, Carlton Plastics, the Sue Hooper Charitable Foundation, Grove Nurseries Boarding Kennels, Infinite, and a small number of businesses locally. Raising money is becoming a great concern, we have already applied and been rejected for 2024 through the Scops Art Trust.

Our other challenge is support to run the event. We have not been able to find volunteers, leaving the main tasks of fundraising, managing the event, organising the entertainment and all marketing down to one and a half volunteers. As always the expertise of Diverse Events for event management plans, stall bookings (amongst many other things) has been invaluable. The money raised through stall bookings increases every year and contributes to the costs. This year it was just under £5500. We could also not have had other key activities such as the Cardboard boat race, Paddle board relay and Treasure Hunt without the support of Redeemer Church, Saltash. Hilary Frank helped with several aspects and always offers a great deal of advice and practical support, using her experience running other key events in the

town. We have lost our Royal Navy support and had to rely on very young Marshalls from the Air Cadets and Barne Barton Community Ambassadors, 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.

Other crucial supporters included Mike Pitches Photography and Community Enterprises, PL12. The shuttle bus service was very well received and was at no cost to Regatta as donations were given by users. We have had feedback to say that this really increased footfall to Fore Street.

The Saltash service deliver team was really helpful throughout every stage of the preparations and the event itself, as was the Town Clerk.

A huge thanks to the Mayor at the Civic and Children's Parade. The Mayor opened the event and supported as much as possible. Having the event in the summer holidays was not very successful in terms of numbers; we hope this will be improved upon in the future.

Saltash Town Band led the procession safely to the Waterside, where prizes were handed out. We were very grateful to the Sue Hooper Charitable Foundation who funded the band.

The Regatta Relay Paddle board race was well supported, as was the glorious Paint Party and the thrills and spills of the Cardboard Boat Race. Once again Admiral Mike was our esteemed judge. Jon and Dee White, along with their team of volunteers from Redeemer Church, have been organising this infamous spectacle for six years now and do a fantastic job. They also created a fun Treasure Hunt and gave out prizes.

A huge thanks to SEA and the litter rangers who worked hard to keep the site clean.

We had a new addition this year with Saltash Radio covering the whole event. This was a real asset to Regatta. Saltash Radio is a new initiative, supported by Saltash Town Council.

We were fortunate to have an undercover bar area provided by Born Hectic events which was needed when the rain inevitably came!

We had a new set up with the stage positioning, which was also successful. Having the stage on Jubilee Green created more seating and comfort. It also stopped queues for food vendors blocking Old Ferry Road as we moved them to the car park.

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

Once again, Saltash Environmental Action worked to keep the area spotlessly clean.

The future date for Regatta has been set for 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> July 2024, this date came 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 but it has to be stated quite clearly that we made a loss this year despite every effort. The future is not secure for this event and manpower is extremely low.

As the Chair I would very much like to explore and investigate ways to change our entity to a CIC or CIO. Ideas include having Saltash Community Events CIO, this would have all 3 key events under one umbrella company and share the responsibilities and liabilities, as they stand now. I am hoping to get support for this and practical advice through the Growth Hub. This is not by decision to make alone, but is definitely something I will propose. That said, if we keep having funding bids rejected and do not get any further help, we will not be able to hold the Saltash Regatta in 2024. This would be a great loss to our community. I was planning my own retirement after 13 years involvement, but I am not convinced there is anyone I can pass it on to!

Yours Sincerely

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