

Welcome from the Mayor of Saltash

So, this is my first column to you as Mayor of Saltash 2024 /25.

It's such an honour to be your Mayor, and I'd like to thank everyone for your friendship, love, encouragement and support, and I'd like to think that you all know that I will do my very best for the town that I love.

I have listened carefully over the last five years to residence needs, and apart from fulfilling our current projects which are exciting! I will be looking for further funding opportunities with my fellow councillors, with the help of our brilliant staff to further enhance our town.

I'm supporting our healthcare and dental groups in Saltash to work towards a health hub to save us travelling over the bridge so much . It's important that our town becomes a dementia and disabled friendly community, accepting everyone, no matter what their disability.

I'd like to encourage a "Be proud of our Town" initiative talking to schools and community groups, to maybe help stop vandalism, littering and the most common complaint dog poo!!

We want our traders to have confidence in the future and we must support them going forward by shopping local, not only in Fore street but all the traders on the trading estates around us.

We must of course abide by our resolution to acknowledge our future environmental issues and how everything we do; we look at the potential risks to our environment.

As most of you know I'm very passionate about our youth work in Saltash and one of my Mayors Charities is Saltash Youth Network, this incorporates youth clubs, cubs, brownies, St. John's ambulance, boxing, football and rugby clubs. They are all looking for financial help to keep going in these difficult times, we're very lucky here in Saltash that we do have so many volunteers who are prepared to give up their time to help support these groups. Many towns in Cornwall have nothing like it!

My other Mayors Charity is our Community Kitchen who do so much for our residents, those that are in need of support either with mental health or financial issues, the stroke and dementia clubs or maybe just a cuppa and a chat for those who just need some company.

I'm so looking forward to working with our new Deputy Mayor, councillor Rachel Bullock. We have very similar ideas and values, we are also good friends and neighbours. I know that I will have her support and we'll make a great team, along with my fellow councillors.

By now the ferry to Royal William yard will be in operation and we hope to encourage many residents in Plymouth to come to our Town to see what great shops we have locally. This has come about after being successfully awarded Community Levelling Up Funding to allow the Town Council to run a Transport Trial Day at Easter. For further information please contact the Guildhall on 01752 844846 option 5.

Also D-Day 80 will have happened by the time you read this, it's important to remember that there were army camps in Saltash of which many of the troops crossed the river, and left along with the 36,000 troops from Saltash passage. The lighting of the beacon and our lights of peace were to show and pray that something like this never happens again.

I'd also like to thank the knit and natter groups, craft groups, swimming groups who knitted and crocheted lots of poppies and flowers to decorate Fore street and the RBL for the poppy decoration.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our former Mayor Councillor Richard Bickford for his vision, dedication, and friendship over the last two years, as I've said many times, he leaves huge boots to fill!

I'm always out and about, shopping, walking the Mayoral dog, or in Victoria gardens with volunteers, please stop for a chat, or to any other councillor, especially on meet your councillor days held outside Bloom Hearing, Fore Street, on the second Saturday of the month.

If you would like my husband Geoff and I to come to an event, prize giving, or give a talk, please contact the Mayors Secretary by email [mayors-secretary@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:mayors-secretary@saltash.gov.uk) or by phone 01752 844846 option 5.

Let's hope the sun shines for us all in June!

Councillor Julia Peggs  
Mayor of Saltash 2023-24

## Meet Your Councillor

Councillor Pete Samuels – Tamar Ward



Much has changed at Saltash Town Council since I was first elected to represent the old East Ward back in 2017. I remember somebody saying to me back then, that it was a bit of a waste of time, as the Town Council didn't really do much.

Even if there was an element of truth back then, the reality is that the Town Council has taken on much more responsibility over the past few years and now does a great deal of work for the benefit of residents. Devolution from Cornwall Council has handed us the Library or Library Hub as it is now called, no longer being just a place to borrow books, but also a hive of activity with many events throughout the year.

The Town Council now runs a small fleet of vehicles, the latest of which is 100% electric, enabling our team of Service Delivery General Assistants to undertake a multitude of tasks around the town. By the time you read this, the railway station waiting room will be open for the benefit of travellers and casual visitors who will be able to purchase snacks and refreshments from the Trackside Café. Moreover, it is now possible to travel from Saltash to the Royal William Yard in Plymouth, using the new Saltash Ferry which leaves the Jubilee Green Pontoon at 90-minute intervals daily.

During my time with the Town Council, it has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve as Mayor of Saltash, being the first to serve 21 months due to Covid-19 restrictions, since the Town Council was formed in 1974 when it replaced the old Saltash Corporation. For the coming year I will serve as Vice-Chair of the Policy and Finance Committee, having recently been re-elected to that position by my fellow Councillors. I have also for the last couple of years acted as Vice-Chair of the Services Committee, under the stewardship of Cllr Julia Peggs who is the new Mayor for 2024-25.

Together with my wife Brenda, who is also a Town Councillor and Chair of the Planning and Licensing Committee, we run a business that is based in the town that we also are proud to call home. My spare time, such as it is, being taken up by my passion for radio broadcasting, having presented on a number of radio stations in the South and South West, which I continue to do whilst playing music from my favourite era which can be categorised as late 1950s through to the late 1970s.

As with all Saltash Town Councillors, I work on a voluntary basis, something that not everybody understands, it always puts a wry smile on my face when I hear the odd disparaging remark that we are overpaid and underworked – nothing could be further from the truth. It's great to be part of a talented team that works so hard for Saltash and of which I hope to be a member for years to come, nowadays representing the residents of Tamar Ward, with whom I'm always happy to engage, give advice and whatever assistance I can.

Cllr Pete Samuel