

JANUARY 2020

THE Bridge

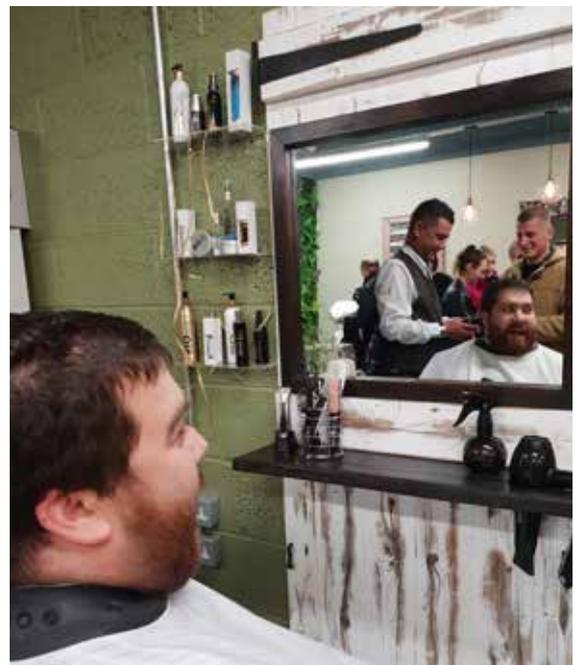
- St Ives Eco Action Group
- Neighbourhood Plan
- Cycling in St Ives
- Meet the Street Weekend
- Pavilion Plans



News, views, events and more from your Town Council

INSIDE this issue:

Mayors' Message	3
St Ives Eco Action Group.....	4
Neighbourhood Plan	5
Clerk's Corner	6
Cycling in St Ives	7
Hunts District Council.....	8
Pavilion Plans	8
Bridge Counselling.....	9
Ouse Valley Way.....	10
Meet the Street Weekend.....	11
Notes from the Norris.....	12-13
River Watchers.....	14
Visual Awareness Training	14
What's On?.....	15
Who Does What?	16



FRONT COVER

Photograph by aboveairmedia.co.uk

The Bridge is published four times a year by St Ives Town Council. If your free copy isn't delivered to your home you can collect it from the Town Hall in Market Hill. The next issue of The Bridge will be published in May 2020. If you would like to suggest an item for publication please contact the Town Hall.

This issue of The Bridge is copyright © St Ives Town Council 2019.

Copyright of the photographs published in The Bridge is retained by the photographers credited. Further reproduction without the photographers' permission is prohibited. We apologise if we have not been able to identify a photographer.

The Bridge is published by St Ives Town Council.

The Bridge is designed and printed for St Ives Town Council by Tom Yorke - www.tomyorke.myportfolio.com

Editorial Advisor - Dominic Weaver: 07305 911889.

THE Mayor's Message

Life in St Ives is never dull, and that has certainly been true of the last few months. Events have taken place in all shapes and sizes taking in members of many different groups and communities, each of whom have been warm and welcoming, for which I thank them greatly.

This was never truer than during the Mawlid Peace Parade in Peterborough, which is held to celebrate the birthday of the Prophet Muhammed. Having been raised as a Catholic, I have had very little exposure to the ways and means of the Islamic community, beyond what limited studies take place in schools. So, it was a great pleasure to see some of these practices in person, and I could not have been made to feel more at ease than in the company of my kind hosts. It was a truly memorable event, which was broadcast far and wide - even on Pakistani television!

New beginnings have been a big feature since my last message, with a number of new premises being opened. This started with the opening of the Star Dancewear and Crafts on Crown Street in September. It's always a welcome sight to see retailers doing well enough to gain new premises, and so I wish them the best of luck for their future. Things later took a more colourful turn as the lovely people at RIO barbers braved the pouring rain to put on a Brazilian fiesta before putting me under the razor - which was greatly appreciated, particularly by the Mayoress!

Then more recently, I was delighted to welcome St Ives' newest night club, Out Out, to the town, which will hopefully provide a great facility that has been missing since the closure of the Music Box.

Quizzes have also featured heavily, for me personally both as host and competitor. My own quiz took place at the Corn Exchange in September,

raising more than £600 towards my charities and for which I am very grateful. Thank you to all those who attended and made it such a great success. The Mayoress and I, along with a motley crew of others recruited for the journey, have also attended a number of quizzes hosted by other towns. The most notable of these was hosted by the Mayor and Mayoress of Huntingdon and from which we emerged as the victors.

Events come in many shapes and sizes. Some of the larger ones can include fairs and festivals, such as the Bridge Fair in Peterborough and our own Michaelmas fair, or grand showpieces such as FES's wonderful illuminated boat parade. In addition to these though, it is often some of the smaller events that can have just as much impact, such as the Pidley International Teddy Bear Free Fall, which was particularly enjoyed by my daughter, Martha - although she was very concerned about the health of the falling victims!

The aforementioned Michaelmas fair is always a special event, but this year it was made even more special by the visit of guests from our twin town of Stadtallendorf in Germany. Nine delegates, including the Burgemeister, Christian Somogyi, visited us for the weekend in October, and enjoyed many of the sights within and around the town. This even included the opportunity to join the festivities in Ely for their annual potato race, with myself and Christian among those operating the air horns. They all had a wonderful time and are grateful of our efforts to reignite the interest in our relationship, with the help of

a number of our local community groups and clubs.

There is one event, however, that always stands head and shoulders above the rest for me at this time of year, and that is Remembrance Sunday. The chaplain, Roy Muttram, has always insisted that he will not allow rain on his parade, and this was very much in evidence once again on a glorious sunny day, in which so many came out to show their respect and remember those who have paid the ultimate price to protect us during their service in the military. The service was touching and mindful, with representatives of all ages and many groups taking part.

I make special mention at this point of Ed Kelly, who took part in his final parade as President of the Royal British Legion this year, after many, many years serving the town. The service will not be the same without him, and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

As I am writing this 2019 draws to a close, so with you reading this in the New Year I hope you all had a great Christmas with friends and family, and look forward to taking on more adventures with you in 2020.

Councillor Daniel Rowe



Mayor of St Ives



There is no Planet B St Ives Eco Action Group

Do you care about the environment? Would you like to get together with others who share your passion for living more sustainably here in St Ives?

We are a non-partisan, non-political group of community-spirited local residents who are gathering together around a common theme of the environment to form a local Climate Action Plan. We recognise that, by working together to share our knowledge and skills and to learn from each other, we can make a real difference where we live.

It is our intention to work with St Ives Town Council, local businesses, organisations, community groups and residents to map out a pathway to zero carbon emissions by 2030. We don't yet know what that map looks like and we need your help to shape that.

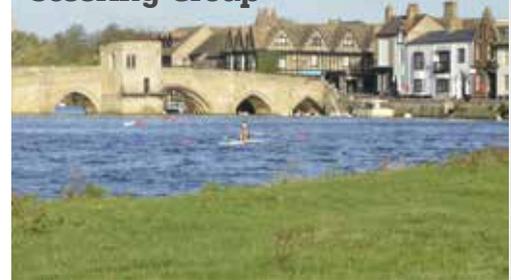
So, if you are an individual or representative of an organisation who cares about the environment and wants to do more, or if you can bring skills, knowledge and ideas and want to be part of the growing network of eco groups that are forming across Cambridgeshire, please get involved.

Our first meeting will be held on Wednesday 22nd January at 7:30pm at St Ives Methodist Church. If you have ideas or suggestions to contribute, skills and talents to offer, or simply for further information, please email us:

stivesecoaction@gmail.com

Developing

St Ives Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group



The St Ives Neighbourhood Plan (SNIP) will cover the parish of St Ives, with a very clear eye on potential developments proposed for surrounding parishes, and how these might affect St Ives. These include ideas from developers for land not identified for development in the Local Plan and a range of possibilities at RAF Wyton.

Any additional development outside of that detailed in the current Local Plan has the potential to significantly alter the demands on the existing over-burdened road network, and the amenities, facilities and efficient working of the town for its inhabitants and those that are attracted to the town. The key outcome of the SINP must be to present options to those that live in the town that balance St Ives economic and social vibrancy into the future, without compromising the reasons that many of us chose to live in the town.

Running ahead of the SINP is the drafting of the Combined Cambridge and Peterborough Authority's (CCPA) Prospectus for Growth for the town (at the time of writing the draft of this was still awaited).

Clearly, the SINP needs to be informed by the ideas and plans in both of these documents, and after discussions with the community of St Ives to recommend options for housing, local built heritage, green space, sustainability, economic development and retail that will keep the character of the town, but retain its future sustainability as a viable community.

the St Ives Neighbourhood Plan

St. Ives Town Council (SITC) has formed a Steering Group of councillors and members of the local community to prepare its first Neighbourhood Plan (SINP). This guides local planning options for the town. A session was held on 4 November, 2019, to review the project context, its potential scope and focus, and how to proceed.

Community Engagement

To move forward, the SG needs to gather data and comment from a wide range of sources both within the town and stakeholders such as HDC and CPCA, and review these. The first of the community engagement events will be taking place on Saturday 15 February at the Farmers' Market between 8am and 2pm – come along and have your say on your town.

From this the SG will generate and present information about the future growth options for the town to its residents and businesses, mindful of changes to its immediate neighbouring areas – the Hemingfords, Houghton, Wyton and Needingworth.

As the SINP progresses into the analysis stage, and the development of possible options, the NPSG wants as wide a cross-section of the community to be involved in this conversation as possible. As well as a series of short presentations in different areas of the town by members of the NPSG to explain ideas and get feedback, this will include online and offline communications, in order to reach every segment of the resident and business populations. This will help inform and understand the town's responses to key options for growth (including little additional growth, and large-scale changes {see Box 1 for 3 options}) and their advantages and disadvantages.

A Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment will take place in parallel with the above process to ensure the SINP will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

Making a Decision

After engaging the community and SA/SEA assessment, the SG will discuss the outcomes with the HDC Planning dept and a shared view on which growth option should be pursued will be developed. The SINP, Local Plan Review and any other plans and programmes should integrate with that chosen strategy.

In the meantime, the SG will progress policy ideas that are not contingent on the growth strategy decision. At present, these appear to be:

- green infrastructure planning
- sustainability policy and planning
- design guidance (including local heritage assets)

The SG are hopeful that this whole progress will be completed with the next 18 months. If you are interested in finding out more or getting involved in any way please do contact the Steering Group through np@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk or via the Town Hall.



Neighbourhood Plan Process

Getting Started

Define plan area
Create steering group
Appoint consultants

Develop a vision and objectives

Data collection
Identify development options

Initial Consultation

Public consultation
Review feedback
Select development option

Draft Plan

Write policies
Impact assessments

Public Consultation Plan Submission

Independent Examination

Local Referendum and Adoption

Clerk's Corner

£22,000 has been allocated towards grant funding of numerous groups and organisations that provide support and advice to residents of the town, with a further £40,000 allocated to groups who make the town vibrant



Alison Benfield
TOWN CLERK

Happy New Year! It is strange writing this in November - but that is the delight of copy deadlines. In the previous edition of The Bridge I did say that autumn is all about budgets and forward planning. Back then, I focussed on the forward planning element linked to the Strategic Plan and Climate Change Agenda, which is moving forward well (see page 4). This time around I am going to focus on the budgets that the Council has just set for the 2020-21 financial year.

The Council has agreed to set a precept of £782,827 for the next financial year. Based on the Council's plans for the year this increase is very low and has been achieved due to the local government pension revaluation that has resulted in a cost reduction of £47,000. Without this the planned spending would have resulted in an increase of 10% - much more than your Councillors would agree!

So where is your money going? The Neighbourhood Plan is on target to be completed in the next financial year and this will result in planning guidance that will have to be taken into account by developers and the planning authority when they consider any future development in the town; so please do get involved and have your say (see page 5 for more information about this process and how to get involved).

The Council is continuing to save money towards future expensive refurbishment works on the Corn Exchange roof, Parish Church wall and footpaths and play equipment, as well as spending money on the Town Hall to improve its energy efficiency that will reduce costs in the coming years. Money has been set aside to support various town events and celebrations again for this year, including but not limited to Armed Forces Day (date for your diary - Slepe Hall field 27 June!), VE Day celebrations (more details to follow) and Remembrance Day.

Meanwhile, £22,000 has been allocated towards grant funding of numerous groups and organisations that provide support and advice to residents of the town, with a further £40,000 allocated to groups who make the town vibrant, including Christmas Lights, Carnival, FESt, Town Team and In Bloom. Finally, money has also been allocated towards the refurbishment of Warner's Park Pavilion (see page 8).

Going back to the Strategic Plan and the Climate Change Agenda, the Amenities Committee will be looking at plans at its next meeting to introduce some areas of wild and natural flowers to support wildlife in Ramsey Road Cemetery. This will be a joint project with Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC), using the expertise they have gained in the last couple of years in both St Neots and Huntingdon to establish areas of natural planting. In addition, the Committee will be considering options to replace existing diesel and petrol GM equipment with greener battery-operated versions where practicable when it needs replacing. The positive impacts of this will be to reduce the Council's reliance on fossil fuels whilst improving the working environment for the GM team, as this equipment is much quieter to operate, does not vibrate so much - and results in much less disturbance and pollution.

Early indications show that it will not be feasible to remove the use of pesticides completely, but there are some areas where we will be trying to not spray for weed control especially where grass abuts footpaths in our parks.

The Property Committee have already decided to replace all lighting in the town hall with LED alternatives and we are currently looking for the best option. This month they will be considering the installation of secondary double glazing in the building to further reduce energy costs. As the building is grade II listed, we are not able to replace all the windows easily, so this is the best option. Our energy suppliers are already providing us with renewable energy, but we do want to reduce the amount we use overall.

Do you want to have your say on anything the Town Council is planning to do - or raise anything that you feel it should be doing? Come along to this year's Annual Town Meeting, which will be held at the Burleigh Hill Community Centre on Saturday 7 March, 2020, starting at 6.00pm. The council is sometimes criticised for 'ignoring the north of St Audrey Lane', so if you live in this part of the town (or if you don't) this is your chance to attend an open meeting to raise any matters that you feel passionate about. It will be preceded by a Community Fair when you will be able to get information on all the groups the Town Council supports financially to find out what they do, how you can get involved or get support and advice/assistance from them. In addition, representatives from St Ives Eco Action Group will be in attendance to give you information on how you can help to reduce your carbon emissions and 'live and work' greener.

Cycling in St Ives: our follow up



Thank you everyone who took the time to contact us following the article on cycling and bike parking in St Ives Councillor Pallant wrote for the last edition of The Bridge. We have taken your comments on board and looked into a number of options as a result. The majority of requests were for additional bike parking in the town and, as a result, a meeting was arranged with the local Highway Officer to look at the feasibility in a variety of locations around the town.

Here is a summary of the locations we discussed

Location	Who Owns It?	Comments/Outcome
Crown Place (additional racks).	Cambridgeshire County Council Highways	Although it is possible to add more racks in Crown Place, recent observations suggest that the current racks are considerably underused.
Along the side of the White Hart Public House	Cambridgeshire County Council Highways	Insufficient space.
Along the Quay	Cambridgeshire County Council Highways	The addition of cycle racks would be feasible here - however, it was felt that they would detract from the amenity and would be an obstruction, particularly in the summer months when the area can become busy.
Between the Oliver Cromwell statue and the war memorial	Cambridgeshire County Council Highways	There are already cycle racks in the centre of Market Hill and, although these are heavily used, the inclusion of more would cause difficulties. Although acknowledged that people do chain bikes to the War Memorial railings the installation of racks in this location was considered inappropriate.
At the One Leisure facility	Huntingdonshire District Council	This has been passed on to HDC for consideration and will be progressed in the coming months
All the car parks in St Ives	Huntingdonshire District Council	This has been passed on to HDC for consideration and will be progressed in the coming months
To the rear of St Ives Town Hall	St Ives Town Council	Although the space is limited and there are difficulties with the location in terms of the emergency exit/disabled entrance, more consideration is to be given to this as a potential location.

New leader confirmed for Huntingdonshire District Council



Ryan Fuller

Councillor Ryan Fuller was elected as the new Executive Leader of Huntingdonshire District Council at the full Council meeting held on Wednesday 4 December. Councillor Fuller has been an elected member for the ward of St Ives West since May 2012 and moves into the position of Executive Leader from his previous role as Deputy Executive Leader with responsibility for Housing, Planning and Economic Development.

challenges that face our District. Huntingdonshire is a great place to live, work and visit and a lot of hard work goes on across our diverse range of communities to make it that way. Under my leadership Huntingdonshire District Council will continue to strive to deliver first-rate services and to improve the quality of life for all residents."

Councillor Fuller said: "I am honoured to have been elected by my fellow District Councillors to take up this role at Huntingdonshire District Council and to lead the Council at this crucial time. This is an exciting and pioneering new period for our District as we seek new and innovative ways to support our residents' aspirations and tackle the

Following the official election of the new Executive Leader, Councillor Fuller announced his new Cabinet, including Councillor Jon Neish as his Deputy Executive Leader.

This follows the resignation of previous Leader, Councillor Graham Bull, on 9 November to focus on personal priorities.

Pavilion Plan Progresses



The plans for the Pavilion refurbishment are moving forward in a very positive way. The working party carried out some extensive consultation over the summer to gauge your views on what you would like to see included in the plans. The surveys show clearly that people expect a refurbished pavilion that can offer public toilets, a meeting space, kitchen facilities and be capable of serving many needs, particularly for sports and fitness activities.

This has clear benefits for community health. The idea of a café, in various possible forms, was strongly supported, though the most effective way of delivering this is not clear from the survey. In addition, a wide range of community activities become possible that the present facilities cannot support, such as entertainment and social events, both public and private. A meeting space for voluntary organisations is also likely to prove popular. It is likely to prove a useful facility for local organisations working with both adults and children, focussing particularly both on pre-school age children and the over-50s. An unexpected set of responses highlighted the desire for a safe and informal place where people can meet socially. This implies experience of social isolation, so with the right design, there could also be a community mental health benefit.

the pavilion could produce increased and effective use of the park. Attention must be paid to the concerns expressed by respondents, both in design of the building to reduce the impact of vandalism, and where possible to reduce the scope for antisocial behaviour. However, the small number of concerns expressed was vastly outweighed by the very large number of positive responses covering a very wide range of possible benefits, including support for community organisations and physical and mental health.

As a result, the plans submitted for planning permission reflect what you have said you want. The maximum capacity at any one time is 80 people, so there are not many events and activities that could not be catered for.

The projected cost of delivery for this facility is estimated to be £250,000 and so the hard work now starts to raise this money. The building originally was built through public donations and it would be great to do the same again.

Would you be willing to hold a fund-raising event or make a donation? Or do you have any suggestions on how this money could be raised? If so, please do get in touch through the town hall or clerk@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk many thanks, the Pavilion Working Party.

The Bridge Money Advice Centre (TBMAC)

By Ian Slater, TBMAC Centre Manager

People work hard for their money, but often it isn't enough, and with the easy access to credit in Britain, it's easy to overspend on a credit card or take out a high interest payday loan. There are many reasons why people get into debt (including loss of employment, gambling, poor budgeting, fines and health issues). Even high earners can suddenly find themselves facing impossible demands for immediate repayments. When debt becomes unmanageable it's time to seek help from The Bridge Money Advice Centre (TBMAC).

At TBMAC, we start by trying to relieve the stress and anxiety that people with money worries are feeling. We do this by writing to creditors - those companies and organisations demanding repayment - and asking them to put a hold on their demands. In the meantime, we work with clients to maximise their income and estimate their essential monthly expenditure so that we can come up with a remedy to lift them out of debt.

There are a range of solutions we can use, with debt management plans and a Debt Relief Order being the two most common ones. We rarely advise on filing for bankruptcy - because there are other less drastic remedies available. All our advice is free.

We strive to give clients hope, encouragement, friendship and advice. We promise to walk with them throughout their journey out of debt. At TBMAC we are all too aware that debt can really harm a person's health and wellbeing, so we try to take a holistic approach. We try to help in any way we can, so we don't just focus solely on the debts.

TBMAC is a staffed by volunteer advisers and is an outreach service from The Bridge Church.

The small team of advisers come from a number of different local churches. For every hour we spend with a client, we typically spend three or four hours negotiating with creditors - such as banks, debt collectors, government departments and courts. Our volunteers give their time freely - anything from half a day to three or four days a week.

If you're in debt, stop worrying and contact us at The Bridge for more information: debtadvice@thebridgechurch.co.uk or call 01480 498802.

The Bridge Counselling Centre

The Bridge Counselling Centre provides a professional, friendly and caring counselling service to the people of St Ives and the surrounding area. They aim is to provide the opportunity to explore issues in a supportive non-judgemental environment in order to work towards constructive change. The service offers counselling to individuals, couples, children and families over a wide range of issues including depression, anger, abuse, trauma, relationships, stress, loss and bereavement.

All of the centre's counsellors have undertaken professional training and, in order to provide excellence in the clinical services in line with good practice and guidance, they are all registered members of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy.

Clients are referred to the service by the Bridge Debt Advice centre, the local General Practitioners surgeries, and local social housing operators, but increasingly people chose to self-refer by contacting the service directly. Counselling is provided to people regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or faith. The service places no limit on the maximum number of sessions available, basing this purely on a client's clinical need.

For those clients who can afford it, a charge of £25 per session is made, but for many the service works to significantly subsidise this cost, where possible. This money goes towards the professional costs of running the service as well as supporting the ongoing professional development training of the counsellors.

The counsellors, the supervisor and the administrator are all volunteers from the community, serving the community. Local people helping local people.



The Ouse Valley Way Long-distance Footpath



The Ouse Valley Way is a 150-mile footpath that follows the origin of the River Great Ouse from its source near Syresham in Northamptonshire to its mouth in The Wash near Kings Lynn. The path begins outside the Kings Head pub in Syresham and finishes on the Green Quay in Kings Lynn.

The Great Ouse Valley Trust is very keen to let more people know about the Cambridgeshire stretch of this wonderful footpath. In the past, Huntingdonshire District Council had promoted the path with excellent illustrated guides and maps. Unfortunately, austerity and the transfer of the maintenance of the path to the County Council means the path is no longer celebrated or regularly maintained, and some of it is in a poor state of repair.

The Trust is trying to develop a new relationship between the riverside parishes and towns through which the path passes and the County Council to ensure that it is properly maintained and promoted to the public. We are also looking to reroute it away from the areas where it is in conflict with industrial sites, most notably in St. Ives. We are working closely with Cambridge County Council Highways to see that this happens.

We are currently surveying the whole path to look at its strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities so this data can be used both for maintenance and promotion purposes. Our long-term plan is to develop a mobile phone app that will allow users to navigate

the route and find information on historical sites, natural features and local amenities on the way.

The length of the path though Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire is very close to 26 miles and it is the location of the annual Ouse Valley Way Marathon organised by the BRJ Running club from Huntingdon. This is a very popular event and runners come from far afield to enjoy the wonderful countryside and tranquility of the riverside.

The Maps

With the permission of Huntingdonshire District Council, we have reproduced a series of seven walkers' maps to indicate the route of the Ouse Valley Way through Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire - from Eaton Socon to Earith. As these maps were first created in 1992, some details and references in the accompanying text by D N Potter, then Director of Planning at HDC, will have changed. In any case, the limitations of reproduction here means that the text will be difficult to read. We recommend that walkers planning an outing along the path also carry a copy of the latest edition of the relevant Ordnance Survey map for their area to ensure they do not stray!

The survey work being carried out by Trust volunteers will eventually enable us to revise these maps and the original accompanying text for reproduction in a more practical form.

Meet the Street weekend

31st January to 2nd February



by Amanda Mumford



The CALMtown vision is for St Ives to be a place where people feel able to talk about their feelings. Life can be challenging, and this affects us all in different ways, but if we all do our bit, looking out for ourselves and each other, then together we can make an extraordinary difference.

“Meet the Street” is an initiative inspired by the first CALMtown meeting back in November 2018, after which our family decided we wanted to stop just thinking how it might be nice to get to know our neighbours better, and actually do something to make that happen.

We invited our whole street over for a Sunday afternoon of Christmas drinks. We took invites round to every house (46 of them), baked some mince pies, put the kettle on, and waited to see who would pop in.

It was a lovely afternoon – plenty of people came, and lots of people met neighbours they’d never spoken to before.

There was a nice buzz and talk of arranging a BBQ in the summer, when the weather should be better, and we could all get out onto the green.

We got to thinking – perhaps we could inspire other neighbourhoods to give it a go? And so, Meet the Street was born.

From Friday 31 January to Sunday 2 February, we are aiming to inspire 50 streets in the town to run their own Meet the Street event, which could be residential or business. Set aside a couple of hours that weekend to get to know those you live near to – all you need is some tea, coffee and biscuits and a willingness to open your home or office. You can look at our website and Facebook page for hints, tips and resources. Our advice would be just go for it! And don’t forget to let us know how you get on!

You can contact CALMtown St Ives via our website (www.calmtown.org) or Facebook page (www.facebook.com/CALMtown). CALMtown is a community-led initiative so we’re relying on you to get inspired and get involved.

Distribution Of The Langley Bread

The long-standing tradition of distributing the Langley Bread in St Ives took place on 8th January in the Corn Exchange.

The tradition goes back to the 1650s, after local St Ives philanthropist Robert Langley died and left money for the purchase of bread to be distributed annually to widows and widowers who reside within the parish boundary of St Ives and are on the electoral roll.

Over the years butter, jam, tea, sugar, biscuits and orange juice have been added to the original loaf of bread. Previously, Waitrose have assisted with this event (see picture), while this year the bags were as full as ever with thanks to the Co-op in the north of St Ives, who contributed the items.

Filled bags ready for distribution at the event two years ago.





Norris Museum: Working with the St Ives community

The Norris Museum team work very hard to make the museum and the collections as accessible as possible to the residents of St Ives. Here are just a few ways we are achieving this.

Over the last year, Hannah, our Learning and Outreach Officer has been working with a wonderful team of volunteers to redesign the museum's school visit offer.

This year, the museum has welcomed almost 900 school children through its doors, who have experienced learning workshops on the Second World War; the history of our local river, the Great Ouse; toys through history; and Jurassic Huntingdonshire; as well as town history walks on St Ives history in general and the 1689 Great Fire of St Ives.

All our workshops include handling real historic artefacts, time to explore the interactive and engaging museum gallery space, practical activities and creative crafts.

More workshops are in development and will be introduced in 2020 – including a delve into Roman Huntingdonshire and Prehistoric People of the Stone, Bronze and Iron Age. To find out more about our schools workshops, please contact Hannah at learning@norrismuseum.org.uk. You can also find out lots more info on our website: www.norrismuseum.org.uk

Recently, the Museum took part in Museums in Cambridgeshire Awards of 2019 and entered 'Plants through the ages' in the Project of the Year category. The criteria to meet were to recognise a creative approach to using museum collections as a foundation for reaching a new audience, with a clearly articulated goal and a successful, measured result. Our project took place in partnership with St Ives in Bloom and Spring Common Academy. A huge thank you to everyone involved.

On 15 October, we held a launch event for the KICK legacy exhibition. As detailed in previous issues of The Bridge, the museum team has been working in partnership with KICK, a St Ives based youth work charity, and a group of young people from St Ivo School to put together an exhibition based on what life was like for young people in St Ives during the Second World War.

On 4 November, we attended the awards ceremony at the Museum of Zoology in Cambridge, and we are delighted to say the project was named as Highly Commended. The judges said of the project that it: "...brought together a creative idea for using

their museum collection and spaces whilst meeting a clear local need. The team partnered with their town's 'in Bloom' competition group to develop work-related learning sessions Year 11 students with SEND, ranging from horticultural skills to research and tie-dyeing to making tea from herbs in the garden."

Since February 2019, The KICK Legacy group have worked with professional artists to create exhibits using textiles, ceramics, willow, drama, music and film. They recorded the oral histories of local people who were children in St Ives during the war and these interviews have helped the young people understand just how different life was in the 1940's for people their age.

The exhibition was displayed in the Community Room at the museum, from 16th October to 31st October. Everybody who saw it was impressed. The KICK Legacy group received some amazing feedback and they enjoyed sharing their work with the people of St Ives; and having the exhibition as a resource for local people wanting to find out more about what life was like in St Ives during the war years. The Heritage Lottery Fund funded the

River Watchers Wanted



**Are you a keen observer of comings and goings on the Great Ouse?
Maybe you could help us.**

The Council is keen to obtain a record of how many boats visit The Waits and for how long they stay.

At present we have signage indicating a maximum stay of 48 hours on the moorings, but several nearby residents have confirmed that they have seen boats staying long beyond that.

There are, of course, some seasonal exceptions to the rule – for example when the river is running very high and full and boat movement isn't possible, as we experienced at the end of last year.

However, in general we want to ensure that the moorings stay available for as many people as possible to visit our town. We plan to seek consent to legally enforce the 48-hour limit, but we need to compile a record of how the moorings are used, particularly throughout the summer months.

We are looking for volunteer 'wardens' to monitor and report on how many boats visit the moorings and how long they stay there.

Is this something you'd like to help with? If so, please contact the Town Clerk: clerk@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk

Council Team Takes Visual Awareness and Sighted Guiding Training

On 29 October, staff members and councillors from St Ives Town Council immersed themselves in a visual awareness and sighted guiding training session run by My Guide staff from the Guide Dogs Association for the Blind.

The training session was held to provide participants with the confidence and key skills to be able to offer sighted guiding safely to a person who is blind or partially sighted. Those attending were involved in a range of practical and discussion-based exercises to increase their awareness of these people's needs.

As well as trying out simulation spectacles, which give an idea of the barriers presented due to a range of visual impairments such as retinitis pigmentosa and macular degeneration, the participants practised the sighted

guiding techniques that had been demonstrated by going on a blindfold walk around St Ives. This raised awareness of everyday issues such as advertising boards and pavement parking. The group also guided guide dog owner Barry around the Norris Museum, making use of the tactile displays and ensuring their verbal communication was clear to ensure he had an accessible experience.

The My Guide sighted guiding service managed by Guide Dogs is available to anyone who is blind or visually impaired; people do not have to be existing Guide Dogs service users. The service provides a fully trained volunteer who can visit the service user weekly to give support in getting out and about to access activities outside their home.

My Guide partnerships put on a range of activities, including local walks with coffeeshop stops; visiting town centres; attending local community groups; going to the gym or swimming pool; and practising long cane routes. Current and past service users and volunteers always speak incredibly positively and enthusiastically about the service in terms of the benefits of getting out and about and also regarding the social aspects of the service.

If you are or know of someone who would be interested in the My Guide service, or if you would be interested in sighted guide training for a group of people, please contact the **Peterborough Mobility Team on 0345 1430223.**

We cover Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

What's on?

TOWN COUNCIL, CIVIC AND RELATED EVENTS

JANUARY

- 11 Exhibition: St Ives – the port on the river** – A temporary exhibition from the Town Team exploring the important story of the Great River Ouse, Norris Museum (runs until 14th March)
- 13 St Ives Adult Learning.** First day of term for adult evening/daytime/Saturday courses with Start dates vary, see www.aclearning.org.uk
- 15 St Ives Tabletop, Board and Role Playing Games, 7.30-11pm, Corn Exchange.** Entry £5 www.stivestabletop.uk
- 22 St Ives Eco Action Meeting,** do you care about the environment? Would you like to get together with others who share your passion for living more sustainably in St Ives? 7.30pm, St Ives Methodist Church.
- 29 St Ives Tabletop, Board and Role Playing Games, 7.30-11pm, Corn Exchange.** Entry £5 www.stivestabletop.uk

FEBRUARY

- 1 Saturday workshops, St Ives Adult Learning;** baking, Malaysian/Indian cooking, art, reflexology, calligraphy, digital photography, dieting mindset, fused glass jewellery. www.aclearning.org.uk or 01480 495717
- 3 Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group:** see page 4 – for more information and how to get involved
- 12 St Ives Tabletop, Board and Role Playing Games, 7.30-11pm, Corn Exchange.** Entry £5 www.stivestabletop.uk
- 14 Talk: The History of the Valentine Card** – Spend the afternoon of valentines day with us – discover the history of the valentine card and enjoy a cup of tea with cake. Doors open 2pm for 2.30pm; Tickets £6. The Norris Museum.
- 15 Neighbourhood Plan:** Consultation at the Farmers' Market

- 15 Pebbles Club: New Year, New Start.** 10am-12pm. Story Time at 10.30am. Crafts, stories and more – all ages welcome, activities aimed at 3-6year olds. £2 per child drop in. Norris Museum.
- 19 Twilight at the Museums: Shooting stars.** 4.30pm-7.30pm. Create shooting stars and complete the shooting star gallery trail to earn a prize! Free to drop in, The Norris Museum.
- 21 St Ives 1940's Event** - Tickets are now available at Burgess Hall, at 7:00PM.
- 26 St Ives Tabletop, Board and Role Playing Games, 7.30-11pm, Corn Exchange.** Entry £5 www.stivestabletop.uk

MARCH

- 2 Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting**
- 7 Community Fair and Annual Town Meeting.** Burleigh Hill community Centre. Contact 01480 388929 for more details.
- 7 Saturday workshops, St Ives Adult Learning;** beekeeping, breadmaking, wedding flowers, dowsing, first aid, assertiveness, Indian head massage and more. www.aclearning.org.uk or 01480 495717
- 11 St Ives Tabletop, Board and Role Playing Games, 7.30-11pm, Corn Exchange.** Entry £5 www.stivestabletop.uk

APRIL

- 4 Exhibition: Ramsey Abbey – Treasures and History.** A Joint exhibition with Chatteris Museum, Ramsey Rural Museum and other partners exploring the Abbeys History.
- 6 Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**
- 8 St Ives Tabletop, Board and Role Playing Games, 7.30-11pm, Corn Exchange.** Entry £5 www.stivestabletop.uk

- 9 Bonnets, Baskets and Bunnies: Easter Family Event Day.** 10am-4pm. Join us at the Norris Museum for traditional Easter crafts and activities. Enter our Childrens Easter Bonnet Competition – Judging is at 12pm. Easter stories at 11am and 2pm. £3 per child to drop in.
- 18 Pebbles Club: Easter Egg-citement** 10am-12pm. Story Time at 10.30am. Crafts, stories and more – all ages welcome, activities aimed at 3-6year olds. £2 per child drop in. Norris Museum.
- 12 St Ives Tabletop, Board and Role Playing Games, 7.30-11pm, Corn Exchange.** Entry £5 www.stivestabletop.uk

REGULAR EVENTS

- Dementia Friendly Events** (for those living with dementia and their carers)
- MEMORY LANE SINGING CAFÉ** every 2nd Monday each month, 10am-12noon. Crossways Centre, Ramsey Road. Contact: George 07725 588 145.
- LOVE TO MOVE GYMNASTICS** 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Mondays each month, 10.30am-12noon, Crossways Centre, Ramsey Road. Contact: Kim 07853 199 185.
- CRAFTS AT THE CORN EXCHANGE** Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month, 2-4pm. Contact: Sandra 07913 346 845.
- DEMENTIA LUNCHES** 1st Wednesday of every month, Slepe Hall Hotel. Contact: Heather Jones 01480 841543.
- DEMENTIA CAFÉ** 3rd Thursday each month, 10am, The Free Church, Market Hill. Contact: Pauline Meakins 07710 964 969.

Regular Events At The Norris contact info@norrismuseum.org.uk for further details

Coffee, Cake and Culture Group 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month, 10.30am-12noon

Reminiscence at the Norris Museum 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month 10.30-11.30am

Pop Up Café with SENSE Every 2nd Thursday each month. Drop in for a cuppa. Proceeds to our work with SENSE, 2.00-3.30pm.

Men's Group 4th Tuesday of the month 2-4pm. Where men can meet and socialise and take part in an activity. £5 to cover refreshments and materials.

Farmers' Market 8.30am-2.00pm in the Sheep Market

January – 4th and 18th

February – 1st and 15th

March – 7th and 21st

April – 4th and 18th

May – 2nd and 16th

Regular Community Group Meetings

COPE (Cambridgeshire Older People's Enterprise) Every 2nd Friday each month, St Ives Free Church 10.30am-12.30pm. Speaker/free refreshments/raffle. £2 entry charge. Contact: gerald.collins1@ntlworld.com, 01480 370808.

St Ives in Bloom Regular work parties on Saturdays 10am-12noon, 1st Saturday of each month. Check for details www.stivesinbloom.co.uk, email siibinfo@gmail.com.

St Ives Choral Society Tuesdays – 7.30 – 9.30, Crossways Centre during school term time. All Welcome. www.stives-choral.org.uk REGULAR ROYAL AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION (RAFA) MEETINGS

RAFA Branch Social Meeting First Wednesday of every month – held at RAF Wyton – 7:30pm for 8pm. Each month there is a different talk/event. Friendly and welcoming, new and existing members most welcome. Contact: 01480 465395 or email: rafa.huntingdon1@btinternet.com for further details.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

15 Jan	Personnel Committee Meeting
22 Jan	Planning, Property and Amenities
12 Feb	Full Council & Planning
26 Feb	Planning & Amenities
11 Mar	Full Council & Planning
8 Apr	Full Council & Planning
15 Apr	Personnel

PLEASE NOTE

You are welcome to address any Council or Committee Meeting as long as you are on the Electoral Register for St Ives. Meetings normally start at 7pm in the Town Hall. You may speak for up to three minutes, subject to the maximum provision of 15 minutes for all speakers.

Your questions at meetings must be relevant to matters in which the Town Council has powers or duties, or matters relating to the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of the town.

Contacts:

Burgess Hall www.oneleisure.net

Corn Exchange 01480 496454 info@thecornexchange.org.uk

Crossways Christian Centre 01480 454220

HDC www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/healthwalks

Norris Museum 01480 497314 info@norrismuseum.org.uk

St Ives Gardening Club www.sigc.weebly.com

Town Hall 01480 388929 clerk@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk

Town Team 01480 383612 www.theoldriverportstives.co.uk

Who does what?

YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Has your local street light gone out? It is sometimes difficult to remember which level of our local government – Town, District or County Council – is responsible for which service area. We hope that this guide steers you in the right direction. We take this opportunity to also list which of your local Councillors serve on which council.

ST IVES TOWN COUNCIL

Telephone **01480 388929** or visit www.stivestowncouncil.gov.uk

Responsible for:

- The Waits
- Warner's Park
- Slepe Hall Field,
- Children's play equipment
- Allotments
- Burleigh Hill Community Centre
- Seats
- Cemeteries
- Corn Exchange
- Town Hall
- Norris Museum
- Public toilets

Statutory consultee for planning matters.

Actively supporting the economic development and community well-being of St Ives.

SITC is currently composed of 17 Councillors who represent four wards. The composition of the Council is: Independents 15, Conservatives 2.

Your Councillors:



Angela Ayers-Wilson



Richard Bellamy



John Davies



Lynn Davies



Nick Dibben



Angie Dickinson



Tim Drye



Rianna D'Souza



Ryan Fuller



Abid (Pasco) Hussain



Margaret King



Brian Luter



Jonathan Pallant



Phil Pope



Carla Pegoraro



Daniel Rowe



John Tiddy

Please note that all Town Councillors' email addresses are in the following style Angela.Ayers-wilson@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk

correct at the time of print

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Telephone **01480 388388** or visit www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Responsible for:

- Rubbish collection
- Street cleaning
- Planning and planning enforcement
- Housing improvement grants
- Environmental health
- Licensing
- Elections
- Parks and open spaces
- One Leisure Centre & Burgess Hall
- Housing
- Economic development
- Car parks
- CCTV
- Council Tax
- Wilhorn Meadow & The Thicket
- Building control
- Voluntary sector

HDC is composed of 52 Councillors who represent 29 wards across the District. The current composition of the Council is: Conservative 29, Liberal Democrat 7, HDC Independent Group 10, Labour 4, Independent 1.

Your Councillors:

Richard Bellamy

Richard.Bellamy@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

John Davies

John.Davies@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Angie Dickinson

Angie.Dickinson@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Ryan Fuller

Ryan.Fuller@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Telephone **0345 045 5200** or visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Responsible for:

- Education
- Roads and traffic
- Footpaths,
- Libraries
- Social Services
- Park and ride
- Recycling
- Street Lighting
- Trading standards

CCC is composed of 61 Councillors who cover the five District Council areas across Cambridgeshire.

The current composition of the Council is: Conservatives 36, Independents 1, St. Neots Independent Group 2, Labour 7, Liberal Democrats 15.

Your Councillors:

Kevin Reynolds

Kevin.Reynolds@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Ryan Fuller

Ryan.Fuller@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

St Ives Town Council

Town Hall, Market Hill, The Old Riverport,
St Ives, Cambs PE27 5AL
Telephone: 01480 388929
Email clerk@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk
Website www.stivestowncouncil.gov.uk



Farmers Market of the Year Winner 2015



Gold Award Winner 2016, 2017 & 2018

