

JANUARY 2019

# THE Bridge

- Responsible dog ownership
- Farmers' Market
- A Bridge not too far
- Local plan
- Supporting our volunteers



News, views, events and more from your Town Council

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Psychologists tell us regularly that January is the saddest month of the year, and Monday is the saddest day of the week. These combine with other factors like the receipt of credit card bills to give the third Monday in January, this year January 21st, the title of "Blue Monday". Rather than being sad about being sad, perhaps we can use these feelings constructively. Firstly, we might simply break the habit, of keeping quiet about being sad, learn ways to simply talk and listen with colleagues, friends and neighbours about our quite natural feelings. Blue Monday gives us an excuse to raise the subject of our negative feelings and find out that we are not alone in them. Behind the modern social media driven façade of constant energy, happiness and jokes, there are many other responses that develop a rich tapestry of life. Secondly, we can reflect on what we might change, sadness can be an opportunity to look realistically at what we might achieve and enable us to prune activities that aren't working and create more time to reflect before our body and minds bring us to an abrupt stop.

I am keen to find ways that we can support each other's mental health within St Ives, especially making space to address the issues that lead suicide to be the highest cause of death amongst young men. So it was extremely encouraging to find the opportunity to work with Matt Finch, the local Methodist minister and Phil Pope, the previous Mayor and landlord of Floods Tavern. They too share my drive to bring St. Ives together so that we can flourish better together. We have now found great support from the charity CALM (Campaign against Living Miserably) and through its encouragement begun to find those locally who are keen to help. It was wonderful at the end of the year to find that from just a small start many people have indicated how much they want to help with this. Hopefully over the year, we will put together

### FRONT COVER

Irene Valero-Sanchez

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# THE Mayor's Message

By the time you read this, Christmas will have passed and another New Year begun. I hope you were refreshed and encouraged by all that the message of this season can bring and are looking forward to the new possibilities that 2019 can bring.

a team of people who have received support to manage their own emotional wellbeing, can listen out for others who might be in need of a supportive ear and know where to signpost people who need more intense and professional support. Please look out for information about any events that we are able to arrange, if you would like to be on the mailing list – please hand your name into the town hall or email me at [stivescalmtown@gmail.com](mailto:stivescalmtown@gmail.com)

It is time also for me to reflect further on a fascinating year. In the role of Mayor it is very easy to become too busy, but it is also a wonderful opportunity to learn so much more about the way we are blessed within St. Ives. I was thrilled to be at the centre of the memorial and celebrations of the 100th Armistice Day, many people in the town put a lot of work into making the day such a profound and enjoyable experience. It started four years ago when the local British Legion began their Every Man Remembered campaign. Researching the stories of each name on the local memorials and then attending the local churches as their 100th anniversary came around. Their regular attendance over the last four years gave a brief impression of the dread that must have hung over the population never knowing when the dreaded telegram might arrive. The stories of farmhands, shopkeepers, wives and girlfriends showed how mundane were the lives cut short. We were also able to recall how the great challenges that the population had to face led to profound changes in the

way society operated, particularly with the changing contributions of women and the extension of the vote. The resilience and fortitude of that generation, that has now all but left us, gives us many reasons to be thankful.



Going back even further into our St Ives history, it was fascinating to be asked to be present at the public unveiling of the Time Vine project at the Norris Museum. The project was creatively lead by Sara Wilkinson of Bourn Pottery, she was to weave together a clay mosaic of different items from the museum involving a wide range of local community groups including St Ives Day Care Centre, KICK, Heron Club, Huntingdon Muslim Women's Group, Arts on Prescription, Men's Group, Spring Common Academy, Little Miracles Ramsey, The British Legion, Papworth Trust and CATS.

Having considered our past and reflected on the challenges ahead we particularly need to consider how to maintain a vibrant town centre that helps us come together and see familiar faces. Current statistics and local conversations tell us that high street shopping is facing mounting pressures from the convenience of online purchasing.

I still love trying to spend my own money locally. We are blessed with a variety of different shops that can appeal to a variety of ages and pockets. It was very reassuring that following the closure of New Look the site was quickly occupied by Mountain Warehouse and I would encourage you all to shop locally when you can. But shops are no longer sufficient, we are fortunate to have such a picturesque town centre, blessed with many good cafés that provide the opportunity to sit down and soak up the atmosphere over a pleasant cup of coffee or tea. There is an enthusiastic band of volunteers, the Town Team, FESt and SITI in particular, who come up with stimulating ideas for events around town that draw us together across the day from morning to evening. I would value any further ideas you might have to stimulate activities and maintain the relevance of the town centre to as wide a range of our population as possible. Please get in touch if you can by emailing [tim.drye@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:tim.drye@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk)

So let me close by wishing you again a happy and prosperous New Year, where together we can reflect well on all our feelings, draw from the resources in our past and look confidently to a thriving future together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Drye', written in a cursive style.

Tim Drye,  
Mayor of St Ives





## NEW COUNCILLOR **Lynn Davies**



After my election to the St Ives Town Council in May, my life has certainly gone up a gear. I would like to thank all the people of West ward who voted for me. My intention is to learn the ropes and be the best representative to all who live in the ward. Whilst that is proving to be quite a time-consuming but enjoyable learning curve, I am still finding time to spend with my family and follow my interests.

For those of you who do not know me, I moved to St Ives in 1969 as a young mother with a small baby. Having always been a busy person, and feeling a little lonely in a new town. I had the opportunity to open an Oxfam shop in Bridge Street, for those of you who remember the butcher's (which is now Armando's). That is where my love affair with St Ives began, my daily walk to the shop, past the river and its wonderful bridge, feeding the ducks with my little girl. Then there were the generous and friendly people of St Ives who made running the shop such a pleasure.

Now some 49 years later I feel the same about St Ives, and with three grown up children and five grandchildren, I enjoy even more living in such a friendly and pretty place. When I am not spending time with my family, you can usually find me in my garden pottering about and listening to Bob Dylan, Van Morrison or even Jackson Browne. I have a great love of music and reading, television is low on my list, having only watched two programmes since last Christmas, both Sir David Attenborough documentaries. Love of the natural world and conservation are of great interest to me, and I love the animals in my garden. I have a robin that eats mealworms from my hand.

My daughter and I share a love of history and heritage and use our English Heritage membership to its full capacity. David my eldest son and I are long-time supporters and fundraisers for Help for Heroes, and you will probably have seen us running a tombola stall at Armed Forces Day, the carnival and The Christmas lights switch on. Robin, my youngest son, and I are keen larpers. For those of you who do not know what a larper is, it is live action roleplay. It involves running around woods, facing off and defeating other tribes and demons. My larp character is The Dowager Baroness Torfrida Hawkwinter Solarian-born Calinthean. I love the ability to absorb myself into something totally outside my normal life.

Being part of the St Ives community is a pleasure and I am proud to represent all in the West ward.

## MARKET OPERATIVES **James & Rob**



James & Rob started as market operatives back in May. James, who lives in Huntingdon and works full-time in a High-School in London, said "I was surprised by the diversity of products on show at the market. There is a variety of really fresh fruit & veg, a wide selection of cheeses, meats, breads, cider, fantastic cakes and even curry sauces and tasty samosas. I would definitely encourage the public to come down and take a look"

Rob, who lives in St Ives and is a semi-retired IT analyst said "It's tough at times getting started at 5:30am, especially in the winter, but we need all the stalls set-up in time for the first traders arriving shortly after 7am. The traders are very appreciative of the work we do for them and we seem to be getting a new influx of traders so the popularity of the St Ives Farmers' Market is increasing"

*"It's tough at times getting started at 5:30am, especially in the winter"*



## Neighbourhood policing in changing times

Following the Local Police Review in Cambridgeshire and the retirement of a much-loved Neighbouring Sergeant in St Ives and Ramsey, I found myself being posted to my first Neighbourhoods' Policing role in my 12 years of service.

Prior to this I spent many years as a uniform PC and more recently a Response Sergeant, as well as training as a Detective and most recently working as a Detective Sergeant.

I am delighted to now be working from the charming town of St Ives and in the wider area of St Ives and Ramsey where I get to work with some exceptional Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) Police Community

ensuring personnel are deployed appropriately and to best effect to serve their communities. This is a somewhat corporate way of saying some things may change in how the St Ives and Ramsey officers work, which will please some people and displease others. We will not be able to continue to do all that we once did and we will adapt our working practices to include new areas of concern as they arise.

*"I have arrived at my post with a fresh pair of eyes and a new viewpoint."*

Support Officers (PCSOs) who have a wealth of experience and local knowledge.

Whilst I haven't worked in this area of business before I see that as an advantage. I have arrived at my post with a fresh pair of eyes and a new viewpoint. This is essential at this time of restructure and reassessing the capacity and capability of Neighbourhood Officers.

Working alongside partners, I aim to achieve the best use of NPT resources,

The focus of policing has changed significantly, and we are far more concerned now with safeguarding the vulnerable and delivering a 'victim first' approach. As a result, our work is often subtle and immeasurable by traditional means - which is not to say that it's not having an impact. You may not see a police car drive through your village every day, but there may well be officers in the local schools engaging with and empowering dozens of children and youths 'to stay safe be seen', 'just say no', or 'run, hide, tell'

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERGEANT  
**Alice Draper**



and many other messages that we've delivered to build safer communities, reduce the fear of crime, and open lines of communication.

The keen observers amongst you may notice strategic themes from the Police and Crime Plan 2017-2020 alluded to in my comments. With the Police and Crime Commissioner being local to this area, I am going to focus on the plans he has laid out. Recently, he and I were on foot patrol in St Ives discussing local issues when we were deployed to a rowdy incident in Warner's Park, which resulted in two arrests for public order offences. Both suspects were well known to the Police and have been involved in recent antisocial behaviour (ASB) locally. Both were charged and will soon attend court as a result. The final element to the Police and Crime Plan is of course attacking criminality. I'm not sure the PCC intended to be quite so hands-on in this but his assistance in dealing with the suspects was much appreciated, and he experienced first-hand the impact of ASB and the challenges faced by officers dealing with such incidents with limited resources.

## Clerk's Corner

I have been back with the Council for 12 months now and I really do not know where the time has gone. It is as if I was never away, although as the saying goes a break is as good as a rest and I do feel totally invigorated and back to where I was when I started working for this wonderful town back in 2007 – but with some valuable knowledge and experience behind me.

It is clear that there is still a plethora of people in St Ives who are passionate about the town, the community and its environs. I have had the pleasure once again over the last 12 months of working with a number of these in many different ways – from big events like the Freedom Parade to helping and facilitating small groups and individuals to make a difference. One project I have been proud to be involved in this year is helping all those who worked so hard to bring the 'Tommy Silhouette' project to fruition – if it had not been for the passion of just a couple of people as a town we would not be the proud owner of three of these commemoration statues. They will be displayed again in 2019 when the Poppy Appeal starts in October.

Looking ahead, one of the actions I am most looking forward to working on this year is the refurbishment of the pavilion in Warner's Park. This is a long time overdue and bringing to life the aspirations of the community is what makes my job so enjoyable.

Although employed by the Town Council, my team and I take pride in the fact we work for the community of St Ives and really do want to continue to work with everyone else who also wants to make a difference to the town.

I am delighted that Council has chosen to provide ongoing financial support to organisations that provide support and assistance to some of the less able parts of this community and I look forward to helping these groups in the coming years.



Alison Benfield  
**TOWN CLERK**

## Supporting Our Volunteers

The Town Council is justifiably proud of the many volunteer support groups in St Ives who provide residents with help when it's needed and the community groups who organise exciting and interesting events for everyone to enjoy.

The Council's Strategic Plan acknowledged the pressures the voluntary sector is facing in supporting the local community, as well as the need to promote the town and encourage visitors.

To this end, the Council has decided to change the way it pays annual grants to these groups by pledging four years of guaranteed funding to each of them. This will enable longer term planning and promote security and sustainability for them to achieve their objectives.

### **The Volunteer groups the Council supports which deliver a community-based service are:**

- Huntingdonshire Volunteer Centre
- St Ives Time Bank
- The Bridge Money Advice and Counselling Centres
- Disability Information Service Huntingdonshire
- CAB Rural Cambs
- Relate
- Hunts Society for the Blind
- Kick Roots Youth Club

The latter two are new additions to the groups the Council has regularly supported for a number of years.

### **The Community groups which the Council funds are:**

- FESt
- St Ives in Bloom
- St Ives Carnival and Music Festival
- St Ives Christmas Lights

£29,250 has been allocated in budget for 2019/20 for all the above groups.

Many other groups in the town benefit, or could benefit, from small one-off grants to help with start-up or to boost a specific project, and separate funding has been allocated for this purpose. The Council wants to hear from these groups. Visit our website at [www.stivestowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.stivestowncouncil.gov.uk) for further information.



**The St Ives in Bloom volunteers were instrumental in brightening up Kings Hedges with a range of colourful planters.**





We hope to run features on all our grant-funded groups over coming editions. In this one we focus on a new charity, KICK Roots.

KICK is a registered charity based in St Ives and we have been working with young people aged between 11-19 since 2009. KICK was set up with the aim of “aspiring to improve life”.

Working with local schools and organisations, KICK delivers a range of tailored programmes, helping young people across Cambridgeshire with their transition into adulthood, helping them to deal with issues and emotions and giving them the confidence to fulfil their potential. They currently deliver workshop-based activities programmes, social skills and confidence building programmes and run a kick boxing group at the Broad Leas Centre on Tuesday evenings for young people aged between 12-19.

KICK Roots will be a new and exciting weekly term time club that will be a valuable resource for the support and health and well-being of our young people. Through the youth club our young people will be able to meet new people, socialise, play sports and games, play and listen to music and learn new skills such as cooking, making music, photography, film making etc. They will be inviting people to go and speak to and run workshops with the young people on a monthly basis about the things that

they are interested in, their issues and needs as well as inviting professionals to run sessions around health and wellbeing, positive relationships and online safety. We will be offering the young people a chance to work towards an Arts Award, which is a nationally recognised qualification, during the youth club sessions, motivating them to achieve and be rewarded and recognised for their achievements.

KICK Roots believes that young people want, need and deserve the chance to grow and flourish in a positive, safe and supported environment where they feel valued and are rewarded for their accomplishments. This project will enable the young people involved to develop skills which will carry them forward into their adult life, including social skills, communication skills and a greater understanding of, and ability to be able to cope with, the challenges they may face in their lives.

The club will be starting in the new year and will meet upstairs at The Bridge Church on the Industrial Estate in St Ives.

Further information from [louise@kickyouth.org](mailto:louise@kickyouth.org)



# Budgets

**Whilst pretty much everyone looks forward to the Christmas break and the coming of the New Year, in the world of Town and Parish Clerks and Officers, it is welcomed for different reasons – it generally means that the budget setting process for the next financial year is over and we can breathe a sigh of relief.**

In St Ives this process is kicked off by Karen the Finance Officer who contacts regular suppliers asking them what, if any, increases they will be imposing for the next financial year. To these we then add any known staff cost increases and any other costs that are going to rise or spending that we know needs to happen – for instance new ground maintenance equipment or building repairs. We also at this stage forecast what we think will be spent in the remaining 6 months of the year based on decisions that Councillors have made or we are expecting them to make. Once we get to this stage it is over to the Councillors to 'do their bit'. Each Committee is asked to consider what its plans are for the coming year and beyond in terms of expenditure taking into account what the Council has committed to do in the Strategic Plan. Once we have all this information

together, Karen and I are then in a position to indicate what Precept\* will need to be set to meet the aspirations of the Council.

At this stage Karen and I invite the Councillors to meet with us informally (normally on a Saturday morning in December with mince pies and Christmas jumpers) to ask any questions they may have about the information we have provided to them – sometimes these meetings are very quick with few questions and other times (like this year) they take a couple of hours. However long they take the one thing that does come out of them is that Councillors have full knowledge of how the estimates are reached and what their options are in terms of setting the Precept.

Balancing the books has been particularly difficult this time around as there are a number of fixed increases that have to be met next year and, in addition, there are some large projects that will also come to fruition in the next 12 months, such as replacing the safety surface in at least 5 play areas and upgrading some play equipment at the same time. Other projects include looking to get joint funding from CCC

to improve road safety on the corner of Ramsey Road and The Waits as well as Needingworth Road. Members also have to ensure that they have sufficient money in General Reserves to meet any unplanned emergency expenses or if for some reason planned income does not arrive on time, as well as planning for longer term maintenance on buildings the Council owns (for instance the Town Hall and Corn Exchange – both are listed buildings that are open to the public and have to be maintained to a reasonable state to protect the fabric of the buildings).

So in summary, having considered a number of options and much soul searching the precept for the 2019/20 Financial Year has been set at £757,357 an increase of approximately £6.02 per household per year.

*\*Precept - is the money that funds the Town Council and is paid by each household in the town. It is collected by HDC on behalf of the Town Council and paid over in 2 equal instalments in April and October. The Town Council receives no money from any businesses.*

## Dogs in St Ives. Are you responsible?

There are many dog owners in St Ives (and many dogs!) who frequent the parks and other green spaces in the town.

While the vast majority take their responsibilities as a dog owner seriously, some don't – and there have been complaints that a number of people aren't picking up after their dogs, in areas including Warners Park, for example.

**Whether you're a dog owner or not, we would like to hear your opinion about dogs in St Ives.**

Are there any issues we need to address? Where are the problems? What's working well? Contact us: [clerk@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk)



**We've got 6 TOP TIPS on being a responsible dog owner, courtesy of the Kennel Club:**

1. Always clean up your dog's mess, particularly in public spaces – you can be prosecuted if you don't (Dog Fouling of the Land Act 1996).
2. Whenever you take your dog out, take bags for your dog's mess with you.
3. When you're in public spaces, make sure your dog has a collar tag with your name and address on it. It's the law.
4. Attend dog training classes.
5. Keep your dog happy and healthy with good nutrition, enough exercise, and regular worming and grooming.
6. Don't allow your dog to chase other animals





## Jean gives the perfect Christmas present to St Ives

**This year's splendid Christmas tree in Market Hill was donated to the town by Jean Tarling of Rookery Close, St Ives.**

Jean and her husband Peter bought the tree from Parkhall Nurseries and planted it in the front garden of her bungalow when they moved to St Ives from Barnet 20 years ago.

"The tree was about three feet tall when we planted it," says Jean. "They told me it would only get to about 10 feet tall but it just kept on growing! Eventually, it was taller than the house. I thought rather than just take it down, I could give it to the town."

Jean stayed in St Ives after Peter passed away 13 years ago. She has made lots of friends in the town and says donating the tree is her way of saying thank you for everything the town has given her.

**"St Ives has been really good to me and I wanted to give something back"**

## A Bridge too far...?

Thank you so much to everyone who responded to the questions that were posed in the last edition of The Bridge. We have never received as many comments before.

All the comments were reported to Councillors at the November meeting and based on what you said they have made the following decisions:

**The Bridge magazine** – will continue to be produced quarterly and delivered to all properties in St Ives. Further investigation will be carried out in the next few months to see if there are any alternative forms of delivery to Royal Mail, but whatever happens you will still get it delivered through your letter box. It will also be available to read on the Council's new website. [www.stivestowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.stivestowncouncil.gov.uk). The Bridge will continue to focus on what the Town Council does on your behalf, the services it provides and initiatives it is investigating in conjunction with other groups and organisations.

**Warner's Park pavilion** – a working party has been formed to look at options for the building to include a café and public toilets. A budget of around £17,000 is being made available to help with the refurbishment costs but it is likely that additional grant funding will need to be found. More information on this exciting project will be provided in the next edition of The Bridge, and if you



## ...not at all!

want to get involved - and to make suggestions for facilities that should be included - please let us know.

**Customer contact centre and Tourist Information Point** – it was agreed that more information should be provided from the Town Hall and Norris Museum and that this should be looked into further. There is a budget available for this work and if you have any suggestions for what we can do and how we can do this please do let us know.

**Consideration of Mausolea** – Unfortunately, no further expressions of interest were received for internment into a mausoleum at Ramsey Road Cemetery. At the Amenities Committee meeting in November it was agreed that this project should not be progressed further at the current time and that other options are discussed with those individuals who expressed firm interest in mausolea internment.

Please keep your comments on the work of the Town Council coming – we listen to them and they really do make a difference.

To contact us about any of the above projects, please email: [clerk@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk)

# Local Plan

The Government has determined that every area in England should have an adopted Local Plan. This sets out local planning policies and identifies how land is used, determining what will be built where. Adopted Local Plans are then used as the framework for development by the local planning authority - in our case Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) - in determining local planning applications.

Following examination hearings in July and September 2018 led by a government inspector, HDC received confirmation in October that it had complied with the relevant requirements in the preparation of Huntingdonshire's Local Plan. The inspector outlined a few modifications that were required to enable the Local Plan to move it towards final adoption. These were finalised and now are subject to a seven-week round of public consultation that began in December.

We are delighted that the inspector confirmed that the Local Plan can proceed towards adoption and that we are on target to adopt it earlier than envisaged. All interested parties - landowners, developers, statutory consultees and other stakeholders - have had an opportunity to put forward any modifications that they wanted to see during four weeks of public hearings. I am pleased that, having listened to many representations, the inspector agreed with the Council on the majority of matters.

Taking the plan as a whole, I am particularly pleased that the inspector has indicated that the Council can meet its need for housing land from sites we have already identified, and that he has not required the Council to add any additional speculative sites that were proposed by developers and landowners throughout the examination process. Sites that the inspector agreed did not have to be included for housing include the field adjoining Slepe Meadow on Houghton Road, Gifford's Farm and the land north of St Ives from Old Ramsey Road along Marley Road to Somersham Road.

Subject to the inspector giving consideration to comments received during the final round of public



*Cllr Graham Bull,  
Executive Leader  
HDC (pictured left)  
and  
Cllr Ryan Fuller,  
Deputy Exec Leader  
(right).*

consultation, it is envisaged that the Council can now move swiftly towards final adoption of the Local Plan.

Planning issues can be some of the most frustrating for both Councillors and residents alike, as planning is a quasi-judicial process where decisions have to be based on law and policy rather than local opinion. Fundamentally, planning is about sustainable development - balancing the economic, environmental and social impacts of any new development. Finding this balance is often challenging.

Those District Councillors that serve on the planning committee have the task of weighing up these considerations against national planning policy and the Local Plan. The aim is to promote development that helps to deliver the vision set out in our Local Plan. However, if a development isn't acceptable for our area, planning permission can be refused provided there are sound legal planning reasons for doing so. These are called material considerations and do not allow for reasons such as loss of views, competition between businesses or the perceived effect on the values of neighbouring properties.

An applicant can appeal against a

refusal. These appeals are heard by a Government planning inspector who then makes the final decision. Often, if a planning inspector disagrees with a council's decision and grants the applicant planning permission, the ability locally to add various planning conditions on a development can be lost. Furthermore, if the planning inspector finds that there were not very good reasons for refusal they can award costs against the council. In some cases, other councils have had to pay hundreds of thousands of pounds as a result of appeals that they have lost. It is therefore vital that we have a Local Plan in place and that planning decisions are consistent with the content of the Plan and in line with national planning policy.

Adoption of our Local Plan within the next few months will give our communities certainty over how we can deliver well-planned and managed growth which includes homes, jobs, community facilities and the local infrastructure to support them.

## **Cllr Ryan Fuller**

*District Councillor for St Ives West*

*Deputy Executive Leader*

*Executive Councillor for Housing,  
Planning and Economic Development,  
Huntingdonshire District Council*

## NEXT MARKETS:

January – 5th & 19th

February – 2nd & 16th

March – 2nd & 16th

April – 6th & 20th

# Farmers Market

**The Town Council launched St Ives Farmers Market in 2003 with the help of local market expert Roz Scott. For the last 18 years, Roz has worked to put on farmers markets in Cambridgeshire, Fenland, Huntingdonshire and Suffolk, mostly for local councils. She has also run her own farmers market in north London and is a core member of a Saving food waste project in Suffolk.**

The market was set up to the criteria of the then-named National Association of Farmers' Markets (NAFM, now called the Farm Retail Association, or FRA), which means the vast majority of traders are from within a 30-mile radius of St Ives, and just a couple from within 50 miles – the maximum distance (then, and still now) set by the organisation.

Roz inspects every trader on the market on behalf of the Council, visiting them at their farms or premises, checking credentials and ensuring their products are of a high standard.

The St Ives Farmers' Market has always been a showcase for an extensive range of produce. Today this includes; from Cambridgeshire: fruit and vegetables, bread, beef, cut flowers, free-range eggs, fruit pies and jams, cider, linseed oil and cakes; and poultry, goats' and cows' cheeses and pork, from Bedfordshire, Herts and Lincolnshire, respectively. Cam Cattle recently won the British Food and Farming award for their Red Poll cattle beef.

Several of those trading in the market have been here since it opened, notably veg and salad crop grower, Mayfield Produce from Littleport in Cambridgeshire and pork producer Gasmere Farm from Deeping St James, Lincolnshire. Cambridge artisan bread business Cobs Bakery was also there at the start, but the owner retired earlier this year. Dovecote Bakery, another Cambridge bread business, has now replaced Cobs.

Others started out on our market before going on to sell their products to nationwide supermarkets or creating successful online businesses. These include Watergull Orchard apple juice, which began growing fruit and producing apple juice at Willingham, and Sedgewicks Charcuterie from Toseland.

In 2015, the Farm & Retail Association (FARA) named St Ives' Farmers Market Best UK Farmers Market out of more than 200 farmers markets it had accredited from around the UK.

Last year, we made the decision to add specialist food traders to the market to add further choice to St Ives Farmers Market, with products such as olive oils and coffee. Roz says: "The specialist food traders bring produce from outside the region and UK to enhance the overall experience. Meanwhile the Farmers Market traders remain local businesses that have gone through the process set by FRA to trade on a genuine farmers market."



Roz says that the farmers market gives additional benefits to St Ives. *"The market brings increased footfall into the town two Saturdays a month, which benefits the shops and helps boost the local economy,"* she says.

In addition, she adds, the market *"is significantly reducing food miles and lessens the amount of produce packaged, both of which are greatly beneficial to the environment."*

*"I am so passionate about markets,"* she says. *"They are all about bringing people together and connecting them with the wealth of produce that surrounds them. At St Ives' Farmers Market you can pick up cooking tips, learn how your product has been grown, reared and prepared, you can have fun cooking for your family and friends, while supporting local farmers and independent businesses and helping the environment."*

For more info on farmers markets please go to:  
[www.farma.org.uk/farmers-market](http://www.farma.org.uk/farmers-market)





# Celebrating Our Community

## The Norris Museum Community Time Vine

The Community Time Vine installed on the garden wall at the Norris Museum serves as a permanent celebration of the work of the Heritage Lottery Funded project, Huntingdonshire's Heritage.

Many of the groups that have been part of the museum's community projects and programme are represented and their creativity is displayed for everyone to see.

Working with ceramic artist, Sara Wilkinson, each group got creative with clay; rolling it out, shaping and cutting it and then creating the glorious textures of some of the most iconic pieces in the museum's collection.

Sara commented, "The Time Vine project has been a complete joy from start to finish for me. It has been a fantastic opportunity to get to know everyone at the museum and to meet and work with some wonderful people in lots of local community groups and lots of museum visitors. I have particularly enjoyed working with people who have never worked with clay before and seeing their delight at the end of the session when they see that they have made some beautiful ceramic art. I hope that everyone who participated will come back over the years to visit their vine and take part in the wonderful community activities at the Norris

Museum. It is a very special place."

Volunteers, Friends of the Museum, and many hundreds of members of the public also contributed, making a vast number of stem pieces, leaves and flowers.

Museum Director, Sarah Russell said: "The Time Vine has been a fantastic way to bring all the different groups and communities together, along with our friends, volunteers, visitors and our collection. Hundreds of hands have moulded, printed, pressed and glazed the clay tiles, which have such a great tactility now they are on the wall. It is like our museum family tree."

### How are we doing?

In addition to celebrating the Heritage Lottery Fund project, we are also at the point of assessing the impact it has had and the difference it has made to our local community.

In order to do this properly and objectively, we are working with museum evaluation consultant, Jane Seaman, who has been working on the project and

assessing it throughout. So far, she has focussed on:

- The activities undertaken while the museum was closed
- The impact of the new displays
- The work in the community
- School visits, workshops, events and exhibitions
- The volunteering experience

Lots of you have been helping us understand how well you think these things are going by filling in questionnaires, participating in interviews and completing comment cards. Even simply turning up to one of our events helps – and in the year since opening we have welcomed more than 38,000 of you!

Jane will submit the full findings and conclusions of her work to the Heritage Lottery Fund, so they can see the impact of the project and understand the contribution that money raised by the National Lottery has made to our museum, our heritage and our community.



We thought we would share a few statistics and extracts with you:

### We said we would...

- Develop and improve The Norris Museum sympathetically as a community resource and tourist destination, where everyone can enjoy, engage with, learn about and be inspired by their heritage.
- Foster a sense of belonging, identity and pride in the heritage of Huntingdonshire, through the enjoyment of new museum displays and participation in the work of a Community Projects Officer.
- Conserve the museum, library and archive collections to ensure that they can be accessed and explored by future generations.
- Enable people to engage with their local heritage through a new programme of learning activities and events.
- Ensure the future sustainability of the museum through the provision of excellent visitor facilities that are well-managed, customer focussed, financially sustainable and operated by capable staff together with the support of volunteers.

### What you said...

*"I'm glad the museum is open once more. It is really nice you have mixed the old with new in the main part of the museum. The garden is well set out too with a seating area that looks very relaxing to sit in!"*

*"Market the place as a tranquil, peaceful*

*place as well as offering a host of exploring and fun stuff. Enjoyed it lots."*

*"Very good to have interactive displays. Makes this museum stand out from most others."*

*"Would like some more information on some exhibits e.g. where they were found, when etc. However, a great improvement – it's more light and airy"*

Several of you mentioned you would like this kind of information, so we have introduced a section in the back of each 'Find Out More' folder about where the items on display came from.

*"Fab Job! How about utilising the community room and outside seating area for coffee and cakes when unused. Volunteers could run it and raise money for the museum."*

During the summer of 2018, we trialled a pop-up café on a Saturday and from 2019 we are running one every second Thursday of the month with SENSE to raise money for doing activities and projects with them.

*"Been before but each time we visit we see something new like the videos of fen skating and video of man making Stone Age axe. The fen skating brings back memories for me of the fen skating I used to do."*

### What the external reports say...

*"The Norris Museum reopened in July 2017 and at the time of this report being written had been open to the public for over twelve months. During this twelve-month period the*

*redevelopment project continued to deliver against the project aims, engaging with a wider range of individuals and groups and delivering an ever-widening range of activities. The 'Events Programme' contained a variety of activities that, depending on the target audience, had interactive elements for all those that attended, either at the museum or off site regardless of who they were or their abilities. The activities provided encourage visitors to explore the collection and to learn about their local history and environment, giving them a connection and sense of identity with the local area."*

*"The evaluation clearly shows that visitors of all ages gain a greater understanding and enjoyment of their history and cultural background when they engage with the museum collection, whether that is at the museum or as part of an outreach activity. The activities provided for visitors are varied and aimed at a cross section of ages and abilities and so give the opportunity for all visitors to be inspired, motivated and find something of interest within the collection. The evaluation process and anecdotal evidences support this view."*

*"A very strong indicator that the museum is delivering on the redevelopment project aims is the increase in visitor numbers and the positive comments they have made about the museum, the collection, staff and volunteers. These increasing visitor numbers across the range of museum activities demonstrate how the museum has widened its appeal to a varied audience across Huntingdonshire."*



# Improving road safety in St Ives

Almost all drivers take heed of those flashing speed limit signs on the approach to the surrounding villages and reduce speed accordingly. St Ives will be installing two Speed Indication Devices (SIDs) in and around the town in the hope of achieving the same positive results.

Earlier this year, the Council applied for Local Highways funding to reduce the speed of vehicles on Marley Road. We successfully obtained funding for hazard warning signs and improved road markings but, regrettably, not for some SIDs.



Council decided it had sufficient funds in its Community Infrastructure Levy budget (the funds paid by large developers in

**Let us know of any areas in St Ives you believe SID might really improve road safety and reduce speeding.**

the town to improve local facilities) to purchase one sign and, following an extremely generous contribution from the road safety budget of Jason Ablewhite, the Police and Crime Commissioner, we can now afford two!

These SIDs are moveable so they can be placed in various blackspots around the town and they also record speed data, something the newly formed local 'Speedwatch' group we will be working with will undoubtedly find invaluable.

Initially the devices will be placed in Marley Road, a long-time speeding hotspot, but we would like your feedback on any other areas of the town you think would benefit from a visit by SID.

You can email us at [clerk@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk) write to us at the Town Hall, message us on Facebook or just call in to let us know what you think.

**We're very keen to hear from you.**

## Annual Town Meeting and Community Fair coming soon to the Corn Exchange!

**The Town Council has a legal requirement to host an Annual Town Meeting (ATM) and very boring affairs these have been at times in the past... 'So why do it?', you might ask**

The official rules are interesting; they state that the meeting must be held between 1 March and 1 June, and not before 6.00 pm. The agenda details all the items to be discussed and debated. It is signed by the Mayor, or persons calling the meeting, and displayed at least seven days in advance. Six electors of the town may call an ATM and request items to be included on the agenda for debate. Although the meeting is normally administered from the Town Hall it does not stop you calling a meeting yourself (if you want to and need help – ask). There is no rule either that says only one meeting should be held within the timeframe.

The Town Mayor must preside if they are present but if not, and if the Deputy Mayor is also absent, the meeting must elect a Chairman. Strictly speaking, only two people need be present for the meeting to be legally able to do business, but in reality, we prefer to see as many of you as possible – the more the merrier (we hope!).

Decisions are made by the majority present. However, voting does not have to be by a

show of hands – it can be vocal! He or she who literally 'shouts loudest' can win an argument and it is for the person chairing the meeting to decide how the result is recorded.

The ATM can discuss and resolve anything that the electors feel is important, although the Town Council and other local authorities are not bound by the resolutions. However, if the feelings of the community are strong Councillors would be remiss not to consider them, particularly with the next elections firmly in mind!

A poll may be demanded not later than the end of the meeting on any question arising and must be held if ten or one-third of the electors present (whichever is the least) insist, or if the person presiding consents. The wording to appear on the ballot form must also be agreed before the end of the meeting. The procedure for carrying out a poll is similar to that of a normal election and is managed by the District Council.

So, there you have it. If you have a burning issue that affects the town, and you want to discuss it openly, do let us know so that it can be added to the agenda for this year's Annual Town Meeting. This is not only your meeting, it is your right!

Last year it was decided to combine the ATM with a Community Fair to allow groups and organisations to promote themselves, to build links with other groups and to find out what others are doing in the town. The Community Fair was followed by a different style of meeting with a panel of invited guests in attendance to assist with answering questions posed by the electorate.

As it proved to be a success, this format will be followed again this year with the whole event taking place on Saturday 2 March in the Corn Exchange. The Community Fair will start at 3.00pm with all the groups the Town Council is grant funding attending along with others. The ATM element will start at 6.00pm. Although March is still some time away at the moment the panel is confirmed as from St Ives the Town Mayor, Tim Drye, Town Clerk, Alison Benfield, supported from HDC by Jo Lancaster, Managing Director and Cllr Ryan Fuller, Deputy Executive Leader. The Police and Crime Commissioner, Jason Ablewhite is also confirmed and at the time of going to print we are waiting confirmation that the new St Ives Police Sgt Alice Draper will also be in attendance.



### JANUARY

- 12 Pebbles Club**  
Norris Museum, 10.30am  
Story Time. Crafts and Family  
Fun, aimed at 3-6 yr olds,  
£2 per child.
- 12 Exhibition: Artists of the Future**  
GCSE Artwork from St Ivo  
School. Norris Museum,  
10-4pm Monday to Saturday.  
Free.
- 18 Screen St Ives 'The Greatest Showman'** 7.30  
for 8pm, The Corn Exchange  
Screen 1.  
www.screenstives.org.uk  
Tickets £5.
- 26 Burns Night Music and Supper** 7 for 7.30pm, The  
Corn Exchange, £25. Book  
on 01480 300963 or online  
www.ticketsource.co.uk/  
eventstives
- 27 Marie Curie Fund Raising Coffee Morning** 9.30 -  
11.00am, The Cock, Hemingford  
Grey, includes a raffle

### FEBRUARY

- 1 Mayor's Charity Fun Quiz**  
7pm, The Corn Exchange £15  
per person includes Fish/  
Chicken/Vegetarian & Chip  
Supper. Max 6 per team,  
prize raffle, bar open. Tickets  
from The Town Hall 01480  
388931 or ticketsource.co.uk/  
st-ives-town-council.
- 2 Adult Learning and Skills**  
St Ives, St Ivo School.  
Saturday Workshops. A wide  
range of courses including;  
First Aid, Breadmaking,  
Assertiveness, Family Dog  
Workshop, Macaroons, Selling  
on eBay, Wellness Boost,  
Needle Felting, Baby Signing,  
Digital Camera, Makeup for  
Mature Skin, Watercolour  
Landscapes, Family Cupcakes  
and more. www.aclearning.  
org.uk for info or call 01480  
495717.
- 7 Screen St Ives 'A Fantastic Woman'** 7.30  
for 8pm, The Corn Exchange  
Screen 2. www.screenstives.  
org.uk Tickets £5.
- 9 Pebbles Club on Ice** Norris  
Museum - 10am to 12pm -  
10.30am Story Time, Crafts  
and Family Fun. Aimed at  
3-6 yr olds. £2 per child.

- 15 Screen St Ives 'Early Man'**  
7.30 for 8pm, The Corn  
Exchange Screen 1.  
www.screenstives.org.uk  
Tickets £5.
- 20 Night at the Norris is back - and this time it's glowing!**  
4.30-7.00pm Part of  
University of Cambridge's  
Twilight at the Museums.  
Make glowing fireflies and  
help us locate the baby  
fireflies that have escaped  
into the Museum. Free.

### MARCH

- 2 Community Fair, followed by Annual Town Meeting** Corn  
Exchange. Fair from 3pm  
until 5.30pm. Meeting begins  
at 6pm.
- 7 Screen St Ives 'The Party'**  
7.30 for 8pm, The Corn  
Exchange Screen 2.  
www.screenstives.org.uk  
Tickets £5.
- 9 Pebbles Club - Let's Get Digging** Norris Museum,  
10am - noon. 10.30am -  
Story Time. £2 per child.
- 14 'House of Spies - a talk by Roger Leivers,** Norris  
Museum, 7pm. Tickets £5 (£4  
for Friends of the Museum).  
Advance booking essential.  
01480 497314.
- 15 Screen St Ives 'Three Billboards outside Ebbing Missouri'**  
7.30 for 8pm, The Corn  
Exchange Screen 1.  
www.screenstives.org.uk  
Tickets £5.

### APRIL

- 11 Curious Creations - the wonderful world of Herbert Norris** Norris Museum,  
10am - 4pm. Join us in  
celebrating Herbert Norris'  
160th birthday. Make your  
own cabinet of curiosity and  
make a curious creation with  
ceramicist, Sara Wilkinson.

### REGULAR EVENTS

- Dementia Friendly Events**  
(for those living with  
dementia and their carers)
- MEMORY LANE SINGING CAFÉ**  
every 2nd Monday each month,  
10am - noon.  
Crossways Centre, Ramsey Road.  
Contact:  
George 07725 588 145.
- LOVE TO MOVE GYMNASTICS**  
1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Mondays  
each month, 10.30am - noon,  
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 LUNCHEONS**  
1st Wednesday of every month,  
Slepe Hall Hotel. Contact: Heather  
Jones 01480 841043.
- 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 - noon
- Pop Up Café with SENSE**  
Every 2nd Thursday each month.  
Drop in for a cuppa. Proceeds to  
our work with SENSE, 2.00pm -  
3.30pm.
- Hartbeeps**  
Every Friday morning during term  
time. See www.hartbeeps.com/  
fens/venues/the-norris-museum
- Farmers' Market**  
8.30-2.00pm in the Sheep Market  
January - 5th and 19th  
February - 2nd and 16th  
March - 2nd and 16th  
April - 6th and 20th

### 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** is now running  
work parties on Saturday  
mornings, from 10am to 12pm  
on the first Saturday of every  
month, as well as their regular  
weekday sessions. Look on the  
website www.stivesinbloom.co.uk  
or contact the team via siibinfo@  
gmail.com, and they will send  
you all the details
- Huntingdonshire Society for the Blind** meet at St Ives Methodist  
Church, 3rd Wednesday each  
month, 2pm - 4pm. Contact:  
01480 453438.

### COUNCIL MEETINGS DIARY

#### JANUARY

- 9 Planning Committee  
and Town Council  
Meeting
- 16 Promotion & Publicity  
and Personnel  
Committees
- 23 Planning, Property and  
Amenities Committees

#### FEBRUARY

- 13 Planning Committee  
and Town Council  
Meeting
- 27 Planning and Amenities  
Committees

#### MARCH

- 2 Community Event in the  
Corn Exchange followed  
by Annual Town  
Meeting (see page 14  
for further information).
- 13 Planning Committee  
and Town Council  
Meeting
- 27 Planning and Amenities  
Committees

#### APRIL

- 10 Planning Committee  
and Town Council  
Meeting
- 17 Promotion & Publicity  
and Personnel  
Committees
- 24 Planning, Property and  
Amenities Committees

#### 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](http://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](mailto:Angela.Ayers-wilson@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk)

correct at the time of print

### HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Telephone **01480 388388** or visit [www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk](http://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 30, Liberal Democrat 7, HDC Independent Group 10, Labour 4, Independent 1.

#### Your Councillors:

##### Jason Ablewhite

[Jason.Ablewhite@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:Jason.Ablewhite@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

##### Richard Bellamy

[Richard.Bellamy@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.Bellamy@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

##### John Davies

[John.Davies@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:John.Davies@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

##### Angie Dickinson

[Angie.Dickinson@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:Angie.Dickinson@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

##### Ryan Fuller

[Ryan.Fuller@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:Ryan.Fuller@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

### CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Telephone **0345 045 5200** or visit [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk](http://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 2, St. Neots Independent Group 2, Labour 7, Liberal Democrats 14.

#### Your Councillors:

##### Kevin Reynolds

[Kevin.Reynolds@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Kevin.Reynolds@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

##### Ryan Fuller

[Ryan.Fuller@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:clerk@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk)

Website [www.stivestowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.stivestowncouncil.gov.uk)



Farmers Market of the Year Winner 2015



Gold Award Winner 2016, 2017 & 2018

