

The Bridge



News, views and events from your Town Council

February 2016

St Ives Riverport heritage • Beautiful location • Community spirit • Exceptional shopping

Highlights...

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**NORRIS EXTENSION
NEWS IN DETAIL**
See page 6-7

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FRONT COVER

A photo-montage using an architect's drawing of The Norris Museum extension as seen from the garden - a sympathetic blend of original and contemporary architecture. See pages 6-7 for more details.

Photograph courtesy of the Norris Museum, drawing by Caroe Architecture and photo montage by Jerry Hills/The Artworks.

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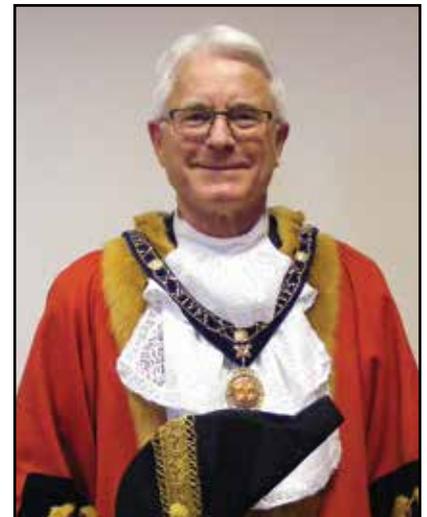
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MAYOR'S MESSAGE THOUGHTS FOR NOVEMBER

The big news this issue has to be the fantastic announcement from the Heritage Lottery Fund that our beloved Norris Museum has been awarded the balance of the funding required for its Development Project - see pages 6-7 for details from Sarah Russell, the Director. She, with her staff, will now be busy moving the collection into storage in the Town Hall and working with contractors as the extension emerges (see cover) and refurbishment begins. Re-opening is planned for spring 2017.



Photograph by Sue Rawlinson/SITC

and we are now working together to establish a cultural link for the benefit of students. This idea grew out of my appointment of Adam Safford, a languages student

“we are now working together to establish a cultural link for the benefit of students.”

Your Council has been keen for some time to improve communication and involvement with St Ivo School, and find ways that students can be more involved with the local community. I recently met with the new Head Teacher, Sam Griffin, and we discussed options. One is for the school to become an important part of my campaign to improve dementia awareness and for the town to be declared a dementia-friendly community. Another is for German language pupils to make contact with counterparts in Stadtallendorf, our twin town. I recently welcomed Christian Somogyi, the Burgermeister there, to our Michaelmas Fair



Sometimes parades don't go to plan. A swan steals the limelight as we escort Santa from The Quay to his grotto.

Photographs by Alan Bennett/Media Imaging Solutions

from the Ivo, as 'translator to the Mayor', to help my communication with Christian! If other groups in the town are interested in linking with counterparts in Germany, please let me know. Check out Sam Griffin's vision for St Ivo on page 9.

Also in this issue

Other interesting features for you include a preview of progress at Carol Bailey's wonderful community Farm Club (page 8), and a full report from the Town Team on last year's achievements plus exciting plans for this (pages 10-11). I can't wait for the *The Merry Wives of Olde St Ives*, the second Jazz & Blues Festival, the Mobility Grand Prix and FES't's Illuminated Boat Parade. On page 14 you will find a profile of my Chaplain, Revd Dr Catherine Ball of the Free Church, and the Clerk has some welcome news about the precept for the next financial year on page 13.

Tourism

I remain passionate about promoting the town and increasing tourist income via the link we have established with the newly rebranded Destination Management Organisation *Cambridge Take Your Time*. I was thrilled to learn that

tourism brings in £583m to Cambridge per annum and £2bn to the broader area - I'd like to see our share of that coming down the busway to St Ives! We have a full-page ad in the Visitor Guide (page 11).

“I remain passionate about promoting the town ...”

Ignoring the signs

I'd like to thank everyone who responded to our feature on traffic issues on the Town Bridge. Your feedback is always very welcome and in this case we are now planning our approach to the relevant agencies. We will keep you informed about this topic which I know troubles a lot of people.

Your feedback is always very welcome ...

Looking ahead

I recently had a hard look at our Christmas Lights display in the town and compared it to those in another, smaller town. Along with other Councillors I feel we can improve on our 'show' and encourage more visitors into the town during the entire run up to Christmas, as well as attracting families to the switch-on. After debating the future of our Christmas lights, Council now plans to contribute

improvements to the town centre area initially and then broaden the efforts elsewhere. I would love to hear your ideas as to what you'd like to see so please send them to me via the Town Hall.

Finally, three big events to come. First, the Mayor's Civic Charity Masked Ball on 12 March in the Corn Exchange (see poster). Tickets are selling fast for this so please contact Annette without delay if you would like to come. And second, it is HM The Queen's 90th birthday on 21 April when we will be proud to light a beacon on the spire of All Saints Parish Church to link with others and bonfires all over the country.



Last, but not least, we have local elections in May. If you feel strongly about the town and its community and want to be involved in the decisions that are made about its future, why not find out how to become a Councillor? See the Clerk's advice on page 13.

Ian Jackson

CLLR IAN JACKSON, TOWN MAYOR



Perks of the job: the Mayor presents Iris Smith with her Langley Bread. This tradition dates from 1656 when Robert Langley bequeathed 40 shillings per annum to widows and fatherless children.



I must not forget the Mayoress who accompanies me to many formal occasions, this one in Ely Cathedral.

Photographs courtesy Hunts Post

Photograph by Steven Merritt

NOTICE BOARD

Consult your Councillors



Following the popularity of the Councillor Surgeries held last year, the Council has decided to continue with the initiative in 2016.

The next Surgery will be on Saturday 19 March between 10 am and noon on the Farmers' Market in the town centre.

Further surgeries are planned throughout the year for different areas of the town: one at Burleigh Hill in July and another one at Kings Hedges in September.

Details will be posted on our website, Facebook and Twitter feed.

Resolving Issues

Cambridgeshire County Council is consulting with anyone with an interest in advocacy services. The hope is to eventually create a new integrated independent service which will be able to assist in resolving issues that impact on residents' lives.



A questionnaire and comprehensive information is available at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk, search for 'consultations'.

The contact for Cambridgeshire is Carol Williams on 01223 706130, email: carol.williams@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

The consultation closes on 20 February 2016.

POLICE MATTERS

It is no longer possible to pay a personal visit to St Ives Police Station, which has been closed for some months now. The nearest office is Hinchingsbrooke Park, Huntingdon PE29 6NP, telephone 01480 456111.

Contact may also be made via the 101 non-emergency phone number or by email to huntscoops@cambs.pnn.police.uk.



STOP PRESS!

We are pleased that the Police Commissioner, Sir Graham Bright, accepted our invitation to visit representatives from our Council and those from surrounding parishes to listen to our policing concerns. If you have particular worries about crime in St Ives, please let us know before 9 February.

Restoring the Balance

If you have been a victim of crime, when you are ready, restorative justice can help.

Cambridgeshire Constabulary is working with partners and volunteers across the county to develop and deliver an extended range of services to give victims the chance to meet or communicate with their offender in a controlled environment. They are then able to discuss the harm caused by the crime and ways to repair that harm.

This can help empower victims, let them have their say and help them move on with their lives. It also helps offenders recognise the impact of their actions, take responsibility and make amends.

For further information call Lynsey Brown on 0800 781 6818 or email restorativejustice@cambs.pnn.police.uk



Stay Well this Winter

In the past year one in four of the people who visited Accident & Emergency could have used an alternative service or treated themselves at home.

Each A&E visit costs the local NHS £87 before any treatment is given. This costs over £4 million a year, equivalent to the cost of 677 hip replacements, 287 liver transplants or providing 115 more dementia nurses.

Using A&E unnecessarily has a knock-on effect on the rest of the hospital – busy A&E departments have resulted in 500 cancelled operations and procedures because beds were no longer available, plus longer waiting and referral times.

But you can help!

- Stay healthy (get a flu jab if you are eligible)
- Look after elderly friends and relatives especially in cold weather

- Order prescriptions early to avoid delays
- Choose the right services – your local pharmacy can provide confidential, expert advice and treatment for a range of common illnesses.

For help with finding local NHS services visit www.cambsandpeterboroughchoosewell.co.uk



Want to Grow Your Own?



Why not apply for a Town Council allotment?

Allotments are hugely popular at the moment and, for the first time in years, the Council has a very short waiting list for plots.

Contact us to put your name on the list and you could soon be harvesting your own fresh veggies. Call the Town Hall on 01480 388927 or email clerk@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk.

YOUR TOWN MEETING

It's that time of the year again when you are invited to come along to the Corn Exchange, listen to the Mayor tell you about issues of the day, and answer your questions. We always look forward to seeing you. We will also invite local voluntary organisations to present their plans for the coming year. Make a diary note for 2 March, Corn Exchange 7 pm.

Changes to the Plans

From 1 April 2016, the Town Council will no longer receive paper copies of planning application plans from Huntingdonshire District Council. The initiative forms part of that Council's zero-based budget and will result in additional savings.

As a result, the Council's Planning Committee will receive electronic versions of

the plans which it will project during the meetings.

It will still be possible to look at plans on the HDC website www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk.



BIG NEWS FROM THE NORRIS

A NEW ERA FOR THE MUSEUM!

“The project, a once in a lifetime opportunity, will reinvigorate the Norris and all the services it provides.”

A year ago (*The Bridge* Feb 15) we reported that the Norris was on the verge of a ‘very exciting phase of its long and successful life’. Well, it has now arrived! Director Sarah Russell confirms the sensational news and presents the ongoing plans.

I am thrilled to announce that the Norris Museum has received a confirmed grant of £1,255,600 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for the Huntingdonshire’s Heritage Norris Museum’s Development Project.

What will the grant provide?
The project, a once in a lifetime opportunity, will reinvigorate the Norris and all the services it provides. Within the museum a new extension will be created to provide space for workshops, activities and school visits. There will be new displays telling the story of

Huntingdonshire with more of the museum collections on display and there will be new facilities, a bespoke research area, a shop and a welcome desk.

To enable this work to take place the museum site has now closed and will remain so until spring 2017. However, get ready for *Museum on the Move*, the way in which the Norris will now be popping up across the county in various ways: there will be community projects with local communities as well as the familiar and well-loved holiday activities and workshops and events that we always run. These will all take place at local community venues across Huntingdonshire so make sure you follow us on Facebook (search Norris Museum) and Twitter (@norrismuseum) and keep an eye on the noticeboards around the

town to find out what we are up to and when.

What about the collections and the staff?
The museum’s collections and staff will be relocating to the Town Hall from spring 2016. While our fantastic new research areas are being built we will be a running regular drop-in facility for any research enquiries or questions you may have about the project. You may have to bear with us while we adjust to our new circumstances, but we will do our best to continue to support your local research whilst access to the library is limited.

Poster and photographs courtesy of the Norris Museum

HELP US MOVE!

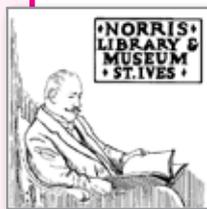
We are looking for volunteers to help us pack up and move our collections off-site to enable the building work to happen. You will receive full training and safety equipment as part of the process. Most importantly you will be part of the historic process of moving the Norris Museum collection, much of which has not left the building since 1933.

NORRIS THE MAN

Herbert Norris was a St Ives born amateur historian who was passionate about Huntingdonshire’s past and collected an array of treasures during his lifetime. When Herbert died in 1931, he left all of his collections, together with most of his estate, to St Ives Borough Council, with the express wish that a museum of Huntingdonshire be created in St Ives. The Norris Museum opened in 1933. It has since become a unique local history resource of great community value and of importance to anyone with an interest in the history of Huntingdonshire



and its people. It is the only museum that provides an overview of the whole of what was the historic county of Huntingdonshire, not only through museum objects, but also a large library and archive. It is now a registered charity that is administered by St Ives Town Council who generously support it.



VISIONS OF THE EXTENSION



From the architect's notes: 'the new wing is framed in timber and the education suite is open to rafters to give a sense of space and features deeply overhanging eaves to shade the new room.'



Architect's impressions of the new building, left from the water and right from inside, plus below south-east and south-west elevations.



WORDS OF PRAISE

'It is wonderful that, thanks to National Lottery players, we've been able to fund this exciting project to help develop the much loved Norris Museum. The strong involvement of volunteers is particularly impressive, and we are delighted that this project will get even more visitors and members of the local community visiting and finding out what makes their community so special.'

Robyn Llewellyn, Head of Heritage Lottery Fund East of England

'We are so pleased to have received support from the HLF for this once in a life time project. The museum already sits at the heart of the local community and this project will enable us to serve that community better by putting history into the heart of everyone in Huntingdonshire.'

Sarah Russell, Director Norris Museum

'I am so proud that our beloved Norris Museum, one of the very special attractions of St Ives, is now receiving this major refit. It will help us to receive even more visitors to our historic market town and better serve our residents plus students and researchers from far and wide.'

Cllr Ian Jackson, Town Mayor



The Norris has always been a popular educational venue for school groups. The new extension will offer more indoor space for workshops, activities and fun! Here the Romans are coming and reed boats are tested.

FARM CLUB UPDATE

EXCITING NEW NURSERY DEVELOPMENT

Did you know that since 2007 we have had a Farm Club in the town, just down Meadow Lane? The brainchild of Carol Bailey, this amazing space offers families a taste of the 'good life', a space where children can grow their own food, be involved in rearing animals and play safely outdoors. Carol tells the story so far and explains the exciting next phase.



Carol Bailey

How it all started

Farm Club grew organically from a small piece of farmland next to the Park and Ride entrance in St Ives where I kept a few hens, goats and pigs. This became a neat smallholding and after investigating the ownership of the surrounding two acres, we agreed a grazing licence and began to prepare it for the club. Hours, weeks and months of relentless hard work followed, clearing brambles, putting up fences, planting and making separate enclosures for our hens. We made a little room for a goat, then for some



piglets, then for the geese and the donkey! Vegetable patches and fruit trees followed.

As more and more people came to visit

me to buy their hens they expressed a real interest in what we were doing and often said they would love to do the same. So, gradually I started to divide the land and share my time and knowledge.

Over the last eight years, my chosen lifestyle has developed into a small business and I now share the farm with many local families. I help and encourage people to enjoy 'outdoor living' and spend quality time with their families - and the smallholding has grown into the Farm Club. Today we have a wonderful community of like-minded people each of whom is a member of the farm.

Camaraderie and community

Farm Club provides each member with a plot to grow their own vegetables, opportunities to join Saturday morning clubs, which are both fun and educational and teach many life skills including cooking the food we grow and rear. Sunday morning breakfasts are also popular. We all gather in the café and, whatever the weather, get involved with

the daily running of the farm. This is a fantastic way for families to spend time together outdoors. We now have a great team of volunteers and even a horticulturalist dedicated to helping everyone.



This is a fantastic way for families to spend time together outdoors

The environment in which we all work at Farm Club has evolved through dedication and hard work. We all thoroughly enjoy our time together and the atmosphere is unique. We are all living a little of the good life, learning new skills and supporting our children through the learning process. This is a true back-to-basics lifestyle where families work and help each other. In essence, we complete the cycle from planting seeds to growing our vegetables, harvesting, cooking and enjoying our homegrown produce (often eating together!).

The farm is now is divided into well-organised areas for growing fruit and vegetables, rearing animals, a garden and play space and small clubhouse. The space is alive with like-minded families all bringing something to the table, and offering their time and help and expertise.

Now the Children's Nursery!

I am very excited to announce that later this year the Farm Club will also incorporate an independent family run children's nursery owned and managed by Sophia Covill. Sophia will introduce the Early Years Forest School curriculum based on principles of respect, responsibility and community through exploration, discovery and play - with plenty of outdoor experience. The Farm Club is the perfect environment for this unique approach. Children are encouraged through hands-on learning techniques and their own curiosity to develop independence and a love of learning to achieve their full potential.



Sophia Covill

Sophia has worked with Early Years Child Care for seven years, including two in a British nursery in Dubai, and has qualifications in special needs. Working alongside the Farm Club team Sophia is committed to making the nursery a friendly, warm and homely environment where all children feel part of one big happy family.

Want to know more?

Carol carol@farmclub.co.uk

Sophia sophiacovill@hotmail.com

Forest School Learning Initiative www.fsli.co.uk

ST IVO SCHOOL

NEW HEADTEACHER, NEW PLANS



We welcomed Sam Griffin to the town as the new Headteacher of St Ivo School and asked him for his plans for the future:

I joined St Ivo School as its new Headteacher in September 2015. This followed twenty years teaching English and Drama in Norfolk and for the last four years as Headteacher of Hobart High School in the village of Loddon.

The move to St Ives has been a stimulating and exciting one. St Ivo is a school with huge strengths as well as huge potential to be one of the very best schools in the county.

St Ivo is a school with huge strengths as well as huge potential to be one of the very best schools in the county

Upward trend

The school is very much on an upward trend at the moment with results at all levels getting stronger over the last three years. I believe that we have excellent staff in all areas and young people who are hungry to learn. This combination makes St Ivo a dynamic place to learn and one which I believe will go from strength to strength over the coming years.

One of the core strengths of the school is its position as the single high school in a large, vibrant town. As a newcomer I have been hugely impressed by the range of opportunities which exist for young people here in St Ives.

Working with the community

I have met with the Mayor to discuss ways in which the school and local community can work together in the future. We have already made regular use of the Norris Museum to display work

created by our students and we have used the Corn Exchange for events.

The youth of St Ives are an impressive group of people and have a great deal to offer. Over the coming months and years I would hope to see them work closely with the Council to support more effective links with our partner town of Stadtallendorf in Germany. I also hope that St Ivo



will play a key role in supporting the Mayor's plans for St Ives to become a dementia-friendly community. Initiatives such as these give young people a sense of responsibility and involvement in their own community which will serve them well in the future.

Significant Sixth Form

I also believe that St Ivo offers a

fantastic range of opportunities to students both in academic and extra-curricular activities. Part of this is through the provision of a large and vibrant Sixth Form which is the envy of many schools. The vast majority of our Sixth Formers leave us to begin university study. To support this process we have invested heavily in study facilities. In October we were delighted to welcome the Mayor and Mayoress to the opening of the Understudy, a new informal study space for our students, and to discover that the Mayoress is an ex-student!

I am very keen for the community to know about

events and successes at the school. Please visit our website, Facebook page or Twitter account to find out more about the high school on the hill at the heart of your community.

I have met with the Mayor to discuss ways in which the school and local community can work together in the future

This school year marks the 60th anniversary of the opening of St Ivo School and there have already been a number of events to mark this occasion. One of these is the formation of an alumni association for former students. This group is led by Richard Perry (Head of Sixth Form until 2015) and has as its honorary chair John Rhodes (Head of St Ivo from 1973 until 1993).



Are you an ex-student?

If you are a past pupil and are interested in re-connecting with the school and perhaps some of your fellow students please see the information now available from the school's website www.stivoschool.org.

There is a registration form to complete and plans will soon be announced about a big annual social event, the first planned for this year!

TOWN TEAM UPDATE

FESTIVALS, MERCHANDISE, SIGNS AND PROMOTION

The Town Team's work is to promote the town and our best chance of doing this is by having an exciting and demanding programme that will engage as many people as possible. Here is a review of last year's projects and those planned for this.

What we did in 2015

The Town Team changed its format to encourage more individuals to get involved. Our meetings held on the second Tuesday of every month (except May and August) are open to anyone interested in helping.

“We firmly established the town centre as The Old Riverport by marketing it widely”

We firmly established the town centre as The Old Riverport by marketing it widely. The **Discovery Day** - part of The Ouse Washes Festival Fortnight - brought people from far and wide to St Ives, as did the inaugural **Old Riverport Jazz & Blues**

Festival. The latter attracted interest from the media and St Ives was chosen to be BBC Radio Cambridgeshire's destination for their Big Conversation programme.



One of the new signs on the Waits.

Photograph Tom Rawlinson/SITC

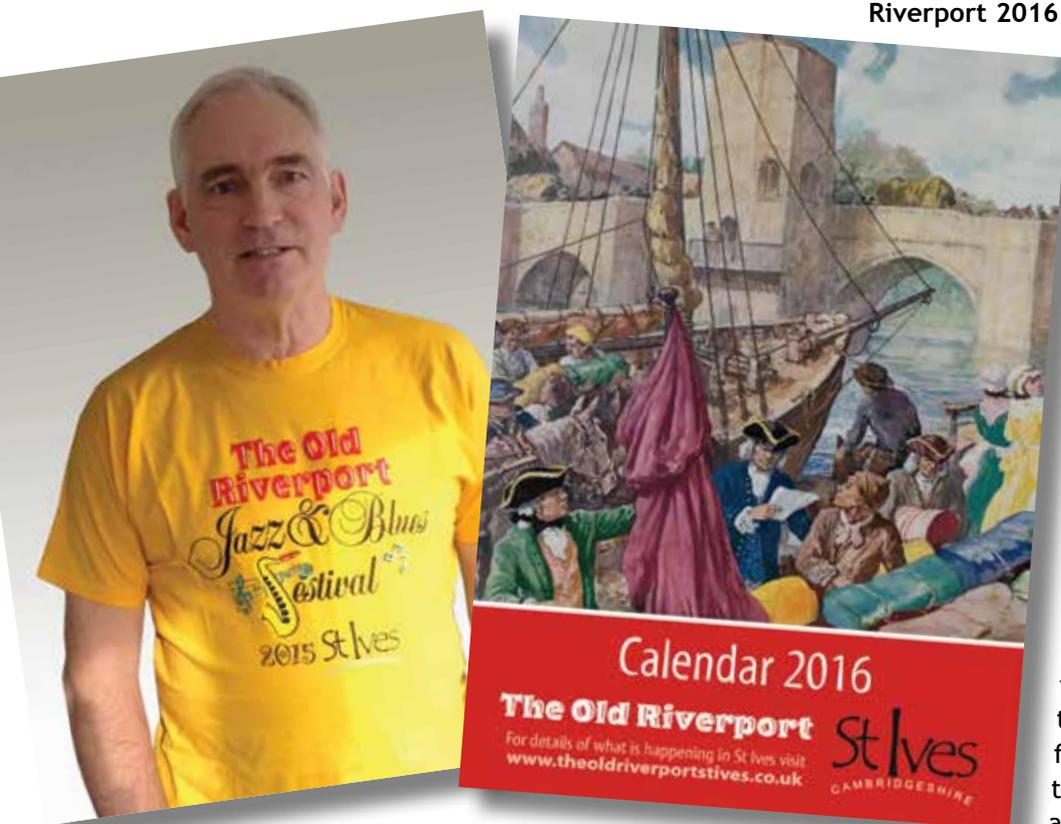
We also worked with a number of other groups including FESt and the **Snowman Festival** run by The Old Riverport Retail Group.

The Town Team also raised funds in various ways, such as selling **Jazz & Blues T-shirts** and **The Old Riverport 2016 Calendar**. This helped us to do more without using public funds and indeed we have been able to plan the 2016 programme without asking for assistance from the Town Council. Here I must thank the support of those town businesses that have supported us, especially Ewing Partnership in Station Road and, from Huntingdon, the accountants The Young Company, both of whom sponsored the Jazz & Blues Festival.

“Boating tourism is a growth area ...”

At the end of the year we erected new signs on The Quay and Waits. These are designed to emphasise the mooring bye-laws that provide free 48-hour mooring for cruisers. We want to ensure that visiting boats will not find all our town moorings occupied by permanently moored boats. Boating

tourism is a growth area and the current expansion of Jones Boatyard will ensure St Ives has one of the biggest marinas on the Great Ouse.



John Souter displays the Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival T-shirt which was a sell-out! The calendar too was a popular Christmas gift item available both the Norris Museum and Just Cards and is also now sold out.

Plans for 2016

We are trying to liaise with all the voluntary groups in St Ives. We can then publicise all that will be happening this year through our website, publications and the Cambridge Tourist Centre. *If your organisation has not received a letter/email from us please contact us via the Town Hall to let us know your programme for 2016.* A full list will appear on theoldriverportstives.co.uk site soon.

We will also be working with Stagecoach on special promotions for visitors to the town by bus, an extension to the advertising we do in the Cambridge Tourist Information Centre (TIC). Cambridge has over 5 million visitors a year and over 300,000 visit the TIC. The Visit Cambridge & Beyond website receives

We will also be working with Stagecoach on special promotions for visitors ...

over 1.2 million hits a year and so our advertisements on it are exposed to a huge international audience.

Again we hope to contribute to the **OuseFest Festival Fortnight**. This year we are being even more ambitious for, along with activities on Holt Island and exhibitions in the Corn Exchange, we will present a **historical outdoor play** on The Quay in July. This will be a real fun evening with audience participation. With tongue in cheek it will spotlight characters from the history of the town up until today and will be must-see event in a stunning location.

We will again be holding **The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival** at the end of September, improving and refining what was one of the most enjoyable events of 2015.

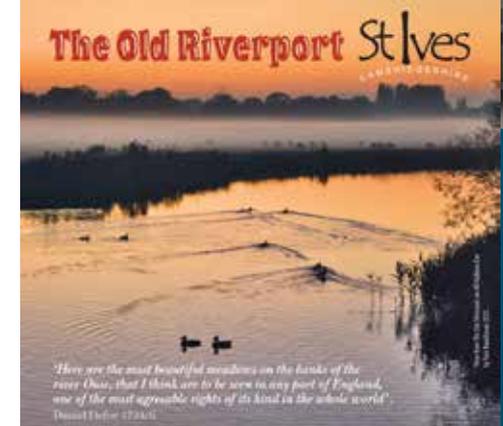
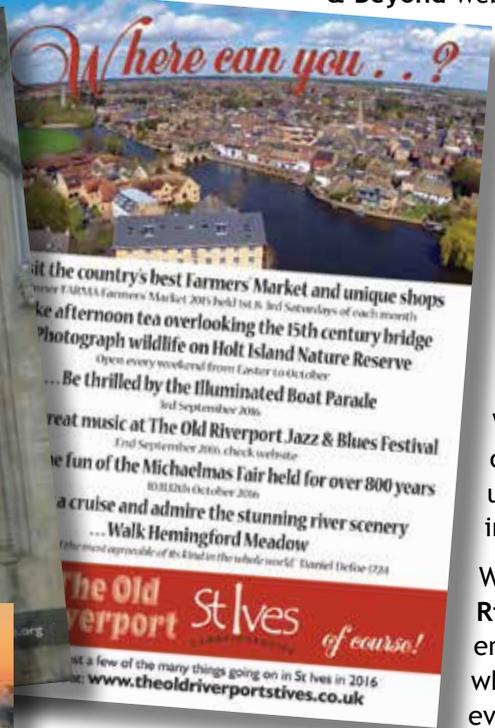
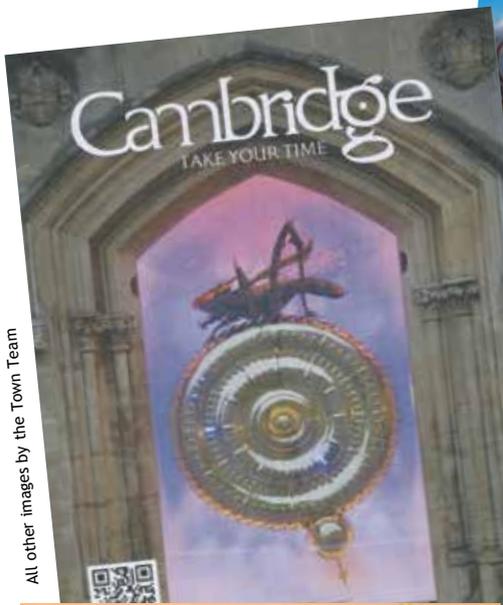
Another big project this year will be the publication of a definitive **Business Directory** for the town. St Ives has over 600 businesses and our hope is to create an invaluable reference source for this vast range of local goods and services. In addition, new clearer street signage and targeted promotions will encourage residents to buy locally and help visitors to locate businesses more easily.

Other projects planned include a feasibility study to provide a scheme to encourage walking and exercise (especially for children) to **combat obesity** and new ways of marketing The Old Riverport - look out for the **The Mobility Grand Prix!**

Join Us!

If you feel you'd like to get involved in one or more of our projects, please don't hesitate to be in touch, or simply drop in to a meeting. You'll get a very friendly welcome and we guarantee you'll have some fun helping us keep St Ives the lively and vibrant town it is! Contact me via the Town Hall.

JOHN SOUTER, CHAIR TOWN TEAM



These advertisements (left and above) designed by the Town Team appear in the Cambridge Take Your Time Visitor Guide 2016 and in the Huntingdonshire Your Services, Your Council Tax 2016/17 guide.

Gateway to the beautiful Ouse Valley

Take a trip to The Old Riverport and discover a lively market town and one of the country's best kept secrets ... the fabulous Cambridgeshire countryside. From the west, the gentle river winds its way through the beautiful water meadows and villages of the Ouse Valley; ideal for walking. To the east, the Ouse Washes and Ouse Fen provide the largest area of wetland in the UK, a haven for wildlife. In the town, you will find lots to do. Delights include the best farmers' market in England, an illuminated boat parade, a stomping Jazz & Blues Festival and a unique Snowman Festival. You can also discover a fascinating heritage along the waterfront, alleyways and market place, and a great range of independent shops throughout the town.

JUST 30 MINUTES AWAY ON THE GUIDED BUS
Find out more at www.theoldriverportstives.co.uk

St Ives In Bloom who so nearly won a Gold medal again in 2015. We hope to collaborate with them to improve the appearance of the roundabouts around the town and provide some stunning displays especially with the Riverport Signs and on the Sheep Market. Again we will be helping FESt with their projects, especially the spectacular **Illuminated Boat Parade** which is anticipated by so many boaters and the public alike.

We are also planning to work more closely on joint projects with other groups. One such is with

All other images by the Town Team

SLOW DOWN! OUR BID TO CURB SPEEDING

Each year, Cambridgeshire County Council invites Town and Parish Councils to submit projects for funding under the Local Highway Improvement Scheme. As is often the case, there is not enough money available in the County

High accident rate

Our proposal this year is to reduce the speed limit along Hill Rise and Marley Road from 40 mph to 30 mph. Speeding along these roads has been of concern to local residents and there have been eleven recorded accidents in the last three years, many caused at the junctions with side roads as vehicles attempt to join the main road.



Persistent speeding along Marley Road has been the cause of many accidents.

Our proposal this year is to reduce the speed limit along Hill Rise and Marley Road ...

Council coffers to pay for all the proposals received from across the county. After considering all suggestions for

our town, Councillors choose one which will represent the best value for money and the most chance of getting the go-ahead. Last year, the Town Council submitted a successful bid for improvements to the pedestrian crossing outside Thorndown School and we are looking forward to this work beginning soon.

A proposal to reduce the speed limit here was discussed by the Huntingdonshire Traffic Management Local Committee in 2011/12. Although funding was available then, the scheme did not proceed. The Town Council hopes to reintroduce some of the measures previously discussed to improve the safety of road users and pedestrians along the route. The proposal is supported by

the town's District and County Councillors.

Our share

A condition of the funding is that the Town Council has to contribute a minimum of 10% of the cost and money has been allocated in the Council's budget for 2016/17 to pay this if the scheme is successful. The County Council will be considering all the submitted schemes in the next few months and we will learn if we have been successful later in the year.

CLLR NICK DIBBEN

Photographs by Tom Rawlinson/SITC

HOLD YOUR BREATH! OUR QUEST TO CURE UNWELCOME WHIFFS

Ever noticed a less-than-pleasant aroma at the bus station toilets? So has the Council! In fact we have been concerned about it for some years now and made many attempts to solve the problem without success. We are concerned because the toilets can often contribute to the first impressions of St Ives that visitors to our town receive and we want to encourage visitors rather than discourage them.

Going round the bend

The smell is strongest on the men's side and has defied all attempts to identify its

source. The toilets have been deep-cleaned, the tiling has been sealed, the pipework has been investigated with CCTV, the wastepipes have been replaced and the u-bends have been modified. Despite a good deal of time, effort and expense the unwelcome smell remains.

At the time of writing improvements are being made to the air fresheners. The Council would like to reassure those who use the facilities that we will continue to make every effort to improve the situation and make our public toilets once again a convenient, pleasant and valuable asset for the town. What a relief that will be ...

CLLR PETER SMITH, CHAIR AMENITIES COMMITTEE

... we want to encourage visitors rather than discourage them



The offending public toilet

The Amenities Committee meets monthly to make decisions about the amenities in St Ives. These include cemeteries, allotments, parks, playgrounds and the public toilets at Globe Place and the bus station.



Photographs by Tim George

CLERK'S CORNER COUNCIL MATTERS PRECEPT, POWER AND POLLS

This is set to be an exciting year for the Town Council with many positives to look forward to - not least the redevelopment of the Norris Museum. The Strategic Plan formalised in October last year is moving forward with a list of actions to complete and I am hopeful that by the time you read this I will have a full complement of staff again to fully resource them.

The first major decision taken by Council in the January meeting was to set the Precept (the obligatory order on the District Council to pay the Town Council a defined sum that it collects from residents) for the coming financial year. This year's precept is £695,425 and in real terms this means that on average each house will pay £120.13 from 1 April towards the services provided by the Town Council, an increase of 96p on last year - or 0.81%. In March, when the council tax booklet is distributed by the District Council, you will notice that the manner in which the Town Council spending is attributed has changed. It was decided as part of the Strategic Plan process that all staff time and council overheads should now be attributed to the associated service area to reflect the more realistic 'true' cost - much better for budgeting purposes.

“...the key that gives the community the tools and information it needs to enable it to play a bigger role in their society”

More citizen power

In the last couple of years Government has made legislation changes that impact quite significantly on the Town Council. The main one is the introduction of The Local Government Transparency Code 2015. Government is keen to place more power into citizens' hands to increase democratic accountability. It also wants to make it easier for local people to contribute to

the local decision-making process and help shape public services. Openness and transparency is the foundation of local accountability and the key that gives the community the tools and information it needs to enable it to play a

bigger role in their society. The availability of data can also open new markets for local businesses, and help the voluntary and community sectors and social enterprises to run services or manage public assets.

The Town Council has always tried to be as open and transparent as possible but now, as its turnover exceeds £200,000, it will implement the code and endeavour to meet the required standard of publication on our website. By the time you are reading this I am hopeful we will be fully compliant with the code and you will be able to easily access information. This will include invitations to tender over £5,000, a full list of council land and buildings, staffing structure and pay multiples, expenditure over £500 per annum and grants to voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations.

Why not stand for Council?

Another key element of this year will be the local elections in May. If you want to have your say on how your money is spent and how your town is run, standing for election is a proactive way to achieve this. As long as you are a Commonwealth or EU citizen, over 18, live in (or within three miles of the town boundary), or worked in the town for the preceding twelve months and are not disqualified (that is, you must not gain financially from the council, be subject to a bankruptcy restriction or have been convicted of any offence with a sentence of not less than three-months), then you can stand. The deadline for putting your name forward is 7 April. If you are interested or want more information before committing, contact me, or any existing Councillor, and we will help in any way we can.

ALISON MELNYCZUK, TOWN CLERK

COUNCIL MEETINGS DIARY

FEBRUARY

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

MARCH

- 2 Annual Town Meeting of the Electorate
- 9 Planning Committee and Town Council Meeting
- 23 Planning and Amenities Committees

APRIL

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

MAY

- 18 Annual Council Meeting and Mayor Making
- 19 Reconvened Annual Council Meeting
- 25 Planning and Amenities Committees

COMMITTEE FOCUS PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION CLLR DAN ROWE REPORTS

The Promotion and Publicity Committee (P&P) is the newest of the five committees that form the key working groups of the Council. Consisting of eight councillors as members, it provides two important functions for the town.

The first is to manage and develop all of the many means by which the Council communicates with

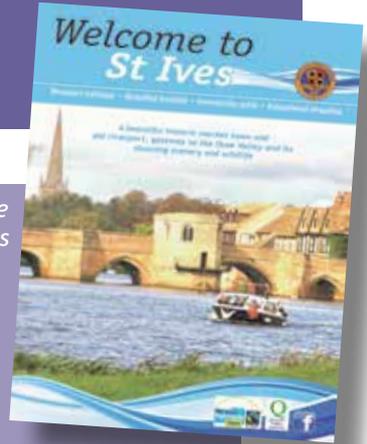
the people they represent. This is done by advising on and assisting the creation

The St Ives Official Town Guide and Map is delivered direct to every residential and business address within the PE27, 3, 4, 5 and 6 postcodes. Should you not receive one please call in to the Town Hall. The 2016 edition is about to be delivered.

of press releases, the updating of each edition of the annual Town Guide (which is produced by an independent company Local Authority Publications), the production and distribution of the town's Welcome Pack, contributing to social media and, of course, the production of this magazine four times a year. It is also responsible for managing the Councillor Surgeries held at the Farmers' Market and outside the Burleigh Hill Community Centre. These enable Councillors to engage with you, listen to your issues and gain insight on how we might better serve you. It is also nice to simply chat sometimes!

Using these means, the Committee is able to help inform the people of St Ives about events in the town, the groups that are helping to keep it running and, last but not least, what the Councillors are up to while they are working!

The Welcome Pack contains much information about the town and its attractions and is delivered free to all new residents and businesses.



Promoting the town

The other half of the Committee's role is to enhance and promote the image of St Ives further afield in order to help bring in valuable tourism to support the local economy. In collaboration with the Town Team (see page 10), the Committee has worked to improve communication with the tourist information centre in Cambridge and the operators of the guided busway to make sure St Ives is a destination of choice.

MEET THE CHAPLAIN CATHERINE BALL

This my eighth year as minister of the Free Church in St Ives. As the church right in the centre of Market Hill and open daily, our mission is to serve our community. It has thus been a privilege to also serve as Chaplain to our current and previous Town Mayors over the past two

years, particularly as there has not been a minister from the Free Church in this role for 25 years. It has been an honour to be invited, and I think also, to be the first woman appointed.

It has been an honour to be ... the first woman appointed.

My role

The role of the chaplain is to pastorally support the Mayor as s/he chairs Council Meetings and plans community events. One of my responsibilities is to say prayers before the start of each monthly Town Council meeting. The year began with the

Civic Service held at All Saints, St Ives Parish Church in June. It was a rewarding experience as so many people attended, and many said they appreciated my message on 'Creating Trust'.

I was pleased to affirm the integrity and efforts of the Town Council to serve the best interests of all in this town, and to ask God's blessings on them in the coming year.

The Civic parade and the Michaelmas Fair in October, along with Armistice Day and other town events, enabled me to learn more about what happens in our town. It has been a delight to get to know the Councillors and to learn more about the social and political strengths and challenges that our town faces.



Photograph courtesy of Catherine Ball

Continued opposite

I am impressed by how much the Town Councillors really care for the wellbeing of St Ives.

I am impressed by how much the Town Councillors really care for the wellbeing of St Ives.

Working with the Mayor

A further privilege is supporting the Mayor in raising funds and awareness for his chosen charities. This year The Free Church hosted the Mayor's Charity Concert. Cllr Ian Jackson has not only raised funds but also given time and personal support to the Dementia Café, the Memory Lane Sing-a-long Cafe and the 2nd Sea Scouts.

Working with the community

The Civic Lessons and Carols Service, in which people both from our church and people from the Town Council participated, was a good reminder of our

Christian heritage. It is true that we live in a pluralistic society and must respect those of other faiths and also those of none, as well as affirm the Christian faith. At a time when the world is experiencing many religious conflicts, it is heartening to me that in St Ives there is an amicable relationship between all the faiths represented in our town. And that when cut-backs at every level of government are so prevalent it is wonderful that through Churches Together in St Ives, our places of worship can work with each other and complement our Town Council in meeting the needs of people in our community.

Let us all continue to seek the peace and welfare of our beautiful town.

REVD DR CATHERINE BALL, MINISTER OF THE FREE CHURCH, A UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

WHAT'S ON?

TOWN COUNCIL, CIVIC AND RELATED EVENTS

See page 13 for COUNCIL MEETINGS DIARY.

All details of the events listed were correct at the time The Bridge went to press.

Please check organisers/venues for final details.

- Civic Society www.stivescivic.org.uk • Corn Exchange 01480 496454 info@thecornexchange.org.uk
- Norris Museum 01480 497314 • Town Hall 01480 388929

February

- 6 **Award-winning Farmers' Market** Sheep Market 8.30 am until 2 pm
- 17 **St Ives Gardening Club Speaker Evening** Free Church 7.30 pm
- 17 **Major Mustard's Travelling Show** Delightful tales for the under 7s: 11 am The Ugly Duckling and 2 pm Robin Hood, Methodist Church, The Broadway
- 19 **Civic Society Monthly Talk** Alexa Cox, Hunts Records Office Free Church 7.30 pm
- 20 **Award-winning Farmers' Market** Sheep Market 8.30 am until 2 pm
- 27 **Hunts Philatelic Society Stamp Fair** Corn Exchange, Free admission 10 am until 3 pm

March

- 2 **Annual Town Meeting** Corn Exchange 7 pm
- 5 **Award-winning Farmers' Market** Sheep Market 8.30 am until 2 pm
- 12 **Mayor's Civic Charity Masked Ball** Corn Exchange 7 pm Tickets from Town Hall
- 18 **Civic Society Monthly Talk** Veronica Bennett, Sutton Hoo, Anglo-Saxon Buried Treasures, Free Church 7.30 pm
- 19 **Award-winning Farmers' Market** Sheep Market 8.30 am until 2 pm also Councillor Surgery between 10 am and noon.

April

- 2 **Award-winning Farmers' Market** Sheep Market 8.30 am until 2 pm

- 15 **Civic Society Monthly Talk** John Chapman, Stowe House and the Work of the Preservation Trust, Free Church 7.30 pm

- 16 **Award-winning Farmers' Market** Sheep Market 8.30 am until 2 pm

May

- 7 **Award-winning Farmers' Market** Sheep Market 8.30 am until 2 pm
- 18 **Mayor Making** Corn Exchange 7 pm
- 20 **Civic Society Monthly Talk** Jason Peters, Lost Forests of Huntingdonshire, Free Church 7.30 pm
- 21 **Award-winning Farmers' Market** Sheep Market 8.30 am until 2 pm

Norris Museum Note While the Museum is closed there will be lots of pop-up activities happening across St Ives and Huntingdonshire. See pages 6-7 and visit the Museum's Facebook page for further details.

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 - deals with each particular

responsibility. 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

Responsible for The Waits, Warner's Park, Slepe Hall Field, Children's play equipment, Allotments, Seats, Cemeteries, Corn Exchange, Town Hall, Norris Museum, Public toilets, Statutory consultee for planning matters. Sponsor of the Town Team, actively supporting the economic development

and community well-being of St Ives.

SITC is currently composed of 17 Councillors who represent three wards. The composition of the Council is Independents 14, Conservatives 2, Liberal Democrats 1.

Your Councillors

								
Jason Ablewhite 01480 466941	Angela Ayers-Wilson 07583 928891	Martin Collier 01480 461739	John Davies 01480 468467	Nick Dibben 01480 495101	Ian Dobson 01480 463662	Tim Drye 01480 385625	Pam Edey 01480 468850	David Hodge 01480 464087
								
Ian Jackson 01480 385999	Brian Luter 01480 300963	Philip Pope 07507 792324	Deborah Richardson 01480 350042	Daniel Rowe 07748 157702	Matt Smith 07773 766001	Peter Smith 07711 131573	Debbie Townsend 01480 353216	Alison Melnyczuk Town Clerk

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Responsible for Rubbish collection, Street cleaning, Planning and planning enforcement, Housing improvement grants, Environmental health, Licensing, Elections, Parks and open spaces, One Leisure Centre and Burgess Hall, Housing, Economic development, Car parks, CCTV, Tax collection, Standards Board, Countryside Services (Holt Island, Wilhorn Meadow and the Thicket), Building control, Voluntary sector.
Telephone 01480 388388 or visit www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk

HDC is composed of 52 Councillors who represent 29 wards across the District. The current composition of the Council is Conservatives 35, UKIP 5, Liberal Democrats 4, Independents 6, Labour 2.

Your Councillors

Jason Ablewhite 01480 466941
John Davies 01480 468467
Angela Dickinson 01480 495445
Ryan Fuller 01480 388311
Deborah Reynolds 01480 465091

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Responsible for Education, Roads and traffic, Footpaths, Libraries, Social Services, Park and ride, Recycling, Street Lighting, Trading standards.
Telephone 0345 045 5200 or visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

CCC is composed of 69 councillors (with one vacancy) who represent five Districts across Cambridgeshire. The current composition of the council is Conservatives 32, Liberal Democrats 13, UKIP 10, Labour 8, Independents 5.

Your Councillors Paul Bullen 01480 462735
Kevin Reynolds 01480 496006

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 or from the Norris Museum in The Broadway. The next Bridge will be published in May 2016. If you would like to suggest an item for publication please contact the Town Hall first.

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



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