

The Bridge



News, views and events from your Town Council

July 2016

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

Highlights...

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**INCLUDES
ANNUAL REPORT**
See pages 12-14

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FRONT COVER

Detail from the winning entry by David Brown for the Old Riverport Art Competition. See more on page 8. Photograph by John Souter.

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APOLOGY

In the February issue we published an incorrect address for the nearest Police Station to St Ives. It is in fact Huntingdon Police Station, Ferrars Road, Huntingdon PE29 3DQ

MAYORS' MESSAGES

THOUGHTS FROM THE RETIRING MAYOR

“The residents and volunteers are the heartbeat of the town”

This issue of *The Bridge* has been on hold while we held the local election, formed a new Council and elected our new Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the coming year. I am sad to be stepping down but also delighted to introduce you to my successor, Cllr Mrs Debbie Townsend. For me it is now a time for reflection.

How to sum up a year of all those meetings, debates and decisions including 188 events both formal and fun, with processions and parades and concerts and banquets and balls? One word - fantastic!

It has been such an honour to represent you on all these occasions and to feel pride in displaying the Chain of Office on behalf of what I consider to be best market town in the country.

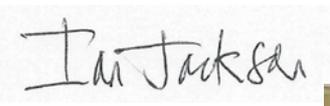
What has been achieved? Our Committees have worked hard. We have objected strongly to proposals to switch off and dim our street lights, and continue

to do so. We have made it clear to HDC planners that without appropriate infrastructure the planned housing for the RAF Wyton site will cause havoc in our town. And, with the Town Team, we have worked hard to increase footfall from tourism to support our independent shops - one of the attractions of St Ives.

Without doubt, my lasting memory will be of engaging with so many of you in local group meetings, in the street and at events - and experiencing at first hand the wonderful community spirit we hold dear. The residents and volunteers are the heartbeat of the town - and I am so proud that with your assistance and generosity the Mayoress and I have raised over £7,000 during the year to help my charities continue their good work.

I now look forward, along with the new Council, to supporting our new Mayor through her year.

CLLR IAN JACKSON



MAYOR MAKING

The ceremony marks the end of one Mayor's term and the beginning of another's. Speeches are made, awards are presented and the chain is passed on.

It is a time of reflection, anticipation and celebration.



Mick Jones receives the Commerce in the Community Award for Jones Boatyard.



Cllr Dikken nominated as the new Mayor

Photographs by Tom Rawlinson/STC

THOUGHTS FROM THE NEW MAYOR

Photograph by Peter Townsend



It is a great honour to have the opportunity to represent and serve the people of St Ives as Town Mayor for a second time. The first occasion was four years ago and so some of you may already know me or have seen me in or around the town at that time.

This year, I have chosen Macmillan Woodlands Centre Appeal at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital as my main mayoral charity. Together, Hinchingsbrooke Trust and Macmillan want to create a much bigger treatment centre that brings together all outpatient oncology services delivering a state-of-the-art future for patients and staff. I know that I am not the only one who has a relative or close friend that has been treated for cancer. These new facilities will provide a welcoming environment that allow patients the dignity and privacy they deserve. I hope you can support me in raising

funds for this worthy cause.

I came to live in St Ives in 1990, when I met and married my husband, Peter. Peter is a St Ivian and so I had very little choice as to where to set up our new home! However, it did not take me long to realise that St Ives is a brilliant place to live and I soon found myself getting involved in the town's activities and events. I also have the pleasure of working in St Ives and so if you see me out and about, please come over and say 'hello'.

My first event as Town Mayor this year was to celebrate the 13th birthday of our Award-winning Farmers' Market. It is nice to see the market still flourishing after all these years and it was a pleasure to meet and present our market traders with a well-deserved piece of birthday cake made, of course, by Tom's cakes. I was delighted to present a trophy to Brocklesby's Pies for the best Farmers' Market stall for this year. I can thoroughly recommend their Longhorn Beef Pie!

In May, St Ives also held the first *Mobility and Kids' Scooter Grand Prix* in the town centre (see page 6). This was organised as a fun event for all the family by the St Ives Town Team in support of *Huntingdon Shopmobility*.

Everyone had a great afternoon and I hope to see this event again next year in St Ives.

On Saturday 25 June we marked Armed Forces Day in St Ives and it was a pleasure to see the continued support for the men and women who make up the Armed Forces community: from currently serving troops to service families and from veterans to cadets.

Don't forget the St Ives Carnival and Music Festival on 9 and 10 July (see Notice Board on page 4). With so much going on in St Ives I really look forward to having an opportunity of seeing you, at least once, over the coming year.

I welcome and look forward to working with the newly elected Town Council. We have a number of younger Town Councillors who have stepped up to the mark to commit their time and energy to the well-being of our town. I'm sure they will bring new ideas and enthusiasm to the Town Council.

Lastly, my congratulations to Cllr Phillip Pope on being elected as Deputy Town Mayor for the ensuing year.

CLLR MRS DEBBIE TOWNSEND

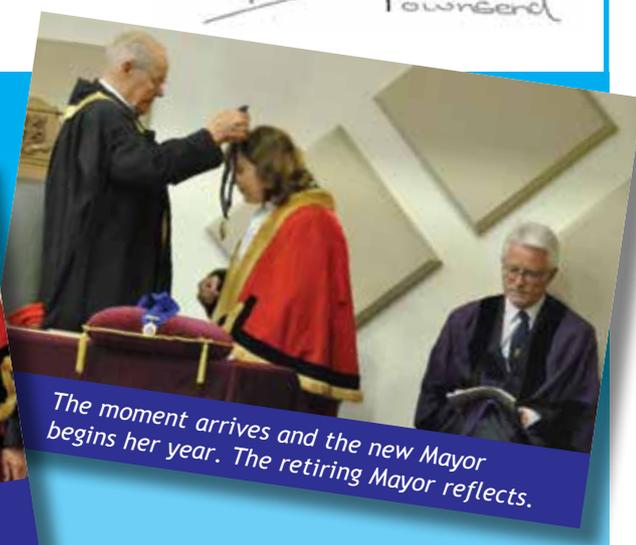
“We have a number of younger Town Councillors...”



...ates Cllr Townsend
r.



The retiring Mayor loses his chain as the new Mayor anticipates receiving it.



The moment arrives and the new Mayor begins her year. The retiring Mayor reflects.

NOTICE BOARD

Something to say?

Come to a Council Surgery! We are pleased to announce that the Councillor Surgeries still to come will be held on the following dates and venues:



- 16 July** Burleigh Hill (just by the Burleigh Hill Centre)
- 17 September** Kings Hedges (location to be announced)
- 5 November** Farmers' Market (town centre)

Watch out for our gazebo with signs and come and say hello. Each surgery will be manned by three councillors who will be pleased to meet with you and listen to any comments – good or not so good – you want to make. If you would like us to follow up on any points you make we will make a record of the conversation and the Town Clerk will get back to you with the information you need, or the best advice we can give. Bear in mind we are your local Town Council and that the District and County Councils will be responsible for other services. See the back page of this magazine for details. Whatever your query we will do our best to help you.

COULD YOU BE SPECIAL?

Do you want to do something special for yourself, your community and your employer?



Do you want to gain invaluable experience and training to achieve your personal or professional goals? Why not join the Special Constabulary and find out just how much you are capable of? Your employer may even give you time off to volunteer under the employer supported policing scheme.

The Special Constabulary welcomes applications from people from all walks of life and backgrounds. The kind of people we need have good life skills and experience, plus strong community awareness.

For more information about becoming a Special, or to apply, visit www.cambs.police.uk/recruitment/Specials or email specials@cambs.pnn.police.uk

Volunteer for a better St Ives

We have a shortage of volunteers in the St Ives area. Help shape your community by supporting older people to live happy, healthy and independent lives. With just a few hours a month, we have flexible roles to suit you:

- Offer practical and emotional help to local people
- Support older people to find services and activities
- Get involved with a local community group

Contact us now on: 01954 211919 to find out more, or www.care-network.org.uk / volunteering@care-network.org.uk. Thank you!



CARNIVAL TIME!



It's back and a bigger spectacle than ever on the weekend of 9-10 July! This year the team behind the carnival and music festival has introduced new features to make the event fresh - a shopping mall style area, for example, for our trade, charity and community stalls and - a first this year - CRAFT STALLS!

With more entries in the parade the team is confident that the involvement of local businesses, schools, community groups and charities will excite the public as it passes along its route from the town centre (departing at 11.30 am) to Hill Rise Park. The parade will leave just after the judging of the floats takes place with the Town Mayor.

Once at the park, an afternoon of fun and entertainment is in store. There will be the funfair, live arena acts, bird displays, food from around the world, plus live music from 5 pm until 9 pm to give

you a taster of what's to come on the following day.

The team is really excited by this year's line-up of acts for the music festival which kicks off at 1 pm on the Sunday. A combination of new acts and very familiar sounds will get the crowd behind the event again this year to support the local talent being showcased. The acts performing will be announced on [Facebook.com/stivescarnivalandmusicfestival2016](https://www.facebook.com/stivescarnivalandmusicfestival2016) page each week leading up to the big weekend.

The event is sponsored by a number of local businesses including Mick George, Luminus, Huntingdonshire District Council, St Ives Town Council and Huntingdonshire Regional College - more to be announced soon!

WALK YOURSELF WELL

The Huntingdonshire Health Walks scheme is provided free as part of the national initiative *Walking for Health*.

Walking is one of the safest and easiest forms of physical activity. Please join us for a walk that suits you which you can enjoy at your own



pace but with the added benefit of being in the company of other walkers and trained leaders.

For further information contact the Sports Development Officer on 01480 387047, email activelifestyles@huntingdonshire.gov.uk.

Full list of scheduled walks for this summer at www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/healthwalks

MUSEUM ON THE MOVE!

NOTES FROM THE NORRIS

The Norris Museum is very excited to launch this new initiative. The museum site is currently closed to the public as it undergoes a £1.4 million Heritage Lottery Fund redevelopment.

Museum on the Move has always been an integral part of the plan once the museum closed. It is a unique opportunity for us to take some of our collections and activities relating to them, out and about across Huntingdonshire.

There is a whole variety of *Museum on the Move* experiences including:

The Romans - take the part of Paul or Mary (you know who we mean) and decide which recipe should win *The Great Roman Bake Off*.

Fabulous Fen Skaters - have a look at how skates have changed over the years and design your own super skate for the future.

Marvellous mammoths - run the risky mammoth run with your very own mammoth.

Fantastic Fossils - become a fossil hunter and discover some of the museum's fossils.

Off to the Shops - find out how shopping has changed since the 1940s and 50s and leave us your very own memory postcard.

Museum in Miniature - be Herbert Norris for the day and create your own mini-museum full of treasures.

Museum on the Move has something for all the family. We will be pitching up at fairs, fetes, libraries, museums and community centres across the county over the summer. There is still chance to book *Museum on the Move* for your event. Please call Hannah on 01480 497314 or email learning@norrismuseum.org.uk.

SARAH RUSSELL, DIRECTOR

LOCAL EVENT DAYS

- Friday 22 July 11 am-3 pm Warner's Park, St Ives *The Romans* Featuring a live display by the Raptor Foundation and family craft activities
- Friday 5 August 11 am-12 am *Rhyme Time for the Under 5s* University of Cambridge Museums' Summer at the Museums (Under the Deep Blue Sea)
- Wednesday 17 August 11 am-3 pm *Summer holidays family event* summer arts and crafts

MUSEUM ON THE MOVE DAYS

- Saturday 2 July 12-4 pm *Houghton and Wyton Fete*
- Saturday 16 July from 10 am *At Home with Shuttleworth* - Marvellous Mammoths and Stone Age Survivors
- Saturday 16 July 12-3 pm *Holywell School Fete* *Museum in Miniature*
- Friday 29 July 10 am-12 am Huntingdon Library *Fantastic Fossils*
- Saturday 30 July 9 am-4 pm Ferry Meadows, Peterborough *Bike Run or Walk for MAGPAS*
- Tuesday 2 August 10 am-12 am St Ives Library *Museum on the Move Fantastic Fossils*
- Thursday 4 August 10 am-12 am Warboys Library *Museum on the Move Fantastic Fossils*



The Director unearths yet another fossil.

- Sunday 7 August 2-5 pm Ramsey Mortuary Chapels *Museum on the Move Fen Skaters*
- Tuesday 9 August 10 am-12 am Yaxley Library *Museum on the Move Fantastic Fossils*
- Wednesday 10 August 2-4 pm St Neots Library *Museum on the Move Fantastic Fossils*
- Thursday 18 August 10 am-12 am Ramsey Library *Museum on the Move Fantastic Fossils*
- Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 August *Ramsey 1940s Weekend*
- Wednesday 24 August 10 am-12 am Sawtry Library *Museum on the Move Fantastic Fossils*
- Thursday 25 August Ramsey Rural Museum *Museum on the Move a range of topics*
- Tuesday 30 August 2-4 pm Buckden Library *Museum on the Move Fantastic Fossils*

TOWN TOUR DAYS

Call 01480 497314 for details

- Thursday 14 July 6 pm *Law, Order and Disaster*
- Sunday 7 August 2 pm *Walking Georgian St Ives with Edmund Pettis*
- Thursday 11 August 6 pm *Back Streets*
- Sunday 4 September 2 pm *Of Bones, Boats and Bullocks*
- Thursday 8 September 6 pm *Law, Order and Disaster*



The new Mayor gets on the job (cake) in Roman style with her Consort Peter Townsend.

TOWN TEAM UPDATE

CATS, WIVES AND ROUNDABOUTS

Who are we? A non-political group of volunteers who love St Ives and are supported by the Council to promote the town. We work with local businesses to create commercial and social initiatives to keep the town vibrant and viable. This includes creating a marketing strategy, putting on unique and varied events, hosting the town website and encouraging tourism. We offer local businesses a free opportunity to promote themselves on www.theoldriverportstives.co.uk where you can also find what's going in the town. This website links to Cambridge Take Your Time, the region's main site which gets 2 million hits per year.

OUR FAMOUS POEM

Although that other place in Cornwall thinks the poem 'As I Was Going to St Ives' is about their town, the St Ives Town Team is making it clear once and for all that it belongs to this St Ives in Cambridgeshire.

We are doing this by putting on a play based on the poem, having a day of cat-based craft activities for children and flooding the town with cats and kittens.

“...we need all the help we can get.”

Sandy Souter is co-ordinating a team of people who are busy making cats and kittens from a range of materials in an attempt to make 2,744 - the number derived from the poem. 'It's a big task and we need all the help we can get' she was heard to mutter the other day. 'If you can help please get in touch with me by emailing townteam@theoldriverportstives.co.uk.'

'You can make cats any way you like and if you need help we can supply patterns for knitted and sewed cats', said Sandy. 'We can even supply the materials if needed, but it's a good way to recycle some of your old t-shirts and material you may have lying around.'

The idea is for cats to appear throughout the town in the month leading up to the 23 July when the activities start and the play is presented on The Quay.

Want to be involved?
Email us at townteam@theoldriverportstives.co.uk or call in at the Town Hall.

We are currently working with St Ives in Bloom group to improve the roundabouts in town. This is a long-term project that we hope will help SIIB achieve that elusive gold award and improve the approaches to our town. We plan for one of

the roundabouts to highlight the historic markets and our willow weaving heritage. Watch out for a tethered cow and livestock grazing on a roundabout but don't worry - they will be willow! Another will sport a nautical theme to also reflect our past - as a busy inland riverport.

We are also updating our leaflets and designing new ones to highlight our range of shops, and especially the independents in the alleyways and mews that give our shoppers such a distinct experience. This work includes looking at clear signage to highlight all businesses in a location, reducing the need for multiple A-frames that crowd the pavements.

LINE-UPS AT THE GRAND PRIX

May's Mobility Grand Prix was a huge success with all age groups! Mature electric buggy drivers showed their skills of control and manoeuvrability, while younger scooterists excited us with dare-devil speed races. This event supported Huntingdon Shopability.



The Mayor, Beckie MacLellan and Pat Allan pause between trials.



The boy racers (and one girl) under starters orders.

THE BIG MERRIE WIVES' DAY

From 10 am to 3 pm on 23 July there will be free craft activities for children on Holt Island. These will include a range of things to do and make suitable for both boys and girls and a chance to enjoy the wonderful nature reserve right in the heart of the town.

At the same time, in the Corn Exchange, there will be a free exhibition of displays from various organisations about the Ouse Washes and the river, including footage of some rare films taken along the Great Ouse over the past 100 years. These will be playing continuously during the exhibition so you can drop in anytime to see them.

Finally, in the evening at 7 pm on The Quay, the play *The Merrie Wives of St Ives* is performed. This is a true community production written and performed by local people and it continues the cat theme as it weaves some of the people and places of the past around the poem. Not only will you hear about the hilarious consequences of a man



This is a true community production ...

with seven wives (who incidentally are 'revolting'), you will also be able to learn about the importance of the river and experience a play performed much as it would have been in Shakespeare's day. Brilliantly written in rhyming verse by town poet and riverboat captain Chris Morgan and with music by Chris Lewis, it is directed by Collette Parker. There is even a Hog Roast afterwards closing what might be one of the highlights of the year.

The whole day is part of OuseFest fortnight when there are lots of events celebrating the River Great Ouse and the Fen areas through which it flows out to The Wash. The Town Team is grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the grant which has enabled us to create the day.

Tickets are limited. To reserve yours please email townteam@theoldriverportstives.co.uk. You will then receive an email to inform you

when your tickets can be collected and paid for from the Town Hall. Tickets can also be booked on-line at www.ticketsource.co.uk/stivescornexchange (there is a small booking fee for this service).

JOHN SOUTER,
CHAIR TOWN TEAM



WHY THE OLD RIVERPORT?

Now that the Old Riverport is making its presence in the town more obvious it is time for us to remind readers of how this initiative to promote the town came about.

In 2011 the coalition Government appointed retail expert Mary Portas to lead a review into the future of high streets and town centres, then in noticeable decline. This effect was being seen everywhere, including St Ives. Her report was published in December 2011 and was followed by a further Government review document in July 2013. This indicated that it was particularly important for towns to identify their unique selling points (USPs) to focus the marketing of their town centres. Two important potential USPs, especially for market towns, were 'heritage' and 'attractiveness'.

As part of the St Ives Town Team I was struck by the fact that many local surveys had indicated that our riverside setting was its most attractive feature and a key part of its heritage. This seemed an obvious steer towards identifying its USP. St Ives is a market town with a market, loaded with history and significance, but it is one of 371 designated market towns in England.

St Ives as a port pre-dates the market and was one of the major reasons that the market could flourish, with Flemish weavers sailing directly to St Ives to trade cloth. St Ives as a port was certainly significant when both distance inland and the tonnages of cargoes are considered. It created ancillary industries - boat building, rope making and grain storage for example. And for some three to four hundred years it was St Ives biggest employer involving most of the residents of the old town (approximately that which is now the Conservation

Area). Much of this, especially the quayside and The Waits, still remain.

The name 'Riverport' is, of course, not its original name but is a title to identify the old part of the town to give a focus and a 'sense of place' for both visitors and residents. To use a new name to identify and highlight the historical tradition of a place is not unusual when aiming to make it attractive and visited. The best example is probably 'London Docklands' which was first used in a Government report as recently as 1971. Another is 'Bristol's Harbourside'. The 'Old Riverport' is simply a part of St Ives that has an interesting and unique history. It makes St Ives different to many other market towns and therefore worth visiting.

It is the town centre which must prosper. As the government initiative has indicated if the town centre fails so does the whole town. Compared to almost any other way of revitalising town centres, enhancing 'the sense of place' is low cost and low risk but with a potentially high return. The more it is embraced by the town the more effective it becomes. St Ives is a fine town with a market heritage (once one of the four great markets of England) to be really proud of. The market prospered because of the strategic position of its port on the River Great Ouse. The port is still there to this day for people to enjoy.

CHRIS LEWIS,
TOWN TEAM

It is the town centre which must prosper.



RIVERPORT ART THE WINNERS

The Town Team competition to create a vision of The Old Riverport St Ives attracted 15 excellent entries with many interpretations in different media. After much deliberation the judges selected these pictures, which were displayed in the Corn Exchange for a week.

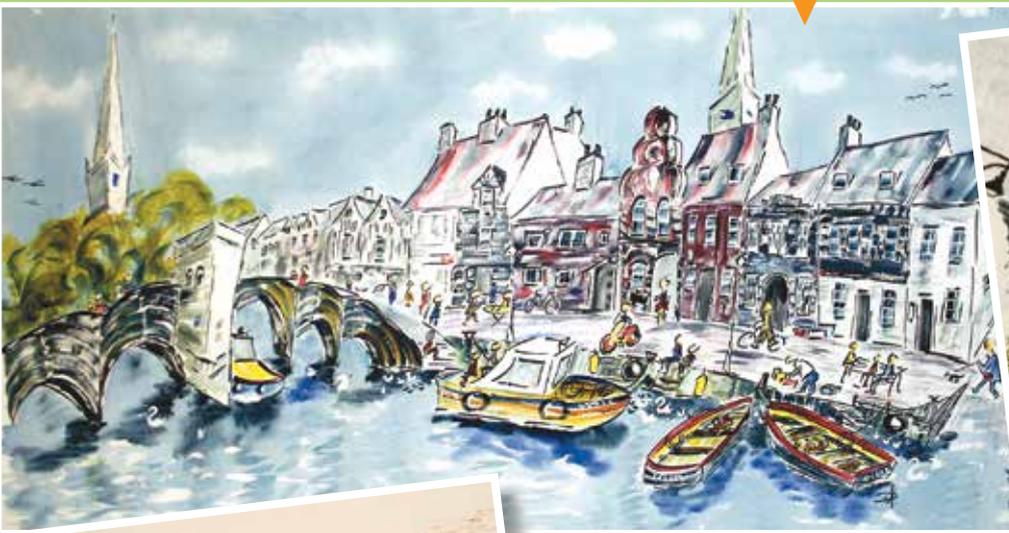
Thanks are due to the judges - Town Mayor Cllr Ian Jackson, Town Clerk Alison Melnychuk, and Town Team Glyn Hardy and Chris Lewis; the prize donors - Amore Restaurant, Friends of Holt Island Nature Reserve and St Ives Electric Riverboat Company; and to all the entrants.

Photographs by John Souter



▶ **Maria Trufin** aged 6 [under 10 category] An accomplished bold crayon rendering of the Town Bridge in the heart of the Riverport on a beautiful day complete with swans and flying gulls, the result of concentration, keen observance and much crayon sharpening. The judges were unanimous in their praise for this entry.

▶ **David Brown** [adult category] First prize for his expansive panorama of the Town Bridge and The Quay on a bustling, boating day with figures hurrying over the bridge and along the quayside, past outdoor tables and chairs - just the kind of day we all love to see in the Riverport. The impressive scale of this work and the happy atmosphere it conveys helped convince the judges this was the winner.



▶ **Christine Wilson** [adult category] Second prize for her very clever and imaginative montage of all the iconic features that make our town the special place it is. We particularly liked the inclusion of the Old Riverport sign!



Specially commended were **Pete Sinfield's** rendering of The Old River in sepia pen and ink (above left) and **Angela Prime's** beautifully detailed scene of a modern pleasure boat passing under our ancient Town Bridge (above right) - our past and our present in one.

NOW THE CALENDAR

Watch out for this year's Old Riverport Calendar at the end of August featuring many more entries from the Art Competition.



THORNDOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL NEW BUILDING, HEADTEACHER, FACILITIES

This amazing new school building first opened in 2014 to universal approval. We invited the new Headteacher, Vicci Godbold, to tell us why it is so special.

I joined Thorndown as its new Headteacher in April 2014. The move from a headship in another school to Thorndown has been exciting and challenging, and I have been made to feel

very, very welcome by families in St Ives.

Thorndown has been through some exciting changes, both as a building and as a learning community, and we are now seeing the fruits of our labour with improved SAT results (National Curriculum assessments), an increasing pupil roll and a wonderful new, high-tech building.

infant and junior schools into one large primary school. Rapidly degrading buildings and the need for new pupil places in St Ives started a fruitful conversation between Thorndown's previous Headteacher, Lynda Williams, its governing body and the Local Authority. Cambridgeshire County Council funded our wonderful

can learn from books, computers and an interactive table, and our Learning Street provides quiet pods, where groups can learn together outside the classroom. At Thorndown, we have a very positive outlook for the future and our new building has really helped us to become a community which is ready for many years of

learning in St Ives. I'd like to thank all our neighbouring residents for their patience during our building work.

Community involvement

Thorndown has continued to open our doors to the community. Many local groups use our facilities during the evenings and weekends and activities include belly dancing, Pilates, drama, many sports clubs and a local Church group. I know that our sprung hall floor has been really enjoyed! We also plan to take over the Pavilion playgroup on-site from September.

Thorndown is a school which is embracing change and is ready for whatever the future brings. As the catchment area for the school expands with new housing, we look forward to welcoming many more new families into our friendly school.



The sleek modern lines of architect Richard Christmas are evident both outside and inside.

Photograph (left) by Ian Jackson



new building, in which we will be able to accommodate over 600 pupils. Many of you visited the school to attend our grand opening last September and enjoyed seeing the facilities on offer to our pupils.

Hi-tech design and facilities

Our building was designed by Richard Christmas, a talented architect from Atkins Global, a highly respected design, engineering and project management consultancy, who has made sure the whole building is flooded with light. We benefit from under-floor heating and a heat exchange system to ensure we are warm in winter and cool in the summer. Our Discovery Suite is an exciting place where children

County Council Funding

The school, as many of you may remember, changed in 2011 from separate

... we have a very positive outlook for the future ...



A school for fund-raising cuddly bears and super heroes.



AWARD

Cllr Ian Jackson presents Headteacher Vicci Godbold with the Town Council's Millennium Shield for a local organisation that has excelled in the community.

Photograph by Tom Rawlinson/SITC



PLANNING POINTS

NICK DIBBEN REPORTS

Green light for A14
The A14 upgrade between Cambridge and the A1 had been approved by the Minister and the main construction work is due to start early 2017. The scheme comprises a new 3-lane road on the original route between Cambridge and Fen Stanton,



A sight we might yet see the back of in a couple of years.

where it will run to the south of Godmanchester and link into the A1 and existing A14 west of Huntingdon. A parallel local road is being provided between Fen Stanton and Cambridge which will cause some existing junctions to be closed. This route will also have a new cycle track. Once this work is complete in 2020, the old viaduct over Huntingdon Railway Station can be removed and changes made to the roads around Huntingdon.

During the design and approval process the Town Council attended many meetings with the Highways Agency to assess how the scheme would affect St Ives. You may recall that a question we asked resulted in a local newspaper headline noting that the £1.5bn scheme would deliver

a reduction of just 29 seconds journey time between St Ives and the centre of Cambridge! We also pressed for local apprenticeship opportunities and insisted that no

construction traffic should run through St Ives - both requests have been granted. One issue remains - we want to ensure that adequate signage to the town and the Old Riverport is provided.

The Highways Agency will shortly announce a legacy funding scheme which will make funds available for local improvements to the towns and villages along the route. Please keep an eye on the local media and Town Council website for details.

CLLR NICK DIBBEN,
CHAIR PLANNING COMMITTEE



TAKING SHELTER

The Town Council has paid for a new bus shelter at the bus stop opposite Garner Drive on Houghton Road. Although the stop is technically in Houghton Parish most people using the stop live in St Ives. And, as this is a somewhat exposed location and a wait for the bus can sometimes be windy and rainswept, it was felt that the cost would be well worth the improvement the shelter would bring. The money came from the Community Infrastructure Levy money that the Town Council receives from new housing development in St Ives. The Council is well aware that its responsibility for improvements covers the whole town and not just the centre.



Map by Highways England

Photograph by Ian Jackson



Photograph by Tim George

CLERK'S CORNER

COUNCIL MATTERS

Think of June and most people think of summer, whereas I have to think 'annual report'. This is a look back at the last financial year and a comparison with the previous to show how your money has been used and what the Council has achieved over the last twelve months (see pages 12-13). I will also, as ever, take the opportunity to reflect here on some of our achievements.

The biggest of these in 2015 has to be winning the FARMA'S *Market of the Year* award. This was hard earned as we were once again up against some very stiff opposition. But fabulous team work won the day - traders, staff and customers all working together to make St Ives the best in the country. Having won, we all still continue to work together to keep the market at the top of its game (even if we cannot enter the competition for another two years).

The Council budgeted for an increase of roughly £30,000 on the precept in 2015/16. It was felt that more money should be allocated to the Corn Exchange for repairs and renewals to the fabric of the building and to the public toilets in order to try to resolve the unpleasant odour. We also increased the amount available for community grants. A major factor in terms of a reduction to our income was due to a long-term tenant of the Town Hall moving out in March 2015. It was decided not to actively look for a replacement but to use the space for the relocation of the Norris Museum - staff and artefacts - to facilitate its closure for the Heritage Lottery Fund redevelopment.

Throughout the year the Council continued to be proactive in planning for improvements to its assets. The Broadleas cemetery wall was repainted and most

of the play areas were repainted where necessary, along with undertaking normal running repairs to the equipment. Although not completed within the twelve-months, plans were also worked up and put in place to make further improvements to both the allotments and cemeteries. A new ashes scattering policy was adopted for Ramsey Road, with a new woodland burial area planted up in Hill Rise cemetery.

“The year was positive for the Council ...”

The year was positive for the Council with the setting in place of its five-year Strategic Plan. The plan was adopted in October and sets the framework and objectives for the way forward for the Town Council for the next few years. As this was achieved in the last year of the current four-year term for Members of the Council, the Strategic Plan the plan will give those newly elected in May a focus with which to begin the new term.

So, I now look forward to the next twelve months. Following the election in May my team and I have seven new members and ten re-elected members to work with. We will continue to support the community of the town - with the emphasis on moving forward and ever upwards to keep St Ives and 'the place to be' in Huntingdonshire.

“We will continue to support the community of the town ...”

ALISON MELNYCZUK, TOWN CLERK

COUNCIL MEETINGS DIARY

JULY

- 13 Planning Committee and Town Council Meeting
- 20 Property, Personnel and Promotion and Publicity Committee Meetings
- 27 Planning and Amenities Committees

AUGUST

- 10 Planning Committee

SEPTEMBER

- 14 Planning Committee and Town Council Meeting
- 28 Planning and Amenities Committees

OCTOBER

- 12 Planning Committee and Town Council Meeting
- 19 Property, Personnel and Promotion and Publicity Committee Meetings
- 26 Planning 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 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber. 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.

ANNUAL REPORT 2015 – 2016

ACCOUNTS

Our accounts have been drawn up in accordance with the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

The main source of income is the Precept (Council Tax) which was for the year 2015/16 £651,833.

Based on 5,742 properties the Band D charge is £119.13.

Details of reserves and supporting notes are available from the Town Hall. A summary of the Income and Expenditure account for the year ended 31 March 2016 follows on this and the next page.

You will find a table of Councillors' attendance at meetings on page 14.

ST IVES TOWN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2016

<u>31st March 2015</u>		<u>31st March 2016</u>
	Income Summary	
£		£
651,833	Precept	684,030
<u>651,833</u>	Sub Total	<u>684,030</u>
	Operating Income	
8	Administration	0
0	Civic	20
10	Grants	0
3,038	Council General	3,127
17,850	Amenities General	17,474
16,752	Playground/Open Spaces/Cemetery	20,085
4,130	Allotments	7,059
44,639	Town Hall	36,434
1,078	Norris	908
120	Warners Park Pavilion	120
2,788	Ground Maintenance Depot	3,050
31,574	Other Income	0
15,925	Capital - Council	8,974
2,112	Capital - Norris Museum	0
<u>791,856</u>	Total Income	<u>781,281</u>

<u>31st March 2015</u>		<u>31st March 2016</u>
	Expenditure Summary	
£	Running Costs	£
13,686	Administration	16,352
8,670	Insurance	8,411
67,750	Finance	66,218
9,474	Advertising & Publicity	10,644
6,797	Civic	6,710
29,149	Grants	30,335
17,357	Council General	15,569
309,883	Staff	340,356
45,701	Amenities General	40,685
4,574	Street Lighting	2,580
6,152	Machinery	7,916
13,903	Playground/Open Spaces/Cemetery	14,063
1,164	Allotments	1,149
37,389	Town Hall	26,864
3,694	Corn Exchange	6,235
25,191	Norris	24,308
9,925	Ground Maintenance Depot	10,158
766	Community Centre	240
13,571	Capital - Council	24,288
11,080	Capital - Amenities	26,833
34,549	Capital - Property	9,714
32,491	Capital - Norris Museum	19,218
<u>704,312</u>	Total Expenditure	<u>710,383</u>
	General Fund Analysis	
440,470	Opening Balance	528,014
791,856	Plus : Income for Year	781,281
1,232,326		1,309,295
704,312	Less : Expenditure for Year	710,383
<u>528,014</u>		<u>598,912</u>
0	Transfers TO / FROM Reserves	0
<u>528,014</u>	Closing Balance	<u>598,912</u>

COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE
 A blue infill indicates that a Councillor is not a Member of that Committee.
 * ex officio attendance as Town Mayor

	Full Council	Planning Committee	Personnel Committee	Amenities Committee	Property Committee	Promotion and Publicity Committee
	11 Meetings	21 Meetings	3 Meetings	10 Meetings	3 Meetings	3 Meetings
Jason Ablewhite	8					
Angela Ayers-Wilson	7					
Martin Collier	7	14	2		1	2
John Davies	11	18		7		
Nick Dibben	10	20			3	3
Ian Dobson	9	18	2		2	2
Tim Drye	9		2		2	
Pam Edey	9		3	8		
David Hodge	11	21	2	10		
Ian Jackson	11	13	3*	5*	3*	3
Brian Luter	10		2	10		
Philip Pope	7				3	3
Deborah Richardson	4	8	1	3		1
Daniel Rowe	11	21		10	3	3
Matt Smith	3			3		
Peter Smith	11			9	2	2
Debbie Townsend	11		3		3	

MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS

RIANNA D'SOUZA

Recently elected in the south ward, Rianna is one of our youngest ever Town Councillors. We asked her for some background and what motivates an eighteen year-old to want to serve her community.

I have lived in St Ives since I was two years old and have loved growing up in this lovely town. I studied at Long Road Sixth Form College and currently work in Human Resources at Cambridge University Press. I took an early interest in politics and wanted to know particularly how I could help

more in my community to benefit people and make changes. The local election came along and I realised that here was the opportunity to help make a difference and find out how my town functions.

I certainly don't think my age is a barrier.

I am indebted to Cllr Dan Rowe for encouraging me in all this and giving me the confidence to stand for election. My particular ambitions are to work towards improving the lighting in the town and help improve our other basic amenities.

I certainly don't think my age is a barrier. I can represent, and I hope help motivate, a whole new group of residents in the town that perhaps have not previously thought much about what makes it tick. I am looking forward to serving.

Rianna is a member of the Personnel, Planning, and Promotion and Publicity Committee



Photograph by Jonathan Pallant

WHAT'S ON?

TOWN COUNCIL, CIVIC AND RELATED EVENTS

See page 11 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.

- Burgess Hall 01480 388500 • Civic Society www.stivescivic.org.uk
- Corn Exchange 01480 496454 info@thecornexchange.org.uk
- Crossways Christian Centre 01480 386789 • Dolphin Hotel 01480 466966 • Floods Tavern 01480 700676
- Methodist Church 01480 462293 • Screen St Ives www.screenstives.org.uk

Norris Museum Note While the Museum is closed there will be lots of pop-up activities happening across St Ives and Huntingdonshire. See pages 5 and visit the Museum's Facebook page for further details.

Music on the Waits Note Please also don't overlook that while the Norris is closed all concerts will be held in the Methodist Church.

July

- 3 **Music on The Waits *Freddie and Friends*** Methodist Church 2.30 - 4 pm. A FESSt event
- 7 **Police/Community Forum** Crossways Christian Centre 7.30 pm
- 8 **Friday Night is Dance Night** Corn Exchange 7.20 for 7.45 to 10 pm. Modern Ballroom. Tickets £7. Contact philip@prtyler.co.uk or the Corn Exchange
- 9-11 **St Ives Carnival and Music Festival.** Procession leaves Market Hill 11.30 for Hill Rise Park. Events continue until 9 pm. Music Festival starts 1 pm on Sunday. See Notice Board on page 4
- 10 **Jazz by the River *Freddie & Friends*** Free concert Dolphin Hotel 4-7 pm
- 10 **Music on The Waits *St Ives Rhythm and Blues Band*** Methodist Church 2.30 - 4 pm. A FESSt event
- 14-16 **A Night at the Bar D** A fast, energetic festival of fun featuring scenes from Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Macbeth* and *Romeo and Juliet* with specially composed music. Beer Garden,

Floods Tavern. 7.30 pm. Tickets £10 available from Floods Tavern

- 15 **Screen St Ives *Macbeth*** 7.30 for 8 pm. Tickets £5 in advance from the Corn Exchange
 - 16 **Councillor Surgery** 10 am till noon Burleigh Hill Community Centre Constable Road
 - 17 **Music on The Waits *Somersham Town Band*** Methodist Church 2.30 to 4 pm. A FESSt event
 - 21 **St Ives & District Flower Club** Speaker David Wright from Norwich *It's an Education* Burgess Hall 1.30 for 2.25 pm. Entrance £7
 - 23 ***The Merrie Wives of St Ives*** The Quay (Corn Exchange if weather poor) Comedy based on the famous rhyme. Tickets £5 or £10 to include BBQ/hog roast available from townteam@theoldriverportstives.org.uk
 - 24 **Jazz by the River *Ouse Valley Jazz Band*** Free concert Dolphin Hotel 4-7 pm
 - 24 **Music on The Waits *Arcadian Ramblers*** Methodist Church 2.30 - 4 pm. A FESSt event
 - 31 **Music on The Waits *Bedford Town Band*** Methodist Church 2.30 - 4pm. A FESSt event
- ### August
- 7 **Jazz by the River *Freddie & Friends*** Free Concert Dolphin Hotel 4-7 pm
 - 7 **Music on The Waits *Dixilanders*** Methodist Church 2.30 - 4 pm. A FESSt event

14 **Music on The Waits *Anahata*** Methodist Church 2.30 - 4 pm. A FESSt event

- 21 **Music on The Waits *Ouse Valley Chorus*** Methodist Church 2.30 - 4 pm. A FESSt event
- 21 **Jazz by the River *Ouse Valley Jazz Band*** Free Concert Dolphin Hotel 4-7 pm
- 27 **St Ives & District Flower Club Produce Show** New category - afternoon tea - with sandwiches, cakes and teas to sample! Corn Exchange 1 pm.
- 28 **Music on The Waits *Ouse Valley Jazz Band*** Methodist Church 2.30 - 4 pm. A FESSt event

September

- 3 **Illuminated Boat Parade** The Quay, Bridge and Bridge Street Parade at dusk. A FESSt event
- 4 **Jazz by the River *Freddie & Friends*** Free Concert Dolphin Hotel 4-7 pm
- 15 **St Ives & District Flower Club** Speaker Giovanna Roberts from Hitchin *Treasures in a Shed* Burgess Hall 1.30 for 2.15 pm. Entrance £7
- 17 **Councillor Surgery** 10 am till noon, Kings Hedges
- 28 **Jazz by the River *Ouse Valley Jazz Band*** Free Concert Dolphin Hotel 4 pm
- 29 **Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival** Over 20 performances throughout town, mostly free. Until 3 October. A Town Team event

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 15, Conservatives 2.

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



Angela Ayers-Wilson John Davies Ryan Fuller Nick Dibben Ian Dobson Rianna D'Souza Tim Drye Jon Hunt Ian Jackson



Roger Kuch Brian Luter Jonathan Pallant Philip Pope Daniel Rowe Jen Spencer John Tiddy Debbie Townsend Alison Melnyczuk
Deputy Town Mayor Town Mayor 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 34, UKIP 3, Liberal Democrats 6, Independents 6, Independent Conservative 1, Labour 2.

Your Councillors

- Jason Ablewhite
Jason.Ablewhite@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
- John Davies
John.Davies@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
- Angela Dickinson
Angela.Dickinson@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
- Ryan Fuller
Ryan.Fuller@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
- Deborah Reynolds
Deborah.Reynolds@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

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

Your Councillors Paul Bullen Paul.Bullen@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Kevin Reynolds Kevin.Reynolds@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 30, Liberal Democrats 14, UKIP 12, Labour 8, Independents 5.

The Bridge is published four times a year by St Ives Town Council. If your free copy isn't delivered to your home you can collect it from the Town Hall in Market Hill. The next Bridge will be published in November 2016. If you would like to suggest an item for publication please contact the Town Hall.

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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