

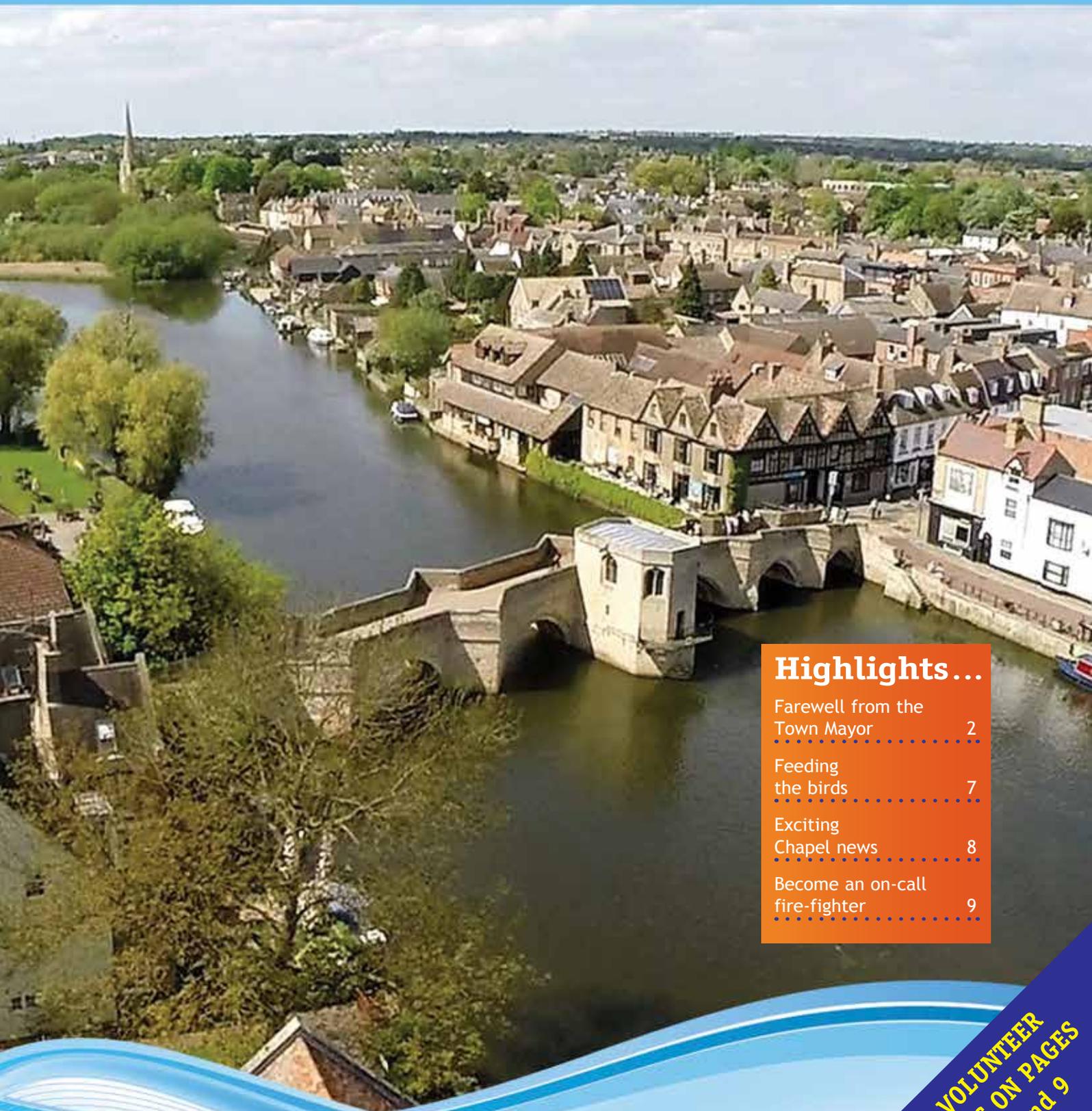
# The Bridge



News, views and events from your Town Council

May 2017

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



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**SEE VOLUNTEER  
APPEALS ON PAGES  
5, 6, 7 and 9**

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**FRONT COVER**

Photograph by Nick Goldring/Electric Boat Association. When the EBA sailed into town last summer Nick flew his drone to shoot stills and video over our beautiful town and river. This shot perfectly captures our idyllic setting with the iconic town bridge centre stage and All Saints Parish Church spire rising above Holt Island. See page 8 for news on the Chapel.

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# MAYOR'S MESSAGE THOUGHTS FOR MAY

This is my last Mayor's message: my Mayoral year comes to an end in May. It has been a pleasure to serve as your Town Mayor and to represent St Ives throughout the District and County.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your Town Mayor...

I have been invited to many diverse events in St Ives:

from the monthly Darby & Joan meetings in the Corn Exchange; the St Ivo School's production of *Les Miserables* at the Burgess Hall (an absolutely fantastic performance); through to welcoming new retailers and businesses to the town. I have also visited many towns in Cambridgeshire over the last twelve months and been reminded many times of the special nature of St Ives. We have been complimented by other towns for our weekly markets, vibrant town centre and our beautiful setting along the River Great Ouse.



Photograph by Peter Townsend

**St Ives Master Plan**

The new Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will have been elected by now and he/she will be making decisions on key strategic issues that will affect us all within Cambridgeshire. In the last edition of *The Bridge* I touched on the proposed District Council's creation of a Master Plan for St Ives. This will dictate actions in the short, medium and long term to support the processes of infrastructure, housing, social and health strategies for our area. Cllr Robin Howe, Executive Leader of Huntingdonshire District Council, has informed me that he wishes to meet the Town Council in the



Our Mayor is here, there and everywhere! One minute she is lining up for the annual Town Mayors' Pancake Flipathon in which she came a respectable joint third.

Photograph Huntingdon Town Council



...and the next she is presenting prize for the Mayor's Charity Quiz.

Photograph by Phil Pope

summer and to begin in earnest consultation with all stakeholders towards the end of this year.

**New ward**

The Town Council responded to the Local Government Boundary Commission consultation on two electoral boundary reviews - one for Cambridgeshire and one for Huntingdonshire. The Commission proposed a change to the parish electoral arrangement for St Ives, with the introduction of a fourth ward known as 'Beech' located, not surprisingly, in the area of Beech Drive and Oak Tree Close. Beech Ward is to be represented by one member of this council. The Town Council objected to the proposal on the grounds that it does not reflect the democratic representation of the town in a positive manner. The

“... our voice was not listened to...”

additional ward and polling station will also increase elections costs.

Unfortunately, our voice was not listened to and the new Beech Ward will be introduced from 2018.

**New local election date**

The District Council has decided to move their elections to 'whole Council' (all members to stand again) elections from 2018. This means that the Town Council election cycle would no longer coincide with that of the District

Council. In February the District Council decided that all Parish and Town Council elections will have to follow the same election cycle and so St Ives Town Council elections will now take place in May 2018, rather than in May 2020. The Town Council objected to this proposal but again our voice was not listened to.

“... We are very proud to receive this recognition...”

**Gold Award**

Now for some good news! I am delighted to report that St Ives Town Council has received the prestigious Gold Award as part of the nationally organised Local Council Award (LCA) scheme. This achievement recognises that St Ives Town Council has good practice in governance, community engagement and council improvement. We are very proud to receive this recognition - only one other council in Cambridgeshire has receive the Gold Award. You can read more about the award, the Master Plan, the boundary review and the election cycle on pages 13 to 14.

**Finally**

Thank you to everyone who has donated to and supported my Mayoral Charities this year. The Mayor's Charity Quiz held at the Corn Exchange was a sell-out and raised £800 for the Macmillan Woodlands Centre Appeal. This month I plan to present over £2,500 to this Appeal,

with a number of community groups in St Ives receiving smaller donations.

My last words are to thank all Town Council staff for their continuous support of the town, whether in the Town Hall, Norris Museum or outside with the Ground Maintenance team, with a special thank you to Linda Scales for her Civic support for me throughout my Mayoral year.

I wish you all a happy and healthy summer and I offer my best wishes to the new Town Mayor Elect, Cllr Phil Pope.

*Debbie Townsend*

CLLR MRS DEBBIE TOWNSEND, TOWN MAYOR

**APOLOGY**

In the last issue (February 2017) we published a photograph on page 9 which we believed to have been taken at Wheatfields Primary School. We subsequently discovered it was in fact from Wheatfield Primary School, Winnersh, Berkshire, which has not only the same name but also an almost identical logo! We apologise unreservedly to the Head Teacher Theresa Thornton, the pupils and parents for this unfortunate error and the disappointment it caused. By way of compensation we are pleased to now publish the photograph we should have used, showing happy pupils on Red Nose Day in our Wheatfields Primary.



Photograph courtesy of Wheatfields Primary School



Then she takes in the Macmillan Woodlands Centre at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital, her main charity this year ...

Photograph by Debbie Townsend



... before dropping in on the Acorn Cancer Support Group ...

Photograph by Simon Townend



... and finishing up by distributing the Langley Bread in time-honoured fashion.

Photograph courtesy of Trustees of United Charities

# NOTICE BOARD

## NEW FARMERS' MARKET TRADERS!

We should like to give a big St Ives welcome to five new traders now attending our award-winning Market.

They are helping to improve diversity while continuing our tradition so in addition to our wonderful, long-standing farm producers, we are delighted to welcome:

 **Olive Olive** Purveyors of infused oils and olive-based products using olives grown on the family farm in Cyprus.

**400 degree Pizza** Delicious pizzas hand-made from freshly prepared dough. 

 **Supremo Coffee** High quality beverages prepared and served by Thomas, who has been UK champion barista on two occasions and a world top barista finalist.

**Sunday in a Sausage** Intriguing vegan sausages with a Sunday roast dinner theme. 

**Kingfisher Chilli** Spicy oils, jams and pastes from a producer of over 30 years experience. 

## HOST A GARDEN PARTY AND FUNDRAISE FOR OUR NEW GARDEN ROOM

Town Mayor Debbie Townsend's primary charity during her Mayoral year, Macmillan Cancer Support, is calling on local people to organize a garden party to help raise money for the new Macmillan garden room at the Macmillan Woodlands Centre.

The garden room will be a non-clinical environment in the garden of the new Macmillan Woodlands Centre at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital. The room will host wellbeing services such as support group meetings, Yoga and fitness classes and other support courses.

Get your nearest and dearest together for fun and laughter while raising money for a great cause. Whether it is a family BBQ or a picnic lunch for your neighbours we are here to support you. We have loads of inspiration, advice and all things nice to make your event a great success and we will be able to support you with planning your own fundraising event. Our fantastic fundraising team can offer the support you need, from extra money-raising ideas to media support, Macmillan merchandise and much more.

We would love to hear about our supporters' plans, so please tell us all about what you have planned by contacting us on 0300 1000 200 or emailing [fundraising@macmillan.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@macmillan.org.uk). You can also register Your Event here to access our free fundraising pack and expert support: <http://www.macmillan.org.uk/Fundraising/YourEventRegistration.aspx>

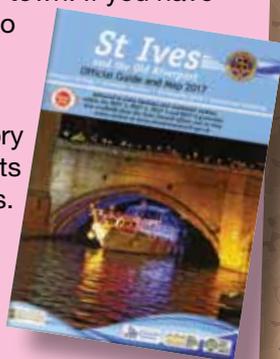
## NEW TOWN GUIDE – HOT OFF THE PRESS!

The Official Guide and Map 2017 has now been delivered to all households in the town. If you have not received yours please call into the Town Hall to collect one.

The Guide gives comprehensive information on the town, its history and civic traditions, as well as lists of local groups and organisations.

If you are already featured in our Guide please check that your listing is still correct and let us know of any changes.

If you would like your group to be included in the next edition please contact us by email to [clerk@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk) or telephone 01480 388929.



## GO BATTY!

Fun for all the family at the Fun Day on Holt Island Nature Reserve and at the Methodist Church. It's FREE but donations are always very welcome.



## Community Chest

Huntingdonshire District Council runs the Community Chest fund which offers grants for small organisations. The maximum award £5,000 or 50% of the total cost of the project, whichever is the lower.

Applications for 2017/2018 are now open. If you wish to apply, please complete and submit the application form from the link below and return it by 31 May 2017 to <https://applications.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/forms/Grants/communityChest.html>

## POWER CUT?

UK Power Networks own and maintain electricity cables and lines across the East of England.



Power cuts don't happen very often but if the electricity network faults or is damaged you want your lights back on quickly. If you need extra support during a power cut or know someone else (a relative, neighbour, patient or friend) who does, you could be entitled to free extra support from UK Power Networks. All you need to do is sign up to the Priority Services Register.

### Who can sign up?

If you live in the UK Power Networks area you can apply if any of the following are relevant:

- You are an elderly customer (of retirement age)
- You are carer for a person that will benefit from this
- You have young children (under five)
- You have a disability or health condition, including being chronically ill, blind or partially sighted, deaf or hard of hearing or having dementia
- You have a medical dependency on electricity (ventilator, nebuliser, Careline)
- You run a nursing or residential home

Other cases will be considered too, so please get in touch.

### How to apply

- Fill in an application form or sign up online by visiting [www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/parishcouncils](http://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/parishcouncils)
- Email [psr@ukpowernetworks.co.uk](mailto:psr@ukpowernetworks.co.uk) (Quote Parish Councils scheme)
- Call free 0800 169 9970 (from a landline or mobile)
- Write to Priority Services Coordinator, UK Power Networks, Fore Hamlet, Ipswich, IP3 8AA

## Calling all gardeners ...

### St Ives in Bloom Garden Competition 2017

Are you proud of your garden? Is it up to prize-winning standard? If so, don't forget to enter it



in the St Ives in Bloom competition. Entry forms are available from the Town Hall and the Corn Exchange and details are also on the St Ives in Bloom website [www.stivesinbloom.co.uk](http://www.stivesinbloom.co.uk). The closing date is 15 June 2017. The prizes? Gardening vouchers of course!

### Help to brighten up the town

Do you like to spend time outdoors? Keeping fit? Doing something for the community? St Ives in Bloom needs volunteers! You don't have to make a regular commitment – just come along and join our work parties when you are free! The next opportunity is at the Park and Ride at 9.30 am on 9 May when you can help us plant out the beds in the main avenue. If you can't make this one get in touch with us at [siibinfo@gmail.com](mailto:siibinfo@gmail.com) or via the Town Hall for our weekly volunteer work party dates.

## NEED A HEALTH SERVICE IN A HURRY?

A New 'MyHealth' app for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has been launched to help residents find the service they need. Quick and easy to use, the 'MyHealth Cambridgeshire & Peterborough' app will direct you to your nearest appropriate NHS service. This includes local GPs, pharmacies, minor injury units and dentists, based on your location or postcode.

Free to download and available in five other languages, including Polish, Latvian and Lithuanian, MyHealth provides up-to-date information on current services including directions, opening hours, and contact details.

The app is available to download for iOS via Apple Store, Android via Google Play and Windows phones via Microsoft Store by searching for 'MyHealth C&P CCG'.

Visit: <http://www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk/news-and-events/newsletters/stakeholder-newsletter-spring-2017/>



# GREEN AND PLEASANT TOWN TREES, BIRDS AND OUSE VALLEY WAY

In this May issue it seemed appropriate to cover a range of environmental matters. We are, after all, fortunate to live in a town with green spaces and beautiful natural surroundings. There are issues however. These contributions are researched and compiled by the Publicity & Promotion Committee.

## TREE WARDENS

Our District Council is currently looking to recruit more Tree Wardens for the area. Our own Amenities Committee is similarly on the look-out for people to help us keep an eye on St Ives trees as part of creating a five-year tree management plan. We asked Bridget Halford, Tree Warden Co-ordinator in the Planning department at HDC, to tell us what is involved.

### What is a Tree Warden?

Tree Wardens are volunteers who work closely with their Town and Parish Councils to encourage a respect for trees and hedges in their community. Tree Wardens are not expected to be experts but to have a genuine love for trees and their natural environment.



### Who runs the scheme?

The local scheme is one of some 150 schemes all over the country organized by the Tree Council. There are over 100 local authorities participating in the scheme with over 8,000 Tree Wardens.

### What do they do?

A great variety of people become Tree Wardens and have different interests and different amounts of time available. The work splits into both a gentle reactive role and a proactive one. As they are voluntary HDC is grateful to anyone who is happy to give some of their time freely.

## MANAGING THE TREES

Across the town our Council maintains a number of areas through the ever vigilant and pro-active Grounds Maintenance Team. This includes everything from cutting the grass in places like Warner's Park and Slepe Hall Playing Fields through to looking after the town cemeteries.

Some of the facilities, such as the playgrounds, are also subject to external inspection (we currently use RoSPA) to help ensure that we keep them to a good standard. There are, however, 'bigger' issues that we look after - and they don't get much bigger than trees!

### Tree health scans

Over the years the Council has undertaken surveys of the trees on its land to ensure their overall health and, of

- 1 Tree Wardens are not expected to take responsibility for the health and safety of trees in their Parish, or on Parish-owned land. But as they live within a Town or Parish Council area they are asked to encourage the council to care for their own trees in a responsible manner. This will often involve the council employing a qualified Arboriculturist to produce a survey and management schedule for all the locally owned trees. The Tree Warden's role can be as additional support to that process.
- 2 Tree Wardens act as a link between the Town or Parish Council and the District Council.
- 3 Tree Wardens champion their local trees and woodland so that they are appreciated, protected and cared for.
- 4 Tree Wardens help organize volunteers to plant new trees and look after them in the future.
- 5 Tree Wardens gather information about trees to aid specific surveys organized by the District Council in Huntingdonshire.

New Tree Wardens are offered support from the Tree Warden Coordinator through visits and training days and materials. The Tree Council website [www.treecouncil.org.uk](http://www.treecouncil.org.uk) is an invaluable source of information.

### BECOME A TREE WARDEN!

If you would like to get involved and help us look after our trees properly, please contact Bridget Halford at HDC on 01480 388856 or 07917 554057 or [Bridget.Halford@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:Bridget.Halford@huntingdonshire.gov.uk) and Allan Witherick at St Ives Town Hall 01480 388929 or [clerk@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk).

course, for the safety of the public. This hasn't just been limited to what's visible, but has even included PiCus® decay testing equipment (checking for rot inside the tree using sound).

This invaluable equipment was used recently on a 20-metre high Beech in Warner's Park and revealed that the tree had only 20 per cent of solid wood holding it up! We were advised to remove it immediately.



*The age of some trees in Warner's Park means we need to keep a close eye on them.*

Photograph by Tom Rawlinson/SITC

**Proactive management**

The Council is now working towards a clear tree maintenance programme which will cover not only the actions we need to take to keep the public safe, but also go further. Proactively managing what happens when a tree reaches the end of its life, for example, will help to ensure that consideration is given as to whether the replacement

should be at the same site or elsewhere. This will build on the Dedications Policy which was adopted by the Council to provide support when an individual or group want to have a tree dedicated. Together we hope that all these actions will ensure green and pleasant surroundings for all - and for the generations to come.

**FEEDING THE BIRDS**

Let's go feed the ducks! We've all done it. It's a traditional thing to do with children. Where's the harm? Well, using the right kind of food is fine on a little and often basis. But casting huge amounts of sliced white bread upon the waters, or up in the air, is not. It's fun to create a feeding frenzy among the ducks and swans on the river and the screaming gulls above, but as the number of people enjoying The Quay increases, things are getting a little out of hand.

Swans are becoming used to being fed on The Quay itself and can become belligerent if denied. They look lovely on the water but are fearsome and temperamental on land and can give a nasty nip. Furthermore they do not mix with traffic and at least two deaths have been reported this year already on The Quay. In addition surplus food discarded can also attract unwelcome attention from nocturnal scavenging animals and we certainly do not want to encourage them.

**Harming not helping**

The truth is birds that become accustomed to eating bread which is low in protein and fat acts as an empty filler can

suffer serious vitamin deficiencies or starve. Persistent overfeeding with the wrong kind of food can also cause a condition called 'Angel Wing' which prevents proper development. Immature birds grow deformed wings which prevents flight. So we could be killing our swans, ducks and gulls with kindness.

So, how can we both enjoy the tradition and avoid harming the birds? It's simple:

- Don't feed the birds 'people food' - white bread, popcorn, biscuits
- Instead buy inexpensive waterfowl feed pellets from shops within the town
- Use seedless grapes cut in half, shredded kale, Swiss chard or romaine lettuce and grains, including wheat, barley and oats which are all healthy food sources
- Make sure nothing is left on the ground

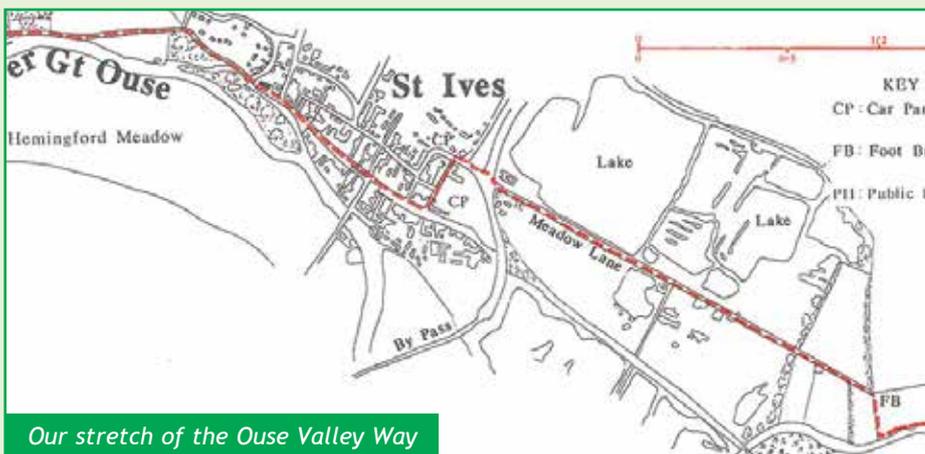
Visit this website for more information <http://www.onegreenplanet.org> and search 'Feeding the birds'. Our local Wildlife Trust has endorsed this information.

**MONITORING THE OUSE VALLEY WAY**

Remember the 'Ouse Valley Way Maintenance' Notice Board feature in the last (February) issue? We are pleased to announce that the Audit Sheet form is now available from the Town Hall. To recap: maintenance of this popular long-distance footpath is now the responsibility of Cambridgeshire County Council. However, to help CCC focus on and prioritise the work that needs to be done as situations arise, each parish through which the path passes is now responsible for reporting any work needed. And to do this, rather than a walker simply reporting 'it's a bit muddy down the bottom of Meadow Lane', he or she will be asked to fill in a specially designed Audit Sheet. This will enable CCC to establish the exact location of the problem, assess the details and decide on how best to deal with it.

**BECOME A FOOTPATH CO-ORDINATOR!**

So far so good. But the scheme will only work if the Audit Sheets are used. The Council, through the Amenities Committee, is currently looking for a local volunteer Footpath Coordinator for our stretch (Meadow Lane through to The Thicket Path) who will collect the completed sheets from the Town Hall and send them to the OVW Management Group. If you are a regular walker this may interest you. In the meantime we urge everybody who walks our part of the OVW to pick up an Audit Sheet, keep it handy, fill it in when necessary and hand it back to the Town Hall.



Our stretch of the Ouse Valley Way



An Ouse Valley Way waymarker post overwhelmed by brambles. An Audit Sheet needs completing urgently!



*The day that management responsibility for the use of the Chapel was transferred from Cambridgeshire County Council to The Norris Museum. Here Cllr Sebastian Kindersley Chairman of CCC passes the key to Sarah Russell, Director of The Norris Museum, while Cllr Debbie Townsend, Town Mayor, looks on.*

# NORRIS MUSEUM UPDATE

## CARING FOR THE BRIDGE CHAPEL

The Bridge and Chapel are part of our everyday lives here in St Ives. They feature on cards and postcards, they are incorporated into logos and they are depicted in many a painting in The Norris Museum collection. So, we know they make a great photo and we know that Historic England list St Ives Bridge as a scheduled ancient monument. But why are they relevant to us now and why should we not only look after them but also celebrate them?

### Crossing the river

Before the stone bridge was completed around 1426 there had already been a crossing over the river. This was probably a structure made of wood but even before that there would have been a ford as the river was much shallower there then than it is now. It is likely that there were similar ford crossings upstream from St Ives that gave their name to the villages of Hemingford Abbots and Hemingford Grey. However, the decision of an abbot of Ramsey Abbey (we can't be certain which one) to build a bridge meant that St Ives began to grow into a thriving town. At a time when travel was mostly on foot, a bridge that could be used all year round was by far a preferred option to a diversion of miles that would take many hours.

### Stone and brick

It is possible that a regular repair bill for the early structure caused the Abbey to implement the construction of a stone bridge. A manuscript of 1426 tells us that the altar in the Bridge Chapel was consecrated that year, and the architectural style of the Bridge also suggests an early fifteenth century construction.

The original stone that was put in at this time can still be seen from the road level downwards. The parapet and refuges above are later restorations built in brick. The

two southernmost arches are also later constructions. This is because during the Civil War in 1645 the Roundheads broke up part of the Bridge on the south side of the river and replaced it with a drawbridge to defend against any advancing Royalists.

### Bridge of history

Today we limit the amount of traffic that crosses the Bridge in order to protect it, but the fact remains that

it is across this bridge that history, our St Ives history, has trodden for the last 600 years. It serves as a reminder that whilst so many other things have changed - our shops, our transport, our clothes and our lives - the Bridge and its Chapel have been a constant throughout. It has seen everyone - from medieval peasants to a Marchioness, an abbot, an Earl and a gentleman of Queen Elizabeth I's household - walk across it (some have even lived in it!). It has seen the land around it change, the town suffer great fire and flood, two World Wars, and the population living nearby grow dramatically. This is why our Bridge and Chapel should be looked after and celebrated.

### Care and respect

In 2017, the Chapel does not have any facilities. Nor did its architects and builders have modern health and safety requirements in mind! But, this is part of the point. The Bridge is one thing we certainly should not be dragging into the twenty-first century. The Bridge and Chapel is, in our present, a direct link to our past and will be a direct link to our future. All activity therefore needs to be of a temporary nature and conducted in a way that does not impact on the fabric of the building.

From this summer The Norris Museum will be opening the Chapel on a Saturday and Sunday afternoon for people to drop in and have a look round. To do this we need the support of volunteers. If you have an interest in your local history and could spare a few hours then please get in touch with us for a role description and volunteer application form.

In future years the Norris Museum will be running events in the Chapel but we are also keen to support other town activities for which the Chapel could be a suitable space. If you have an idea please comment on our post on Facebook or, if you want to book the Chapel, please call or email the museum.

SARAH RUSSELL,  
DIRECTOR NORRIS MUSEUM

**...STOP PRESS...**  
**NORRIS MUSEUM GRAND RE-OPENING**  
It's getting close! Keep checking our Facebook and website for updates.

**Get in touch**  
info@norrismuseum.org.uk  
01480 497314  
@thenorrismuseum  
www.facebook.com  
/The-Norris-Museum

Photograph by The Norris Museum

Photograph by Allan Withenck/STC



*Our County Council retains ownership and maintenance responsibility of the Bridge and Chapel and here completes refurbishment works on the roof. It also monitors the effect of the vehicles that weigh over three tonnes that are still allowed to cross the Bridge.*

# BLUE LIGHT SERVICES

## LOCAL FIRE STATION APPEAL



CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

We plan a series of features on our local emergency services - who runs them, how they operate and what are the issues. This first one spotlights our own local fire station. We are fortunate to still have this service here in the town but it needs more support from our community. Sam Sanderson, the Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service On-Call Recruitment Officer, has supplied the following piece from their media and communications department.

**Why is St Ives Fire Station special?**  
The fire station in St Ives is crewed only by On-Call Firefighters. These men and women provide cover during the day, night and weekends all year round. They all have other careers and with the support of their employers and families they in turn give their time to provide fire cover to their community. The firefighters in St Ives bring with them a wealth of knowledge and skills and they provide a very important role within the community. This ranges from community support, fire awareness advice to the local schools and voluntary organisations such as



You could be onboard for your community!

the scouts and guides, and support to local community events. (They have been particularly supportive to the on-going St Ives Dementia Friendly Community initiative - Ed.)

The fire station on Ramsey Road has one light rescue pump (fire engine) equipped to tackle most emergency calls from fires, road traffic collisions, animal rescues and other types of call outs.

**Your town needs you!**  
Currently the station has a crew of six firefighters and is recruiting from within the community.

Watch Commander Phil Thacker comments: 'This job is rewarding but it can be hard work. All emergency calls are different but you could be called out in the middle of the day during work or on a freezing cold night. You might get only a few hours' sleep on occasions, but think of how proud your family will be of you. Think about how proud you will be of yourself when you have helped someone in your community in their time of need, or even saved someone's life!'

**PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING THE TEAM AT ST IVES, PLAY A POSITIVE ROLE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND HELP PROTECT OUR RESIDENTS.**

Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service will provide all candidates with the



The St Ives on-call firefighting team line up and practise their road traffic accident skills (right).



training and support they need to help them succeed. It will also provide all the uniform and fire kit needed to do the job of fire-fighting in safe, controlled conditions. Candidates are paid for their time from the moment they start training.

Check out the panel below for answers to all the obvious questions. If you still have queries please don't hesitate to get in touch with us at [www.cambsfire.gov.uk](http://www.cambsfire.gov.uk) or simply pop in to the station at St Ives on a Wednesday evening and talk to one of the friendly team.

Photographs by Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service

### YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Stay safe  
Stay connected

**How will being a firefighter affect my day job?**

Measures can be taken if necessary to ensure you are not called out before or during your working hours.

**Do you have to be at the station all the time?**

No, St Ives firefighters are on-call and carry pagers with them at the times they are available to attend call outs. If you are not on-call you do not have to attend.

**How many hours do I have to be available?**

This could be as little as 50 hours a week, which can be adjusted to as much time that suits both you, your employer and the Service. Being available for 50 hours does not mean you have to work 50 hours - it just means you are available to cover call-outs during that time period.

**When do you need cover?**

We are always looking to recruit new staff to provide cover Monday to

Friday during the day and evenings plus weekends.

**How often do you train?**

Once a week on a Wednesday evening for two hours from 7 until 9 pm.

**Do I get holidays?**

Yes, you get up to 38 days.

**What if I'm not fit enough?**

There are fitness standards you have to meet but they are achievable and you can get fit enough if you push yourself a little - you are probably half-way there already.

**What do on-call firefighters enjoy most about the job?**

All our on-call firefighters enjoy learning new skills as well as the variety of jobs they get called to - which can include anything from a house fire to a road traffic accident or an animal rescue. You'll also be part of a team of people dedicated to keeping others safe.

# PLANNING POINTS NICK DIBBEN REPORTS

In his role as Chair of the Planning Committee, Cllr Dibben draws our attention to items of planning news and selects items of interest to readers as his committee reviews planning applications submitted to Huntingdonshire District Council.

**RAF Wyton development grounded** Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) has decided to drop plans for a major new development at the RAF Wyton site to the north St Ives. The change of plan follows work carried out on the transport infrastructure required to support this and other new sites in the area. HDC has concluded that the funding needed to deliver the infrastructure for RAF Wyton was not available in the short term; without this the

scheme could not proceed.

Although HDC say that they can still provide enough sites to deliver the required number of new homes in our area without the RAF Wyton site, developers will be offering new sites for consideration. The Town Council has already been approached by two developers for possible sites around St Ives that could be included with the HDC Local Plan.

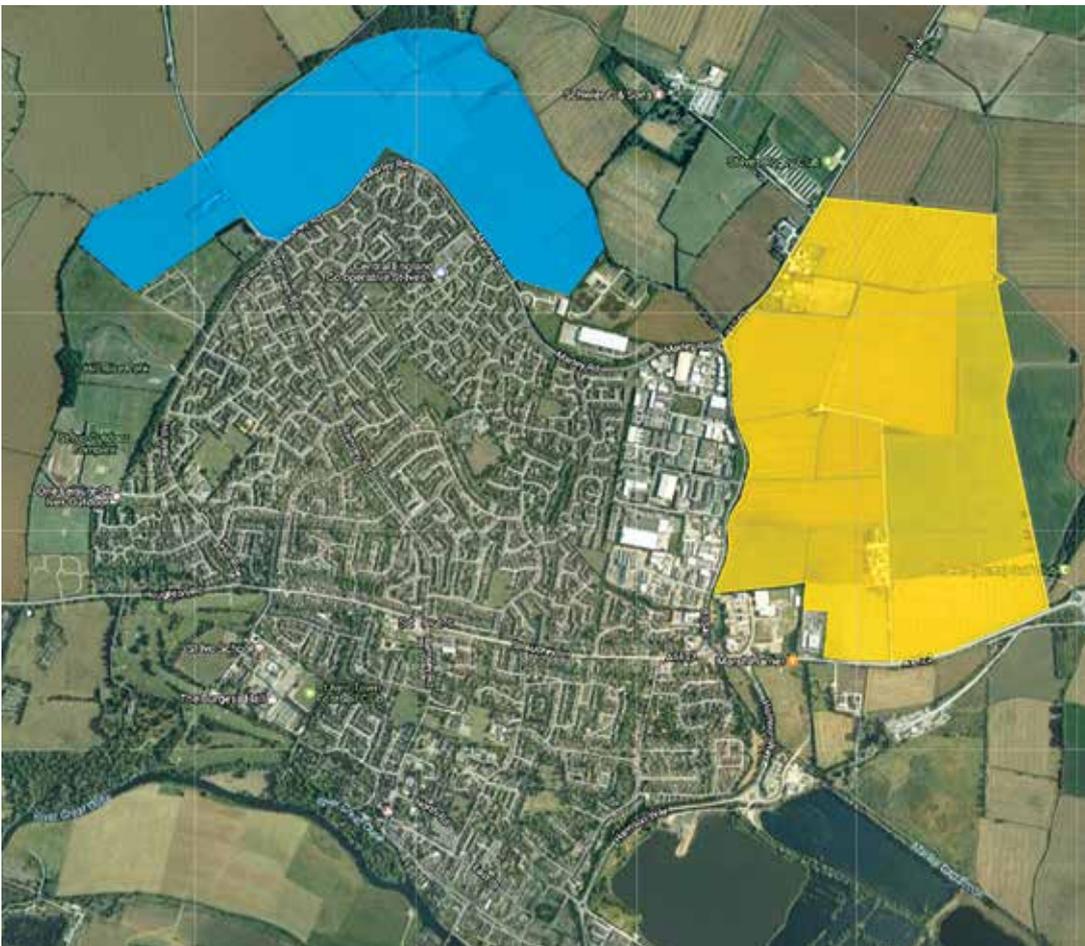
The first of these (yellow area) is outside the St Ives boundary and within the parish of Holywell- cum- Needingworth. Known as Gifford's Park, the plan could contain up to 1,750 new houses, a primary school, shops, a hotel, business space and green space. The second site (blue area) to the north of Marley Road

is smaller, for up to 1,000-1,200 homes, and with associated similar facilities to Gifford's Park. Although both schemes are smaller than RAF Wyton, their proximity to St Ives will mean their traffic impact would be even greater. The Town Council has also raised questions about secondary school provision, flooding and integration with the rest of the town. What do you think about these proposals? Do let us know.

**What do you think about these proposals?**

HDC is intending to produce an update to their Local Plan in the summer for final consultation before formal issue to the Planning Inspector for review. Watch out for this as we will again need your views.

**In the thick of it**  
The announcement that there was going to be an inquiry held in Huntingdon regarding the move to change the status of the Thicket Path between St Ives and Houghton to a cycle track caught everyone by surprise, including the Town Council! A lack of detail from Cambridgeshire County Council on what was actually proposed added to the confusion, with talk of white lines and a large number of signs cluttering up the space. Following some investigation work by the Town Clerk, and people sitting in on the first day of the inquiry, a clearer picture emerged.



*Is this how our town will grow in the future? The yellow area defines the Gifford's Park development and the blue area is north of Marley Road.*

Photograph by Nick Dibben.



The Thicket Path in early spring without a bike in sight!

Although used by many cyclists including pupils at the St Ivo School, the route is currently classified as a *footpath*. Problems would arise should there be an accident involving a cyclist. The cyclist would be in trouble for illegally using the path and the landowner could also be in trouble for not enforcing the no-cycle rule. In addition there is no requirement for the County Council to repair the footpath, just keep it clear, and many users will remember the poor state it was in a few years back with a cracked surface and many potholes.

The proposal to change the status to a shared path would deal with these issues and would require CCC to keep the route in a good state of repair. There are no plans to install a white line down the middle to force cyclists and walkers to keep to their own side of the route. Nor are there plans to install large numbers of signs. People will use the path in exactly the same way as they do now, the only difference is that the cyclists will do so legally. But this ignores the recent increase in the number of cyclists using the path at speed on racing and mountain bikes causing friction with walkers. Unfortunately this is something the Town Council can't do anything

about apart from urging users to treat others with respect.

On the basis that there was no physical change, the Town Council has given its support to the proposals but asked for the section from the Parish Church to the end of Westwood Road to be considered separately due to the narrow width. The Planning Inspector's report into the change of use is expected in a few months.

**Busway services to new Cambridge station**

Stagecoach services along the busway will be changing at the end of May related to the opening of the

new railway station at Cambridge North. In the morning and evening peak period, some of the route A buses will be renumbered route D and diverted to run via the new station. Extra buses will operate every 20 minutes throughout the day between Longstanton Park-and-Ride and the new station. The station itself will have three trains each hour to London serving both Kings Cross and Liverpool Street, and in the other direction to Ely and Norwich. Once Network Rail has completed some work on the track and new rolling stock arrives the station will also have trains to Stansted Airport and Kings Lynn.



The new Cambridge North Station on track to open at the end of May.

Photograph courtesy of Network Rail

**SIGNS OF THE TIMES**

When temporary road access to the construction site on the former golf course was agreed, HDC imposed conditions on the time the access should be used. They also insisted that no lorries should use Knights Way. However, residents noticed these rules being ignored and talked to us about it. We and they then complained to HDC Planning Enforcement. New signs have now been installed to remind lorry drivers of their obligations. Always come and tell us about your planning-related issues!

Always come and tell us about your planning-related issues!



Photographs by Ian Jackson

# TOWN TEAM UPDATE

## FUN • ENTERTAINING • IMAGINATIVE

The Town Team's role is largely to help promote St Ives and attract as many people as possible to spend time here. This applies to visitors from afar and nearby and even more importantly to you, the people who call St Ives home. One of the reasons St Ives is so popular is that it is lively as well as attractive. Plus we are lucky to live in such a wonderful part of the country - an area of outstanding natural beauty dominated by the River Great Ouse.

### New events to come

I know it isn't summer yet, but we just can't wait to share our plans for next Christmas! We are putting in a lot of effort to help make Christmas in St Ives even more special. Firstly we are working closely with The Old Riverport Retail Group and FES<sub>t</sub> to make sure our *Snowman Festival* is the best ever. In early November we will be holding an Auction of Snowmen. This will be a chance for businesses to bag their snowman and to raise funds for a local youth group at a fun event. As well as brightening the shops with lots of interesting snowmen we are planning to install perhaps the country's biggest ever snowman. Look out for him and lots of his smaller friends down by The Waits in our very own *Snowman Wonderland*.

*The Snowman Festival Day*, always popular with families, will be held in the Corn Exchange on Sunday 26 November, the same day as the Christmas Lights Switch-on. On the following Saturday (2 December) Santa will arrive with Frostie by boat as FES<sub>t</sub> organise their annual Santa's Grotto in the Corn Exchange. This runs for the first three weekends of December. The *Snowman Festival* competition (details to follow) continues throughout December with a great prize for the winner.

ARTSFEST showcases local talent the weekend of 9-10th December. And if all that isn't exciting enough - there's more! On Boxing Day you can shake off your Christmas excesses by taking part in the first-ever *St Ives Boxing Day Hobby Horse Hunt!* We are looking for teams of up to four people from pubs, clubs, societies and families to take part. All you have to do is turn up on your hobby horse and join in the fun. Full details will be available shortly. For details of these and other events in the town visit [www.theoldriverportstives.co.uk](http://www.theoldriverportstives.co.uk).

JOHN SOUTER, CHAIR TOWN TEAM

### The Old Riverport in St Ives

The Old Riverport continues to underline its importance in promoting the town. The new residential Riverport Mews development in West Street is looking good. And, in *Opening Times*, the quarterly magazine of the Huntingdonshire Branch of CAMRA, there is now a

regular four-page feature *The Pubs of St Ives*, 'The Old Riverport' and *News from the Old Riverport*.

Have you noticed the Post Office Sorting Office windows in Bridge Street? They now display a stunning aerial photograph of the town along with fascinating images from our riverport past.

## Breaking News ... Breaking News ... Breaking News ...

### LIVESTOCK RETURN TO ST IVES!

The Town Team has been marketing St Ives as The Old Riverport but it is also keen to promote the broader history of the town to include the significance of the livestock market. Our leaflets and adverts mention this and the fact that St Ives still has successful street markets. Now we are hoping to go one step further by highlighting the history of willow work and the livestock market.

The Town Team is working with St Ives in Bloom to make the most of our roundabouts to promote the town. Our plans include having some willow cattle on the roundabout opposite the Silvaco offices. There is still a lot to do before we can achieve this but we are delighted that Holywell-cum-Needlingworth Parish Council has already given us their blessing (the roundabout is actually in their parish).

We now hope to have successful discussions with the County Council and to find sponsorship to enable us to commission the cattle. We foresee life-size versions of a cow, pig and a sheep which will reflect the range of livestock regularly auctioned in the Octagon up until the 1970s. That should slow down the traffic. There is always something happening in St Ives!



Artist's impression of the traditional cow, pig and sheep sold in St Ives. We hope the willow versions will one day graze on one of the Harrison Way roundabouts.



Bridge Street brightened by The Old Riverport display

Artist's impression by Sue Kirk and roundabout superimposition by John Souter

Photograph by Ian Jackson

# CLERK'S CORNER BOUNDARIES

## • ELECTIONS • DEVOLUTION • AWARD



Photograph by Linda Scales/SITC

They say that time flies when you're having fun and it's certainly passing fast as I get up to speed as the Town Clerk. I've a great team who are dealing with all manner of issues, from looking at ways to improve and support the Farmers' Market through to ensuring that our finances are in order and our properties maintained.

### Electing to change

Of course the big decisions rely on democracy and having dedicated councillors representing you. However, as mentioned in the Mayor's Message on page 2, the way that ours are elected is about to change for two different reasons.

The first is the easy one to explain: **ward boundaries**. Every so often the wards are reviewed by the Local Government Boundary Commission to try and ensure that overall the number of people represented per councillor is approximately the same. The Commission tries to take into account both current and some future building of new homes (in this case to 2021). St Ives Town Council objected to the proposal as it creates an artificial divide with the town broken into four wards: Beech (returning one member), North (returning six members), South (returning seven members) and West (returning three members). Prior to this there were three wards with the split 7:7:3. As you can see, the new levels of representation will lead to an imbalance within the Town.

The second relates to **the election cycle**. The Mayor also explained on page 2 that the Town Council normally holds its elections once every four years. In 2016 the Town Council was elected at the same time as the Police & Crime Commissioner plus a third of the district councillors. This meant that the costs could be shared three ways.

With the change of boundaries the District Council has taken the opportunity to move to all-up elections themselves, and to force all Town and Parish Councils in the district to be elected at the same time. The unfortunate consequence is that local residents will have to pay for another set of elections to the Town Council after just two years, rather than the usual four. This time the costs will be shared only two ways - between the Town Council and the District Council. It will also be disruptive. Some of the plans which might have been made with a four-year mandate to 2020 are now being reviewed. Councillors might not wish to stand again for a new four year term to 2022, or might fail to be re-elected.

St Ives Town Council raised concerns that the Town Council should, in an ideal world, be kept separate from the District Council elections to allow a better focus in the separation between the responsibilities of the two local authorities. The four-year cycle for the Town Council election would still match the Police and Crime Commissioner electoral cycle and, in 2020 at least, would coincide with the five-year General Election cycle. However, it was felt that there was a clearer and more understandable separation between responsibilities. No one had mentioned an early General Election at the time!

With both of these changes the Town Council did raise objections due to the impact on residents but was over-ruled on both.

### Devolution is not just about Scotland

When the Scottish Parliament was formed there was a promise made that areas in England would have the opportunity to also seek new powers. What form this might take though was left vague. It wouldn't necessarily mean new money in real terms, but it should lead to better ways of working.

St Ives Town Council has already been trying to engage with all parties on devolution - from government and from other bodies locally. In the past this hasn't always worked as well as it could. The District Council's Master Plan proposals for the town, if handled sensitively and carefully, could help set out a clear path for enhanced partnership working and avoid some of the past pitfalls.

It will, however, rely on the combined authority's ability, both collectively and individually, to trust and invest in the community in much the same way that it is looking for the government to trust and invest in it.

The Town Council has always had the attitude that we should be there for all our residents and visitors working alongside others in the area, and so we hope that this will provide new opportunities to build on this work. For example, Councillors are already looking at how we provide support to residents and visitors at the Town Hall - a lot of what we do is signposting to other service providers.

### Local Community Radio promotes the town

At the Full Council Meeting in April members agreed to grant £1,000 to Huntingdon Community Radio toward the costs of a studio upgrade. This one-off grant was made to help improve the facilities which are used by local community groups to promote activities in St Ives to a wider audience.

Continued on next page ...

## CLERK'S CORNER ... *continued*

### Town Council Award!

St Ives Town Council is always striving to improve and deliver



more for residents. This might be by working on the Farmers' Market to win top prize nationally, through to our support for the St Ives in Bloom volunteers to win Gold for the town or helping those with dementia.

The work we do is not just about the visible stuff but also about ensuring that we are delivering value for money and good services behind the scenes. The Local Council Award scheme is designed to push parish and town councils beyond doing just the legal minimums and to seek out opportunities to improve.

For many years St Ives Town Council maintained 'Quality Status'. At the time this was the only level which could be achieved - but we were not resting on our laurels! When the new scheme launched in

2016 a new level of 'Gold' was introduced which is designed to show that a council is not just achieving but also looking to innovate and push the boundaries of the sector.

Throughout last year Town Councillors, staff and partners demonstrated to the assessors that St Ives Town Council was worthy of Gold, not just then, but as part of our ongoing plans. This covered all sorts of things such as our work to inform and consult residents (*The Bridge* is a good example of this!) and moves to make more and more information accessible online.

Will you see a difference? Hopefully yes, but not always because a lot of it is behind the scenes. If it leads to better decisions and more efficient ways of working, then that's the important bit and that extra accolade of Gold is the reassurance we are doing it.

ALLAN WITHERICK, TOWN CLERK

## MEET YOUR NEW COUNCILLOR JOHN TIDDY

Elected in May 2016 in the South ward, John tells us why he stood for Council and his feelings a year on.

I spent my formative years in Bristol. After thirteen years in the RAF and another four as a systems engineer in Peterborough, I joined the oil and gas exploration industry as a Senior Geophysics Engineer. I am now retired and happy to spend some of my spare time as a Councillor for St Ives Town Council.

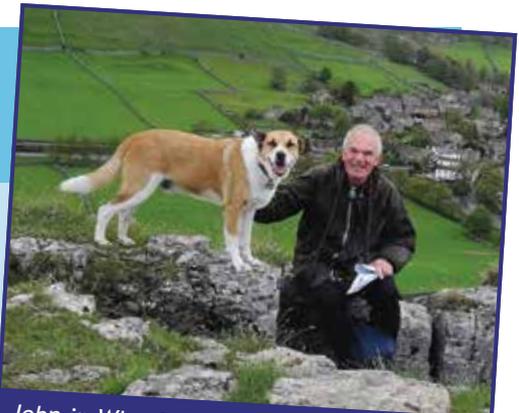
Like many others I am concerned about some of the extremely political decisions currently being made around the world but, as an independent Town Councillor, my views are of course focused on the good of the town. I am proud to be a member of a majority Independent Council which is not influenced by a party line or proposed government targets.

I am a member of the Planning Committee which is facing particularly challenging decisions at the present time due to the national push towards intense housing development. It is important that this committee keeps a careful watch on potential over-development. I am also honoured to be a Trustee of the Norris Museum and look forward to the reopening later this summer

after its major development.

My wife Helen and I celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary this year. Our son William benefited from the excellent schools available in the town - Eastfield,

Westfield and St Ivo. He then went onto further education at the Norwich School of Art and Design and the University of Dundee. We have lived in the same area of St Ives since 1978 and could have used a hand cart to move the distance we have covered in our three house moves - testament to how much we enjoy living here and the company of some groovy friends and neighbours. St Ives is a great place to live and a great place to be.



*John in Wharfedale with his dog Jack who should have been a cat but that is another story. His passion is fishing and he is also fond of cycling and walking, especially along the Thicket Path. This is one of his favourite routes and he is concerned for the need to keep the path safe and for its designation to not change from Footpath to part of the National Cycle Network.*

Photograph by Helen Tiddy

# WHAT'S ON?

## TOWN COUNCIL, CIVIC AND RELATED EVENTS

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

Please check organisers/venues for final details.

Corn Exchange 01480 496454 info@thecornexchange.org.uk • Norris Museum 01480 497314

• Friends of Holt Island Nature Reserve FOHINR@gmail.com • Town Team 01480 383612

• Free Church 01480 468535 • Methodist Church 01480 462293 • International Children's Day 07704 526 906

• FESst 01480 385999 • Carnival Committee enquiries@sicmf.co.uk

### May

- 10 **Annual Council Meeting and Mayor Making** Free Church 7.30 pm
- 20 **Farmers' Market** Sheep Market 8.30 am - 2.00 pm. Includes Town Council Surgery from 10 am - 12 noon
- 20 **Children's Book Jam** Corn Exchange and also out and about 9.30 am - 4.30 pm. An ACE event
- 20 **Museum on the Move** *Mini Mammoths Rhyme Time* for the under 5s (part of Book Jam). A Norris Museum event.
- 20 **Save our Spire** Auction of Promises Free Church. Viewing 10 am, auction begins 11 am.
- 31 **Family Fun Day** *Batty about Bats* Friends of Holt Island Nature Reserve and the Norris Museum. Holt Island and the Methodist Church 11 am - 3 pm. Free.

### June

- 2 **Save our Spire** Lunchtime Concert Free Church 12 noon.

- 3 **Farmers' Market** Sheepmarket 8.30 am - 2.00 pm
- 3 **Mobility Grand Prix** Market Hill 11 am - 1 pm. A Town Team event
- 4 **International Children's Day** Warner's Park
- 10 **Save our Spire** Concert Free Church featuring *Tapestry and Synergy Welsh Male Voice Choir*. 7.30 pm. Tickets £10 from Just Sharing.
- 11 **Civic Parade and Service** All Saints Parish Church 11.30 am. Parade leaves Market Hill at 10.55 am and returns approx. 12.30 pm
- 17 **Farmers' Market** Sheep Market 8.30 am - 2.00 pm
- 18 **Picnic in the Park** Warner's Park 1 - 7 pm. A FESst event
- 24 **Armed Forces Day** (Please check Town Council website for details nearer the date.)
- 25 **Festival of Motorcycles** Town Centre 10 am - 4 pm. Charity event in aid of Magpas.

### July

- 1 **Farmers' Market** Sheep Market 8.30 am - 2.00 pm
- 2 **Music on the Waits** 2.30 pm. Also on 9, 16, 23 and 30 July. A FESst event
- 8 - 9 **Carnival Parade** from town centre and **Music Festival** at Hill Rise Park. A Carnival Committee event
- 15 **Farmers' Market** Sheep Market 8.30 am - 2.00 pm
- 15 **Town Council Surgery** Outside the Cooperative supermarket, Burleigh Hill 10 am - 12 noon
- 26 **AGM Friends of Holt Island Nature Reserve** Corn Exchange 7.30 pm Refreshments then talk on *The Amazing Lives of Bats* and footage on *The Secret Life of the Island*. Non-members £3 on the door
- 28 - 29 **Hunts Art Group Exhibition** Free Church 10 am - 5 pm. Free
- 29 **The Mill Wives of St Ives** Play on The Quay. Check details on Town Team website nearer the time. A Town Team event

## COUNCIL MEETINGS DIARY

### MAY

- 10 Annual Meeting of the Town Council and Mayor Making 7.30 pm in the Free Church, Market Hill
- 11 Reconvened Annual Meeting and Planning Committee 7.00 pm in the Town Hall
- 31 Planning and Amenities Committees

### JUNE

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

### JULY

- 12 Planning Committee and Full Town Council Meeting
- 19 Property and Promotion & Publicity and Personnel Committees
- 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 pm in the Town Hall. You may speak for up to three minutes, subject to the maximum provision of 15 minutes for all speakers. Your questions at meetings must be relevant to matters in which the Town Council has powers or duties, or matters relating to the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of the town.

# 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. Details are correct at the time of printing.



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



Roger Kuch Brian Luter Jonathan Pallant Phil Pope Daniel Rowe Jen Spencer John Tiddy Debbie Townsend Allan Witherick  
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](http://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](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

CCC is composed of 61 councillors who represent five District Council areas across Cambridgeshire. St Ives is represented by Councillors for the divisions of St Ives North & Wyton and St Ives South & Needingworth.

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 July 2017. If you would like to suggest an item for publication please contact the Town Hall.

### St Ives Town Council

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