

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

A busy few weeks ahead

There really is a lot going on over the next six weeks. This includes all up District Council elections, a new Town Council, Mayor making, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations and even a Dolly Parton - Shania Twain tribute night!

As we reported in the last edition the District Council elections are taking place on Thursday 5th May against a background of division between Town and District Councils. Having boycotted the recent Town Meeting the current District Councillors for St Ives chose to not contest Town Council elections.

Huntingdonshire Conservative Party decided not to contest any town or parish council elections and this could have repercussions.

Relationships have been strained between the District's Tories and Town Councils for some time and it would appear that they feel they do not need the support of Town Councils anymore. A surprising decision, as the Tory majority on HDC is 'wafer thin'.

If the Tories lose just 4 seats they could lose overall control of the Council and with every seat in St Ives being hotly contested for the first time in a while - could St Ives have a major say in the make up of the District Council?

You can see an election address from candidates on page 2. *The Riverporter* sent an invitation to every St Ives candidate, with a promise to print their election address unaltered. Once again none of the Conservative candidates replied.

New Town Council

Although there are no elections for the Town Council, there will be a new Council after 5th May. All candidates will be elected unopposed and the new Council members will be: Margaret King, Michael Burke, Shariqa Mokbul, Becy Morgan, Philip Pope, Craig Smith, Pasco Hussain, Brian Luter, Monica Mallol Wright, Alexander Thompson, John Tiddy, Nic Wells, Julie Kerr and Chris Morgan. There are three vacancies, which are likely to be filled by cooption. We wish them luck.

The Mayor Making ceremony will be on Wednesday 18th May in St Ives Corn Exchange at 7.30pm, where the outgoing Mayor, Cllr Pasco Hussain, will hand over the reins to the new Mayor, which, if the usual custom prevails, will be this year's Deputy Mayor, Cllr Phil Pope.

Queen's Jubilee weekend

Work is going ahead on plans for the Jubilee weekend, 2 to 5 June. Currently this includes: **THURSDAY 2 JUNE - Beacon lighting and tree planting.** It is hoped to plant 70 trees, one for each year of the reign. In the evening a Beacon will be lit on the roof of All Saints Parish Church, organised by Father Mark Amey in line with the national beacon lighting.

The Coronation Film. If possible there will be a screening of the film of the Coronation of Elizabeth II in the Corn Exchange, prior to the normal Thursday film.

FRIDAY 3 JUNE - Multi Faith Service

Father Mark Amey will lead a multi-faith service for the town's religious and community groups in Market Hill from around 11am.

Songs of the past 70 years - In the evening The Town Team and St Ives Corn Exchange are planning a singalong of some of the most popular songs during the past 70 years. Song sheets provided, come along and join in the fun.

SATURDAY 4 JUNE - Exercising the Freedom.

There will be great parade by the Corps of the Royal Engineers, 2331 St Ives Squadron ATC and the Army Cadets Force in Market Hill from 10am. There will also be a Farmers' Market and later, it's the **Big Jubilee Concert** featuring The Candy Girls, Freddie Mercury (tribute act) and other bands.

SUNDAY 5 JUNE - The Big Broadway Lunch

Bring your own food and chairs and join in a massive picnic, with buskers and entertainers.

KNITTERS AND SEWERS WANTED

to help Yarn Bomb the town . . .

Elaine Spence of Star Dancewear is hoping to 'wrap' the town in beautiful bunting for the Jubilee. If you or your group can help please contact her at the Star Dancewear shop or go to 'The Platinum Jubilee Celebrations St Ives' Facebook page.

More details to follow in the next edition.

Bank Holiday Market died ages ago!

This astounding comment was by Huntingdonshire District Council's Market Supervisor, of the once famous St Ives Bank Holiday market (see letters page 3).

It seems that the St Ives Bank Holiday Market, has been allowed to decline due to poor control by HDC, if Easter Monday's market was anything to go by.

As a child in the 50s and 60s I often came to the St Ives Bank Holiday Market with my parents. It was an exciting day out, particularly as there wasn't much else to do other than perhaps go to Huntingdon races.

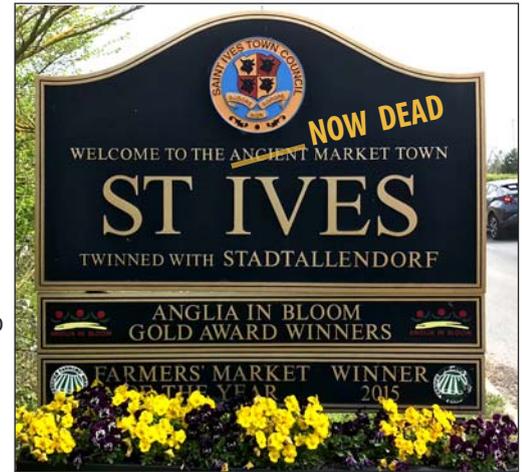
The sheer size of the market with stalls selling almost everything and the wonderful noise of stall holders shouting their wares and entertaining the crowds was fascinating.

This continued for many years and more recently I recall how groups such as the Scouts made good money organising the parking for the hundreds of cars that came. The Town Council allowed these groups to have the money collected for parking on Warners Park and Slepe Hall field.

Obviously the variety of stalls has changed greatly over the years, there doesn't seem to be many selling just crockery these days, but one thing remains constant and that is a good market is still popular.

Like everything successful it doesn't happen by accident. It takes hard work, commitment and good planning to keep a market lively. It requires stallholders to come and be able to make a profit and that often means the organisers being proactive by inviting them and ensuring that the range of products being sold is wide and the quality is good.

It would appear that HDC have failed in this task, according to the letter we received (p3). This is a great surprise as there have been



frequent press releases extolling the importance of the markets and the work HDC are doing to make them successful.

Unless there is a significant effort made by HDC the Monday, Friday and Bank Holiday markets, are in danger of disappearing completely.

In 2014 when the Town Team launched the conservation centre of St Ives as The Old Riverport, District Councillors complained that this name did not reflect the importance of St Ives as an Historic MARKET Town. So why have they allowed the market to decline?

Why hasn't the market been encouraged to develop, with a flea market in Bridge Street for instance? Why are the normal weekday markets shrinking when nearby markets, such as Ely's are thriving?

Although there has always been some tension between market stall holders and shopkeepers it is absolutely clear that most businesses have better trade, with more customers on market days. Perhaps investing more in ensuring a good market will bring more visitors than a parklet by the toilets. **ED.**



Messages from (some) of your District candidates

We invited all St Ives candidates in May's District elections to say why we should vote for them. However not all replied. Here are the people who cared enough to respond.

St Ives Ives East Ward (2 seats to be elected)

Michael Burke Independent

I've been recently talking to members of our community about what matters the most. It's not the colour of your rosette or your political leaning. It's about being an approachable and proactive person.

I had some great advice recently and it has resonated with me 'Be yourself, take time to listen to people, be friendly, be personable, go that extra mile and you won't go wrong'.

I want to drive forward with creating a vibrant, thriving town and putting the people, businesses and visitors at the heart of it.

People need more autonomy about what works for them, their wider families and the community they live in. The current District Council has core responsibilities that will remain but need to be enhanced, developed and invested in for you and not what other people think you want and need. My key focuses are Arts and Leisure Services, regeneration of the town, open spaces and mental health and well being and creating and developing more appropriate and user friendly facilities for disabled people.

Lets change together and I pledge to always put you first when it comes to decision making and to work with other independent councillors across the district, should we all be elected. Vote Town, Not Party!



ever-growing town is what really interests me. Since being on the council I have helped to keep council tax low and have resisted the Envar incinerator at every opportunity. I would like to request that those who can, get out there and vote and please encourage your friends and neighbours to do so. With the support of the townspeople in East Ward of St Ives, together we can make a positive change. Vote Town Not Party!

St Ives Ives South Ward (2 seats to be elected)

Cath Gleadow Labour

Having lived in St Ives for 30 years, like many of you, I can see the changes in the local environment; with discharging waste into the local rivers, to lack of maintenance of drainage ditches, adding to flooding. There has also been an unprecedented increase in the number of people using food banks and struggling to cope with high housing and energy prices. We have had 40 years of the Conservative's in Huntingdonshire, who lack ambition and use the same old play book and outdated attitudes to try and solve modern day problems. There is now a Labour Mayor for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough who believes in compassion, co-operation and community and he has demonstrated that by working together at every level of local government we can do things differently. Vote for change



Nic Wells Lib Dem

I have lived in St Ives for 6 years and Huntingdonshire for over 40. I have been a Town Councillor since November 2020, and in that role have gained a good understanding of the current issues and opportunities for the Town. I'm standing in these elections because I believe that South St Ives would benefit from more proactive and visible representation, with better and more frequent communication on District matters than it receives currently.



I am out canvassing nearly every day and I've been very pleased with the many positive responses I've received from voters in the ward this year. I intend to canvass as much of the ward as possible before election day, but I am always happy to receive and respond to feedback from electors whom I may have missed or who I haven't yet met.

St Ives Ives West Ward (1 seat to be elected)

Julie Kerr Independent

I have lived in St Ives for 50 years and with my husband have raised our family here. I am a Town Councillor, committed to getting the very best for St Ives, so I am seeking your vote to be your District Councillor. We've had a majority Independent Town Council for 14 years but no Independent District councillors.

I believe that we deserve much better and ask you to vote for me, so that I can be the catalyst for the change that we desperately need.

I am passionate about promoting St Ives and enabling community empowerment through consultation. That is why I have been out meeting as many of you as possible to hear your concerns:

- I will oppose further housing developments in our town. We do not have the infrastructure to cope with additional expansion.
- The roads around St Ives are becoming increasingly congested. The current plans such as the A141 bypass, are inadequate and further consultation with the relevant authorities is desperately needed.
- There is a lack of District investment in the Town Centre. St Ives needs community-minded District Councillors who can bring together the numerous exceptional community groups that care for and work hard for our town.

It's Time For Change.

The other candidates standing are: C. Smith (Con), A. Roberts (Con), R.D'Souza (Con), M. Gill (Con), R. Fuller (Con) and D. Laycock (Green Party).



RAFFLE WINNER ANNOUNCED

Elaine Spence, owner of 'Star Dancewear & Crafts' wool and haberdashery shop in Crown Street, again played host to a raffle, this time with a prize of a knitted Scottish Family, the McScarecrow Clan, comprising Great Uncle Angus, Scotty, Wee Sprout, Scamp the dog and a couple of haggises for good measure! They were made by ace knitter, Julia Lain, of the Broadway and donated to the Dementia Friendly Community Group in St Ives to raise funds. Elaine is committed to the Group's drive to make St Ives a Dementia Friendly town, in line with the Alzheimer's Society initiative. The family will now go to a new home with the owner of the winning ticket, Mr. Hankinson (pictured).



The amount raised through the generosity of Elaine's customers and others is more than enough to fund a special concert by a local Ukulele Band for attendees at the Dementia Café shortly. Thanks are due to all involved - Elaine, her staff, Julia and all who bought a ticket, which enables us to provide a better life for those living with Dementia and their carers.

Annual General Meeting



Thursday 12 May, 7:15pm start
St Ives Methodist Church, The Waits, St Ives

Everyone is welcome...

Hear about what we have been up to in the last two years, and our future plans and projects.

We want and value your input in relation to the following:

Have your say in shaping our Local Climate Action Plan

- Energy and transport
- Nature and conservation
- Water quality and supply, and flood management
- Circular economy, including waste and recycling
- Cycling, walking and active travel
- Food, farming and localism

PLUS the latest reports from:



St Ives EcoAction is a community-led climate action group founded in 2020 when local people came together to form a local climate action plan.

stivesecoaction@gmail.com or go to facebook.com/stivesecoaction

NOTHING CHANGES

A new book, published by The Friends of Hinchbrook House, has the following piece about Edward 8th Earl Sandwich, who was Member of Parliament for Huntingdon. In a letter to his aunt in 1884, he informed her that Huntingdon had wanted to entertain him at a public dinner but the Conservatives would have nothing to say to it as the Liberals had originated the idea.



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email Erik at:
editor@theriverporter.uk

The Riverporter

Voted Best local newspaper of the year 2019/20 in the
Cambridge Building Society's Community Magazine Awards

OTHER NEWS

The Arsonists of St Ives return!

Two girls returned to the scene of their previous fire (see RP107) on Thursday 14 April to show off their 'burning' skills to two friends. When the fire was getting out of control they kicked it into the river. The Police, who are investigating the incidents have asked boaters to keep an eye out between 4.30 and 5.30pm for signs of a fire on the bank at the end of Woolpack Lane.

St Ives man charged with attempted murder

A man from St Ives has been charged with attempted murder and possession of a samurai sword after a local stabbing. Local man Michael White, 36, of Tamar Close in St Ives, was arrested in connection with the stabbing of a man in his 30s in Wyton on Saturday, April 16. White appeared at Huntingdon Magistrates' Court on Monday, charged with attempted murder, kidnap, actual bodily harm, possession of a samurai sword and threatening a person with a knife. The victim of the attack was taken to hospital and is in a critical but stable condition. Joseph McIver, 31, of Durham Way in Wyton, was charged with assisting an offender.

New Vet Practice St Ives

Ben and Nadia Wright, a husband and wife team are just about to open a new practice in St Ives called Riverport Vets. Erik and Milly thought this a really good name and can't wait to have a look around to give a first-hand report on the facilities at their Open Day on Saturday 21st May between 10 am and 2 pm. The practice is due to open on June 6th.



Despite our bid for a grant being unsuccessful we are still receiving Pledges for the project. We now have £22,000 pledged and our aim will be to raise another £20,000.

YOU CAN HELP BY PLEDGING A SUM - it is easy to do and all contributions are welcome.

You can make a pledge, either by visiting the Town Hall, stating the amount and giving contact details or you can email: townteam@stivescambridgeshire.co.uk. Alternatively you can help by donating any amount, no matter how small at: www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stivescambstand. Please Note: Funds donated will be returned to the donors if the project does not go ahead.

Morning Erik,

Re: St Ives Bank Holiday Market

I have just met a friend at the St Ives Bank Holiday market as we like the fabric stalls that come. However today it was just more or less the normal Monday market.

There was an HDC person sat under a gazebo, who was in charge of HDC markets according to his T Shirt, who when challenged said that markets were dead and the St Ives Bank Holiday Market died ages ago.

When we said it was going strong before the pandemic, he seemed to disagree and he said the only market worth going to is in Bourne [near Cambourne], which is where my friend went off to. Another market stallholder blamed HDC when we spoke to him and said he knows other market stalls that hadn't been invited today. Why so fatalistic? Can you investigate?

Further update: We were told by another stall holder that the meat stall holder had been told by HDC they couldn't have more than 12 people outside their stall, so that stall holder doesn't come now, and then HDC invited him back, he said no as he'd been treated badly! Bit of a shambles it seems. One of the fabric stalls used to come from Leicester; I have emailed HDC to ask if they were invited for today. They came right up until the pandemic. My friend has just said that the Bourne market doesn't have any fabric stalls, so they haven't gone there, which is what the HDC guy said!

Thanks **Hayley**

Dear Erik,

Subject: St Ives West & Road Safety

There is a serious speeding problem in Marley Road. A speeding car went through the hedge on 2 Waveney Road and hit the underside of their bow window. This was the second accident of this type so the elderly couple who live there are very nervous. Thanks to David McCandless of Community Roadwatch I now have two weeks data that show well over 200 vehicles are speeding in excess of 45mph every day. **Colin**

Dear Erik,

COSI (Chamber Orchestra of St Ives) have started again providing free lunch time concerts in the Free Church on the last Friday of each month. I wondered if you might be kind enough to give them a mention in this week's Riverporter (which continues to be great to read!). I was thinking perhaps something like - **Enjoy a COSI Friday Lunchtime in the Free Church.** Best wishes and many thanks Pete.

Lunchtime Concert Series
Friday 29th April
An oboe quintet

All donations go to
St Ives Free Church

1pm - 1.45pm
Free Church



AN APOLOGY

We would like to apologise to Councillor Angela Dickinson for stating in the previous printed edition that she was an ex-Mayor. Sadly although a long-serving Town Councillor Angela was never Mayor.

Dear Erik, Subject: FW: NODA Gala Awards

Last Sunday I attended the Eastern Region AGM and Gala Dinner of NODA (National Operatic and Dramatic Association) at Wyboston Lakes where June Forway from St Ives was presented with the Jim Farr Achievement Award by NODA National President, Gordon Richardson.



Pictured left to right, June Forway; Leslie Judd, Eastern Region NODA Rep and Gordon Richardson. Photo: Sophie Wilson.

The Award, an engraved silver plate, given in memory of Jim, recognises lifetime achievement to local amateur drama and musicals. June, and her late husband Dick, were both heavily involved with SIMADS and the Eastern Region of NODA. She is very well known in the town and, now in her 80s, the award is very much deserved.

Kind regards **Michael Williamson** (Former President of SIMADS) By the way congratulations on your excellent publication.

Dear Erik,

Ref: Independents for District

The Conservative Party in control at HDC has abandoned the seats in the Council elections of all our main towns. Not one Conservative candidate is standing in any of the 89 town/parish council elections.

Town Council seats are the firm domain of independently-minded individuals who devote their time freely for the love of the communities in which they live. Although the Conservatives have abandoned our Town Councils with disdain, they still appear confident that we will continue to elect them to the District Council.

Their glossy election leaflets tell us nothing about the candidates, other than they have bought into the collective Party promises, and therefore capable of taking the important decisions about how our council tax contributions should be spent.

We, the voters, are actively discouraged from voting for independent candidates, told that the only way to guarantee investment for our towns is to vote for the ruling Party. But just as the Conservatives have abandoned Town Council seats, they have also ceased to cooperate and interact with the Town Councils.

This Party stranglehold over our District Council has to end as it is not in the interest of our towns. St Neots' and Huntingdon voters have recognised this and now elect Independents as District Councillors, and the balance of power at HDC could easily be tipped with a few more free-thinking councillors. Please help the independent candidates win here by voting for them on 5th May. **Jan Dobson**

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HYPERION

**Entries Invited for Our
Next Antiques & Later
Sale on Saturday 30th
April**



Sold In Our Last Antiques & Interiors Sale

Tag Heuer Monaco Limited edition 0284/5000 CS2110 with case, box and paperwork **Sold £1200**



John Knapp-Fisher (1931 -2015) 'Sunflower' dated 1989
Watercolour
Sold £650

Interesting WW1 Medal group for Lance
Bombardier Thomas Nevin 750477 of The
Royal Artillery **Sold £400**



**Entries Invited for our Timed Auction of Toys, Soldiers &
Collectables**

Hyperion Auctions, The Salerooms, Station Road, St Ives PE27 5BH
www.hyperionauctions.co.uk 01480 464140



JOIN US ON OUR OPEN DAY

Saturday May 21st

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APRIL 2022 PROPERTY MARKET UPDATE



There is mounting evidence of a busy spring market ahead in 2022 with more properties being advertised and buyer demand remains extremely high.

In the areas we cover, the number of resale homes advertised jumped 13% from 246 in February to 279 in March.

This new stock is being quickly snapped up with 19% more property sales, rising from 211 in February to 252 last month.

According to a well-known property website, this is now the best spring seller's market ever.

Record house prices are being achieved, fuelled by the largest mismatch between supply and demand for this time of year ever measured. There are currently more than twice as many buyers as sellers.

Another new price record has been set as the average price of property coming to market jumps by £5,760 or 1.7% last month.

The average monthly rise is the largest seen at this time of year since March 2004, pushing the annual rate of increase to 10.4%.

To offer our clients the ability to make the most of this heightened demand Ellis Winters is delighted to announce our secure sale service, offered alongside our traditional and discreet marketing services.

The Ellis Winters Secure Sale Service offers customers a way to sell their home that maximises interest in their property with peace of mind that the transaction will be faster and with a 95% chance of completing. As an added bonus, this service has no sales fees to pay by the seller.

For more information on this service speak to one of our team.

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