

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

What a Wonderful Wednesday

Forget Super Saturday - it was a Wonderful Wednesday for St Ives as we welcomed a new Town Council, a new Mayor and Deputy Mayor, and five new District Councillors.



In the Corn Exchange the new Town Council held its first meeting. Phil Pope (above) was elected Mayor and Nic Wells was elected Deputy Mayor. After a passionate speech about his year in office Pasco presented the following awards: **The Commerce in the Community Award** went to Brandon Bent and Hayley Ferguson; **The Millennium Shield** went to the Air Cadets and the **Community Challenge Award** went to Mohamed Arif, Michelle Laing and Mathew Setchell. Pasco also awarded The Royal British Legion, Acorn, the Day Care Centre and Magpas charities cheques for £2,006 each.

Meanwhile in Pathfinder House, Huntingdon, there was a buzz in the air as the new District Council was meeting for the first time, a truly landmark moment.

For the first time since Huntingdonshire District came into being, the Council is not being run by the Tories and the 22 Conservatives who remain had to watch as the main roles were filled by Independent, Liberal Democrat and Labour councillors.

The new Leader is Lib Dem Sarah Conboy and Independent, Tom Sanderson, is Deputy Leader. All five St Ives councillors featured in major positions with Michael Burke becoming the Council's Chairman.

There were also important posts for Nic Wells, who is Chair of Corporate Governance; Cath Gleadow, Chair of Overview & Scrutiny (Performance and Growth) and Julie Kerr as Chair of Overview & Scrutiny (Customers and Partnerships).

Shariqa Mokbul was elected Vice Chair of the important Development Management [Planning] Committee.

All in all a really important day for St Ives and Huntingdonshire.

EcoAction's AGM a great success

On 12 May, 60 people met at the Methodist Church for St Ives EcoAction's first AGM, where the Combined Authority Mayor, Dr Nik Johnson, explained how the shared values of compassion, co-operation and community are necessary for climate action.

Professor Brian Evesham, Chief Executive Officer of the BCN Wildlife Trust spoke about how nature's recovery can be central to climate solutions. Chris Pointon of Cambridgeshire Climate Emergency, spoke about the growing network of local climate action groups, saying that St Ives EcoAction is possibly one of the largest in the County. The meeting also received short updates from community leaders about campaigns and initiatives on the ground. Founder and Chair of St Ives EcoAction,

Helen Dye, said: *'From the time of our first meeting, when we welcomed 80 community members on that cold January evening in 2020, I have been pleasantly surprised to see St Ives EcoAction go from strength to strength. Climate and nature know no boundaries, and we all need to be working together.'*

If you would like to find out more, EcoAction holds Climate Cafés on the third Saturday of every month at the Free Church 10-12 noon or see www.facebook.com/stivesecoaction



From left to right (back row): Cllr Nic Wells (SITC), Brian Evesham (BCN WT), Polly Mules, Cllr Cath Gleadow (SITC), John Morris (Hunts Cycling & Walking), Chris Pointon (Cambridgeshire Climate Emergency), Graham Campbell (Great Ouse Valley Trust), Eamon Dorling (Whittlesey TC), Cllr Chris Morgan (SITC), Philip Bubbs (SIEA); (front row): Julie Sant (POWI), Cllr Beccy Chapman (STAR/SITC), Cllr Julie Elizabeth Kerr (SITC), Mathew Setchell, Nik Johnson (CPCA), Helen Dye, Heidi Field (HDC), Dr Roger Mitchell (SIEA), Jo Mitton (Waitrose), Emma Peters (Waitrose).

ST IVES TOWN TEAM PRESENTS

Singing In The Reign



Join Doris, Dusty, Adele and other musical greats to sing the songs from the Queen's Reign

ST IVES CORN EXCHANGE FRIDAY 3 JUNE 7PM

The evening will include images from the past 70 years and a selection of some of the best songs to sing-a-long to. Special guest Paul Dodson will be on hand to play some of the songs live. The words will be provided. Attendance is free and the bar will be open.

Also on over the Jubilee weekend are: THURSDAY 2 JUNE

Coronation Film. It is a chance to see the very first coronation to be broadcast, which 27m people in the UK watched.

Beacon Lighting and evening picnic. The evening will start at 7.30pm. Bring your own food and enjoy an evening picnic with friends. The Beacon will be lit at 9.45pm.

FRIDAY 3 JUNE

Multi Faith Service. The Vicar of St Ives leads a multi-faith service in Market Hill at 11am.

SATURDAY 4 JUNE

Exercising the Freedom. In Market Hill there will be parade by the Royal Engineers, 2331 Squadron ATC and the Army Cadets from 10am. Entertainment is expected to start around 3pm with **The Big Jubilee Concert** at 7pm.



Also in the Corn Exchange **The Numbers** band will be playing a celebration of Brit Pop.

SUNDAY 5 JUNE

The Broadway will be free of vehicles and can be used by residents to hold **The Big Broadway Lunch**. Bring your own food and seating and join in a massive picnic, that hopefully will include buskers and entertainers.

An **Indoor Street Party** is also planned in the Corn Exchange between 10am and 5pm with the national celebrations being shown on the Big Screen. Entry is free to all of the above events.



St Ives takes action for nature!

Nature is in crisis, and it is particularly challenged in Cambridgeshire, with half the amount of land being managed for nature compared to any other county. So it is good to see our community coming together to get the town buzzing!

An initiative, which endeavours to 'double nature' in a community green space in the north of the town has taken place.

During lockdown, local St Ives resident and conservationist, Philip Bubbs (pictured below), with the opportunity of a grant from Natural Cambridgeshire and the encouragement of St Ives EcoAction, promoted the planting of strips of flowers for pollinating insects in the green areas near Wheatfields School.

The project brought together St Ives in Bloom, HDC and Wheatfields School staff to help make the idea a reality. Philip says 'This local community action is a first step to bringing more wildlife and community engagement within our green areas. Our vision is to develop a nature network in St Ives that will link our green spaces and provide corridors for wildlife.'



HDC Grounds team (Stuart) and pupils from Wheatfields sowing seeds on the Play Area.

When asked what it is that is needed to make flowers grow, the children responded with, 'air, water, soil, sun . . . and music!'

When asked what music, the answer was, of course, 'birdsong!'

Chris Fryer-Bovair, Assistant Head, Westfield School said, 'The children I work with every day are incredibly passionate about the environment. Projects like this are exciting because they show the children that the adults around them care too.'

Below: HDC Grounds team (Darren), rotating the seeds in the soil.



Zero Waste Celebrations

As we enter the warmer months, we will begin to think about picnics and BBQs. Could you make it more sustainable? Could you make it zero waste?

- ❖ Eco Party Pack hires
- ❖ Use reusable containers
- ❖ Hold an award for the most sustainable/zero waste contributions
- ❖ Keep a note of what everyone is bringing to avoid duplication and minimise waste.

- ❖ Use it as an opportunity to use up ingredients
 - ❖ Remember to separate your waste and take it home with you if facilities are not provided
- Share your Zero Waste successes with friends and family and inspire them to try it too.

For some further inspiration, check out <https://www.hubhub.org.uk/litter-free-picnic-inspiration-guide>.

Happy zero waste celebrating!

A word from your councillors

Follow their success in the District Council elections a fortnight ago the new councillors for St Ives wanted to say thanks to the people of St Ives who voted for them.



Nic Wells

'I was delighted to top the poll in the St Ives South ward for the HDC elections. It was hard work being out knocking on doors nearly every day for more than six weeks but the effort clearly paid off. I would like to express my deepest

thanks to all who voted for me. I will do my best to serve the interests of all the residents of St Ives South both on the District and Town Councils for the four year term starting now. I am expecting some exciting challenges ahead.'



Cath Gleadow

'I want to give a big 'thank you' to everyone who voted for me at the local elections and everyone that helped me in the campaign. I am truly humbled and delighted to be one of the

councillors representing St Ives South. After the result was declared and subsequent celebration, I was quickly brought down to earth, having to attend a signing-in meeting, quickly followed by an induction session for all councillors. It was a chance to meet the other elected members and get to know the staff who will help support the delivery of the Council's agenda.

There are still major challenges ahead e.g. Town Centre development, Environmental concerns, Transport etc. and we newly elected councillors will work together for the benefit of Huntingdonshire. Speaking personally as a councillor for St Ives South, I will work collaboratively with my other local Councillors' in the interests of St Ives to ensure that there is strong representation in the district.



Shariqa Mokbul

'I would like to say a huge thank you to all those who voted in this year's elections. It has been such an enjoyable experience and a humbling one too. I am truly overwhelmed with all the support from the constituents of St Ives and the amazing turn out at the polling stations.

Thank you all for sharing your great ideas about how we can improve our town. It was

also good to hear first-hand about the major concerns residents have. We have listened to your feedback and I can't wait to start actioning and implementing change. After all we are here to represent your voice so, please do not hesitate to approach us. It was lovely to see you all and I can't wait to make St Ives proud.'



Julie Kerr

'St Ives voted for change in the recent election and this was reflected throughout Huntingdonshire. We have an exciting opportunity to create a new standard at the

District level, moving away from the 'old' style of politics, which is all point scoring and discrediting the opposition, to something inclusive, respectful and integral.

I hope to be a voice for our community, empowering local people. Having now met many of the District Officers, Staff and Councillors I am optimistic we will achieve this. There was a tangible sense of excitement throughout the induction day last week. I cannot thank the residents of the West Ward enough for voting for me, it is truly humbling. I met so many wonderful people whilst canvassing and I am so excited to represent you ALL as your Councillor.'



Michael Burke

It is my great honour to have been elected into a position as a councillor serving St Ives on Huntingdonshire District Council. It gives me such a sense of pride to have been selected by voters

to act on their behalf.

I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you who made the effort to go out and vote and to effect change that has never been seen before at the District Council. Speaking to you, also gave me a great insight as to what's important to the different cross sections of our community. Much of the work done behind the scenes by a wonderful group of people who kept me going, supported with conversations, inspiration, and encouragement. A huge thank you to everyone who advised, guided and helped with the campaign. A thank you to my colleagues for their strength, determination and perseverance during the campaign. Here's to exciting times ahead!

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having your say ...

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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

JUBILEE NEWS



As we await planning approval for the bandstand we still need to raise the money that will allow us to go ahead with the installation. The total is slowly growing and is now around £23,500. The Town Team has sent letters to most of our town businesses but as yet we have only received pledges from two of those contacted. Over the Jubilee weekend we will be seeking more pledges and donations, so please if you enjoy the free entertainment, consider donating to the bandstand appeal.

You can help by pledging a sum. It is easy to do - all contributions are welcome.

You can make a pledge (from £25 upwards) by sending your contact details (address, email and telephone number) to: townteam@stivescambridgeshire.co.uk stating the amount you wish to pledge. Alternatively you can give details at The Town Hall-10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Your pledges and donations will be recognised. Every person or company that donates to the bandstand will be inscribed on a panel (unless they wish to remain anonymous) so that future generations will see all of the people who contributed.

You can also donate any amount at

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stivescambsbandstand

Please help us if you can, it will be such a fitting memorial of the past 70 years of dedication that Queen Elizabeth has shown our country.

Below: Artists impression of a bandstand on The Waits. Note this is not the actual bandstand.



Dear Erik,

Is this a record ?

That part of Langley Close next to the fire station is about 50yds long and on one side is usually full of parked cars.

Last Friday I picked up ten squashed cans and a plastic bottle that all went in my blue bin at home. I reckon most of them were dumped there by car drivers.

Litter picker

Dear Erik,

I have just read the latest 'Riverporter' online and was a little surprised to read that a representative from your publication wasn't allowed entry to the District Council Elections Count, due to '... relatively limited space to safely accommodate the media interest which has been allocated on a first come first served basis, and in doing so the Returning Officer has used their discretion in deciding media representation at the count venue.'

The media were granted space on the Balcony overlooking the count - I was there along with Debbie Davies and Alex Gilham (Hunts Post), BBC Cambridgeshire and ITV Anglia. I was allocated a table which was exactly the same size as the one used adjacent to me, where Debbie and Alex shared the space, and both were using laptops. We shared knowledge and data together. As I was alone on a same sized table, I would have been more than willing to share. It would be interesting to know when exactly you applied for entry as I applied on Tuesday 3rd, at 11.06 am and was treated exceptionally well by Michael Hann and Shakofeh Shah, from the Communications team, both ahead of the count, and on the day. Maybe see you next time?

Kind regards,

Ste Greenall

Presenter & Director



Dear Ste, pleased to see you read our little paper. We contacted HDC at 2.23pm on 2 May with a request to attend the count. ED

Dear Erik,

Subject: Marley Road

We noted a letter with interest from one of your readers in Issue 108, with reference to the speeding on Marley Road and a terrifying experience for the residents of No 2 Waveney Road.

We also live on Waveney Road and have been there for over 38 years now and have been very concerned for some time about the speeding on Marley Road. Could the police not carry out one speed check just to see how bad it is. I was actually hit by a young driver about 16 years ago waiting to turn in to the road and it was a lot quieter then.

Also the state of Waveney Road is appalling it has not been re-surfaced for over 20 years it just gets left because of the amount of the cars parked on the road whereby Constable Road has been resurfaced many times.

Valerie Ritch

Dear Erik

Tories Authors of own defeat

At the HDC elections this month the local Tories were defeated partly due to their own crass misjudgements of six or seven years ago. Without consultation the Conservatives imposed 'all-out' elections every four years, replacing the previous election of a third of councillors in three of those four years. That meant inevitably that they would have to spread thinly their available candidates and campaigning into a single all-out election in one year. It also meant that their challengers could more easily concentrate their efforts on the seats they could win and give themselves a fair chance of moving the Council to No Overall Control. I remember 6-7 years ago some of us speaking about this here in St Ives. Bring on this own goal, we thought!

At the same time back then, without serious consultation the Conservatives forced the elections of all of the town and parish councils to be on the same date as HDC's. But surprise surprise, already spread too thinly the Conservatives found in 2022 they no longer had the time or inclination to find a single candidate for our councils. Weird isn't it? They used to tell you and me that the only way we could get improvements in our towns and villages was to elect Tory town councillors with the right 'connections' to HDC. And adding insult to injury Ryan Fuller told us that we mustn't criticize the deeds of the district council because St Ives perpetually elected Tories as all five district councillors! Not any more, Mr Fuller. Mercifully, in Cambridgeshire and now also in Huntingdonshire the local Tories no longer hold power over us.

Ian Dobson

Dear Ian, I find the argument that voters were disenfranchised by only having two candidates to vote for illogical.

Firstly they did have a choice, otherwise there would not be an election. Secondly it seems the Tories are the ones complaining the most about this, when in fact every District Council seat had a Tory candidate, so presumably they weren't disenfranchised. Finally if they really want a particular choice they can always stand for election themselves. ED

Dear Erik,

I wonder why

Some people think they can fool most people most of the time. Lets call this man Brian. He joined the Independents in 2008 or slightly earlier as the campaign to save the St Ives Corn Exchange gathered momentum. His contribution to the cost of the campaign was paid by a donor. A year or so later he defected to the Conservatives. Ten years later he again campaigned as an Independent although by this time he was a Conservative District & County Councillor.

By 2022 he only stood for the District Council and wrote a two page letter rubishing the Independents.

Perplexed of St Ives

Dear Erik,

Subject: The St Ives Traffic Plan

Under the proposals of the St Ives Traffic Plan (Hunts Post 28/5/22). Anyone living south of the Needingworth Road and St Audrey Lane junction will not be able to turn right (east) in their vehicle.

Those that live very close to that junction and wanting to turn right will have to travel a minimum of 1 mile to go past their starting point. This could only be achieved by using the Fairfields Rat-Run to Pig Lane and then turning right into St Audrey Lane.

One of the declared aims of the new traffic plan is to help tackle Rat-Running. The residents of Fairfields had hoped this would have happen in the past but no councillors have ever shown any interest

This change will affect the occupants of Needingworth Road, Sheepfold, Rookery Close, Elsworth Close, The Farthing Closes, Farthing Lane, The Caravan Park, Park Road, Park Avenue and Tenterleas. Also, affect anyone using some of the town bus services that pick up in Needingworth Road.

Fairfields Road is a narrow twisty road built for the Fairfields development in the 60's and links Needingworth Road to Pig Lane, it is plagued with speeding traffic and dangerous driving. There has never been any traffic calming, speed control enforcement or restrictions on HGV's, unlike other through roads in St Ives.

In the 50 years that I have lived here It has had a bad record of traffic related incidents, Cars ending up in gardens, garden walls destroyed, pedestrian barriers flattened (a Councillors

wife achieved both in one incident), accidents involving Cars and Cars, Cars and Bicycles have been witnessed. The road is used by many schoolchildren and their parents going to Eastfield, Westfield and St Ivo schools. No fatalities have yet been reported, it's probably only a matter of time. This plan would appear to be planning not to reduce Rat-Running but to make it worse. **Fairfields Mick**

Dear Erik,

Famous St Ives to Rise From The Ashes

It is a nice feeling after the recent local election results to wake up in St Ives and be able to smell the pervasive fresh air now filling the town. There is also the feeling that our town may even become once more the famous market town it was in the past.

Maybe what is more important we now have the opportunity to form a good workable relationship with the District Council.

What has happened to the second attempt to produce a Town Plan which I believe was offered to the old Town Council for comment.

It is my hope that we have now purged the town of the few empire building councillors of limited ability and look forward to a bright and happy town with councillors who have an empathy with the residents of St Ives and will support them in the years to come.

I am sure the new Town Council and the new District Council will deliver but we must remember to keep uppermost in our minds the town motto 'SUDORE NON SOPORE' which the Latin scholars among us will read as 'by sweat not by sleep'. **Phil Sly**

**Entries Invited for Our Next
Antiques & Later Sale on
Saturday 28th
May**



Sold In Our Last Antiques & Interiors Sale



20thC Bamboo carved Brush pot with character marks to interior and base
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Hot Property Market in 2022



The property market remains highly competitive for buyers and exceptional for those selling a property. This is despite rises in the cost of living, the Bank of England base rate rise and global uncertainty caused by the conflict in Ukraine.

There are early signs that more properties are being advertised for sale, however, this is still a long way from satisfying the colossal demand from buyers. As the market shifts towards a healthier balance between buyers and sellers, we expect more homeowners will be encouraged to advertise their own homes, further adding to the selection of homes available for sale.

For buyers the pressure remains to be competitive with their approach to securing a home, such pressure has resulted in 53% of properties being sold at or over the asking price. Given the steep rise in asking prices, taking into account the swathes of buyers out there, we expect to see prices rise as we enter the second half of the year.

We predict that there will be a comparatively moderate rise in house prices over the next 12 months, with annual prices up 5% by summer 2023.

There are still a large number of homeowners out there hoping to move, patiently waiting for a property they like to be advertised, before taking action to sell their own home. My advice to those people is to take proactive steps today. Speak to one of the Ellis Winters team about our Discreet Marketing Service which will vastly improve your chances of moving to your next home.

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