

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Jubilee weekend makes Mayor proud

The new Mayor, Phil Pope has said how proud he feels about St Ives following the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

Although the poor weather on the Sunday dampened many street parties it didn't stop people having a fun filled holiday, when communities were able to meet again without restrictions.

Throughout the country there was a genuine feel-good feeling and even the Queen was moved by the love the public showed for her. On page two is a message from the Mayor about the celebrations, with pictures of some of the events which took place.

However the fun is set to continue with more events over the summer months, some of which we highlight in this issue.



BANDSTAND UPDATE

After the outpouring of good will towards the Queen during the Jubilee celebrations it seems more fitting than ever that St Ives should mark this milestone with a bandstand dedicated to our longest serving monarch.

The Town Team, which is organising the project would like to thank the many people who have already pledged support. Over the past fortnight we have received many pledges, mostly between £25 and £100, and this has helped us to exceed £30,000 towards the costs, a phenomenal sum in such a short time.

A true community effort

Although we have been awarded £5,000 from the Town Council towards this project, the vast majority of pledges have come from local people and companies showing once again that the people of St Ives are proud of their town as well as their monarch.

Also good news is that we have access to a beautiful bandstand, which only needs to be painted in the correct colours of black and gold, traditional colours used throughout St Ives town centre which match the existing street furniture. When we receive permission to erect the bandstand from the planners and with funds already pledged we should be able to get the bandstand erected pretty quickly and hopefully before the end of this jubilee year.

Can you help us raise the remaining £10,000?

We know times are difficult, and for many people a bandstand is low priority, but we hope that those of you who can afford to, will donate even a modest sum. We are asking people to donate any amount from £25 upwards and this should help us reach our total in the next couple of months.

St Ives is famous for the generosity of its people

As recent fundraising for Ukraine refugees showed, the people of St Ives are generous. This is a longstanding trait for in 1901 the town raised funds to erect the, now famous, statue of Oliver Cromwell in Market Hill. It is the only statue of him that was paid for by public subscription. It may not be appropriate to mention our monarch and Cromwell in the same piece, but never-the-less it's public donations that will also make the bandstand happen.

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 to 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

THE MUSIC CONTINUES THIS SUNDAY . . . FROM 12 NOON TO 6PM WITH



FRIDAY 24TH JUNE

Chris Newman & Humfry Finkle



An evening of ragtime music from these exceptional guitarists

Concert starts at 7.30pm. Doors open at 6.30pm, Tickets: £10 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives or can be purchased from the Riverport Café Bar. A TOWN TEAM EVENT

A message from the Mayor



I have always been proud of our town and the people who make it so special, but I must say celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee has taken my pride in St Ives to a whole new level.

Above left: Deputy Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, Colonel Mark Knight MBE, with St Ives Town Mayor, Phil Pope about to receive the salute.

Above: Attendees at the Multifaith Service.

I have had so much fun across the town with a number of different residents and I would like to thank each and every one of them for making me feel so welcome. We started festivities with Beacon Lighting on the roof of All Saints Parish Church, joining countries across the commonwealth and beyond, as over 3,500 beacons were lit simultaneously.

Friday Morning saw a Multifaith Thanksgiving Service in the centre of the town, where we joined together representatives from some of the many cultures and faiths that live across St Ives. There were some lovely readings and prayers as well as memories of interactions with the Queen by Peter Baker MBE and a lovely moment when the Azaan (Call To Prayer) was Recited by the 'Iman'

Haji Mubashar Hussain Sahib. The entire service was very moving and solidified the bonds between us. Although I was unable to attend, Friday evening saw a packed out Corn Exchange singing along to songs of the past 70 years at the Town Team event 'Singing in the Reign'. A number of residents tell me that this was a fun filled evening of joy and laughter.

Saturday arrived with a day packed full of events, starting with 42 Engineer Regiment exercising their freedom of St Ives. The soldiers marched with bayonets fixed down Bridge Street and on to Market Hill before the inspection of the troops, the Freedom Oath, The Mayors Address and the march past salute. Thousands attended. It was an honour for our town to have a full

military parade on the Platinum Jubilee weekend.

Following the parade, we had entertainment from the 'Candy Girls'. After which I took the opportunity to attend the Saints Crafters Arts and Crafts Fair in the Free Church where a number of stalls were displaying spectacular creations. The final event for myself on Saturday was the Big Open Air Concert, which saw the bands, the 'Queens of Disco' and the 'Amazing 80's'.

The atmosphere was electric as the crowd sang along and danced, it ended with another rendition of the National Anthem before the crowd headed to the Corn Exchange for their free Brit Pop gig.

The final day of the celebrations saw the 'Big Jubilee Lunch' in the Broadway and despite the weather, we pulled up our great British pants and, with help from the Army and a handful of volunteers managed to provide shelter and seating and the rain didn't dampen the spirit of the people, who were soon 'Singing in the rain' and 'Dancing in the street'. I cannot finish talking about the weekend without mentioning Elaine Spence and the towns amazing team of 'Yarn Bombers' who have brought

colour and life to the town at every turn. I also thank all of the business owners who decorated their buildings, the staff at the Town Hall for all of their input and hard work (especially Emma and Linda) and all of the organisations and groups who were involved in the weekend. Most importantly, thank you again to the residents who attended any events across the town or who celebrated in their own way. People often ask me what makes St Ives so special and the answer I always give them is 'The People'. The weekend was a chance to celebrate and show our thanks and appreciation as a nation to her majesty the Queen for her seventy years of steadfast service to the



Above: Amazing 80's at the Big Open Air Concert. Below: Big Jubilee Lunch revellers.



United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. Such dedication deserves the gratitude of the nation. God Save The Queen
Mayor Phil Pope



Below: The 42 Engineer Regiment "Exercising their freedom."



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or in the Corn Exchange



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Erik says being Mayor looks like fun.



having your say ...

Get it off your chest, email Erik at: editor@theriverporter.uk

OTHER NEWS

Town Council to hold special meeting to select three councillors

In May the election for Town Councillors didn't take place as there were fewer candidates than positions available. This meant that all of the people who put their names forward were elected unopposed and now they need to select people to fill the vacancies. An advert was published asking people who would like to be considered for the three positions available to apply and on Wednesday 22 June an extraordinary meeting has been called to select them.

Eight people have applied and submitted a short resume of why they should be considered for the role, and the existing councillors will be asked to choose the three they consider will be the best for the job. The eight people who have put themselves forward to become a Town Councillor are: Simon Brignell, Martin Gill, Michael Gleadow, Gilly Jackson, David McCandless, Matthew Setchell, Jen Spencer and Lisa Valla.

Mayor Nik is staying

Dr Nik Johnson, the Combined Authority Mayor took the opportunity to rebuff critics calling for his resignation at last weeks CPCA AGM. At the end of a long speech in which he listed the achievements of the Authority so far and praised the work of the staff he said 'I am not walking away and look forward to working and cooperating with all of you in the future to bring the positive differences we want for all our communities.'



It is difficult to know exactly what has been going on. There has been much speculation in the press recently and an ongoing enquiry but Dr Johnson has followed the advice from his staff and has remained quiet over the matter. As he said 'I am very mindful of the need to respect these [processes] and to not be seen as trying to influence any outcomes.'

What we do know is that a group of Tory Councillors was trying to condemn Dr Johnson but were prevented from issuing statements until after the elections. Happily for Dr Johnson some of those councillors lost their seats and the No Confidence vote they were mounting failed. It is also clear that some of the issues being raised had surfaced with the previous incumbent Tory James Palmer. 'Let's be absolutely clear' Dr Johnson said 'following my election in May 2021 and my arrival at the Combined Authority the problems that the central Conservative government had already highlighted at the heart of the Combined Authority did not immediately disappear.'

The Refill Shop hand over £150 to SERV

The money, raised by The Refill Shop Ikigai's generous customers was collected over seven months. Since 2011 the volunteers of SERV Suffolk and Cambridgeshire, also known as the Bloodrunners, have been providing a free essential service to our local NHS hospitals, Air Ambulance services, hospices, human donor milk banks and vulnerable patients by transporting blood, blood products, patient blood samples, medicines, medical equipment and donated human milk - 24 hours a day, every day.



Picture (L-R): Colin Mitchell, Martin Cooper and Mark Wintle

Martin Cooper, owner of the shop, said: 'SERV are an amazing bunch of volunteers, whose services we all may need one day, and this is our small way of saying thank you for all they do.' Every donation made to SERV helps them continue to offer their service free, and provides their volunteers with the necessary training and equipment to keep them safe.

Mayor opens new boatshed

A new boatshed was officially opened at the Hunts Sailing Club (HSC), in St Ives, after it received £50,000 of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding from Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC). Club Commodore for HSC, Ian Moffatt, said: 'Whilst Covid caused considerable delay we now have a fantastic facility which importantly came in on budget. We would like to give a huge 'thank you' to HDC and Sport England for their funding, and to the mayor of St Ives for opening the facility.'

Hunts Sailing Club was founded in 1954 and moved from the original River Great Ouse site to the current one within the town of St Ives in 1975. The club is an RYA Training Centre and runs a programme of youth and adult training courses, (sailing, power boat, first aid) and new members are always welcome.



Friends invite you to their Annual General Meeting Wednesday 6th July at 7pm in St Ives Corn Exchange

With guest speaker Brian Eversham – CEO of the Wildlife Trust BCN - on the topic of 'Bumblebees and other bees'. Hidden secrets of Holt Island – highlights from our trail cameras. Refreshments provided. Non members £3 www.holtisland.org www.facebook.com/HoltIslandNatureReserve

Dear Erik,

Ref: Job advert fails to mention job

According to a poster on a Town Council notice board, they, the Town Council want to employ staff who embody their values, appropriately summed up in their latin motto as *Sudore non sopore*, which supports their ultimate aim of putting our customers first.

The poster states 'As an employer who values diversity we seek to employ candidates from a range of backgrounds to make our organisation more innovative.'

It continues in the same vein mentioning equality and diversity but without giving any details of the job although the closing date is this coming Friday if you are interested.

Curious

Dear Curious, thank you for your letter. I think the reason it fails to mention the job is because there were two pages to this job description and the other page, with details of the job, may have gone walkabout.

If anyone is interested it is for a Grounds Maintenance Operative at a salary of between £20,444 and £22,129 and will include using a range of specialist hand tools. Cool! **Ed.**

Dear Erik,

The residents of Eden Place purchased a Silver Birch in honour of Her Majesty and they were pleased that Mayor Phillip Pope kindly attended the afternoon tea, raised a toast to Her Majesty the Queen, served residents with food and carried out the tree planting ceremony (see below).



It was a fun event and everyone was very pleased to see him and glad he was able to fit in a visit. **Jan**

Don't forget Music on the Waits SUNDAY 3 JULY 2.30 to 4pm DEEPING DIXILANDERS

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St Ives Darby & Joan Club

Notice of

Annual General Meeting

St Ives Corn Exchange Thursday 30 June at 2pm

Agenda

To form a new committee of management

Elect a new chairman, secretary and committee members

Followed by tea and biscuits and entertainment by Rocking Ukuleles of St Ives with their leader Mr Ted Hall

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Armed Forces Day is at RAF Wyton this year



Unfortunately due to the Jubilee Weekend falling so close to Armed Forces Day, the main event will not take place in St Ives.

Instead Armed Forces Day will be held at RAF Wyton.

However, for those who will be in St Ives there will be a Flypast of a Hurricane over Slepe Hall Field on the 25th June.

The time has still to be confirmed!

Please note:

RAF Wyton invites you to join them in commemorating Armed Forces Day, which is open to all free of charge.

This is a ticketed event and tickets are available by contacting:

WYT-armedforcesday@mod.gov.uk

ADVERTORIAL

Record prices £55,000 higher than pre-pandemic times



The price of property coming to market during May hit a new record high for the fourth consecutive month, up by +2.1% or £7,400.

Average asking prices have risen by over £55,000 over the last two years, compared to a rise of £6,000 in the two years prior to the pandemic. This rise in asking prices has been underpinned by strong demand from buyers, with enquiries on homes still well beyond pre pandemic levels.

With more properties being advertised for sale, buyers will be relieved to see that there is a wider choice available to them. The additional housing stock should start to bring a better balance between buyers and sellers.

The hike in the cost of living and mortgage rates will likely dampen upward momentum of future asking prices. We still predict prices rising by around 5% over the next 12 months, however, the housing market never fails to surprise you.

Getting professional advice on your property move is always important, however, it's more relevant now than it's ever been. From marketing and selling your home to mortgages and the cost of moving, Ellis Winters can advise and guide you every step of the way.

Contact your nearest Ellis Winters branch for help with your move.

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Here are the resumes of the 8 candidates who wish to become Town Councillors

The existing 13 Town Councillors will choose three of them at an Extraordinary Meeting of St Ives Town Council to be held in the Town Hall on Wednesday 22 June at 7.00 pm. Please note they are listed in no particular order.

Simon Brignell

I started working in St. Ives in 2007 as an IT professional. I'm now a commercial catering equipment engineer and have lived here since 2016.

Noticing an increasing lack of NHS dentists in the area, I founded a dentistry business in Huntingdon in 2021. Our campaign group has heard from hundreds of residents in St. Ives who have not been able to get an appointment with an NHS dentist and cannot afford to go private. The campaign has been featured in The Hunts Post, BBC Radio Cambridgeshire, and I am scheduled to give talks to local groups.

I want to work alongside our communities to ensure that their voices are heard on local matters whether they be about jobs, transport, or even access to NHS dentistry. The POWI campaign that opposes the new Envar incinerator at Woodhurst is a great example - many residents in St. Ives have highlighted the environmental impact of such a project, yet they feel unheard. Again with the ever-building problem of traffic moving through St Ives, they see housing projects going ahead but remain unheard when it comes to concerns regarding these important questions of supporting infrastructure. Many are also struggling with the cost of living crisis and want to see long-term solutions.

If we're committed to "levelling up" St. Ives, both in terms of wealth and infrastructure, the council needs to prioritise a long-term plan to tackle these and other issues by cooperating with both local communities and businesses. Feedback from the grassroots is invaluable and I believe I can assist in these tasks.

If selected as a councillor, I would ensure that local voices have the power to affect positive change within their communities and St. Ives itself, and I would act in their best interests.

Martin Gill

I have lived in St Ives since 1994 when I was posted to RAF Wyton as part of my Army career in The Royal Corps of Signals. I have now retired from army life and work as an IT project manager. My partner is an NHS Sister. I am very keen to help St Ives to continue to prosper and remain as one of the best places to live in the entire country.

I have always believed that our small town manages to regularly punch above its weight by putting on excellent events such as: regular Monday markets, Bank Holiday markets, specialist markets on Saturday's, carnival, Remembrance Day and Christmas lights events.

The age-old adage of 'if you don't use it lose it' applies and I would dearly love to be in a position of influence to ensure such events continue. I was an advocate of and championed the Guided Busway, which has proved an immense benefit to St Ives by bringing in extra footfall from Cambridge for our town of many independent shops to thrive.

I recently stood as a Huntingdon District Councillor for St Ives South Ward and received an impressive 727 votes, following which I received a letter of appreciation from our MP, recommending me to stand for civil office again.

Michael Gleadow

I moved to St. Ives with my family in 1990 from Hertfordshire and after we looked at other towns and villages in the district we could see that St. Ives had the most to offer, being well placed for transport, employment, shopping and most

importantly a great community spirit, which happily is thriving. I believe I can bring a lot to the Town Council from my life long career experience in local government, in environmental health.

I worked at 7 district councils and I had frequent contact with town and parish councils, on licensing issues and complaints from members of the public, for example about noise, rodent control and environmental issues. As such I know about the roles of different levels of local government.

Collaborative working and cooperation between these levels is very important to provide good services. Poor communication, misunderstandings and so on mean poor service to Council Tax payers who are our customers and entitled to expect a high quality service, this is something I believe I can contribute to.

It's also important for the health of local democracy that there are good relationships between each level of local government. Having councils appearing to be at odds with each other does not encourage residents to take an interest in the work of local councils, to vote or to become more involved.

I believe I can contribute to the Town Councils important role in promoting and improving the town, supporting local businesses and residents and being a voice on issues such as transport, traffic and flooding risks. Having good contacts and relationships with agencies, like the Environment Agency and Highways Agency is important and what my approach would be.

Gilly Jackson

I wish to be considered for co-option for one of the vacancies on the St Ives Town Council. My commitment to the town is shown by my resume below, and this experience over the past twenty years will allow me to contribute as a team member amongst other town councillors.

I grew up in St Ives, attending local schools. My husband and I met at school, and after 30 years away, living in London then Buckinghamshire then Surrey, in 2000 we returned to live in St Ives. I have had a very rewarding working life, in finance and sales, taking early retirement in 2005 from a 20-year sales and marketing career.

Then I threw my energies into working voluntarily for the town, as a committee member for the St Ives Civic Society, and I was a founder member of ACE - Action Corn Exchange - proud that the Corn Exchange reopened in 2010 for community use.

I was a Director of St Ives Town Initiative as chair of the events committee which organised the Riverside Festival with Regatta and Dragon Boat Racing. In 2009 I formed the independent group FESt (Festival Events St Ives), a not-for-profit volunteer group which, with continued support from the St Ives Town Council, continues to hold up to 20 annual free events. I have been chairman from the beginning, but am now standing back whilst others take on responsibilities.

I have also been chairman of the organising committee for the hugely popular bi-annual Illuminated Boat Parade, but have now passed on that role for 2023. I remain a member of the Town Team. Finally, I have a paid part-time role contributing editorial content for the free independent town magazine St Ives NOW! I enjoy this as it promotes local events, groups, and businesses and keeps me in touch with what is happening in the town.

So now I am ready for a new challenge, that of

hopefully becoming a St Ives Town Councillor, and supporting the council as well as residents and businesses. I believe my experience outlined above will enable me to help the council do more to promote the town.

David McCandless

I am an ex-RAF officer, joined in 1961, commissioned in 1986 & retired in 2000 from RAF Wyton). I have been on the town's Electoral Register with my wife of 56 years as home owners since we moved from Somersham, in 1988. I have signed the Official Secrets Act, hold a current DBS Certificate and a clean driving licence since 1964.

On retirement from the RAF, I set up a successful database-design company. In 2000 I became an active member of the Huntingdonshire FSB and a volunteer member of the Branch Committee.

In 2009, I joined the Town's Community Speedwatch Group and remained in the Speedwatch scheme until 2014 when, with the late Town Cllr John Davies and 2 other unpaid volunteer directors, we founded a complementary, not-for-profit company called Community Roadwatch(UK) CIC (CRW) to help Parishes accurately quantify and identify speeding hotspots. With our experience and accurate data we have been able to advise/find ways of moderating any speeding using our sponsored Data Loggers & Speed Indicating Devices, the data from which have been used to justify several successful local LHI applications.

I am grateful to have received the full support of the Town Council for CRW's ongoing (apparently stalled) 'Make Sawtry Way Safer' speed limit reduction 2018 LHI project. My life has been one of dedication to my country and my community. Now, having fully retired from business, I wish to play an active part in helping to make St Ives as great and as safe as it can be.

Mathew Setchell

Thank you for providing the opportunity to be co-opted on to the council. For those of you that do not know me. My name is Mathew Setchell I have owned a property within

St Ives for over 10 years and have worked in and around St Ives for over 25 years as an IT engineer. I'm passionate about the local community and where a can support the community I will.

I sit on a number of local groups: St Ives Action Group "St Ives Flood Action Group" Stop the floods flood action group St Ives Eco Action HCR FM community radio

On top of this other projects recently I have assisted in sending aid to the Ukraine / providing free consultation to local home owners to enable faster and more resilient internet connectivity. Signposting members of the public to others in the community that can provide information/ support. I feel this knowledge coupled with the extensive knowledge both within the local community and the surrounding community enables me to help provide a wealth of support both to the council and to the residents and businesses of St Ives and should I be successful in being co-opted on.

If possible I would like to sit on the property and amenities committees as I feel my experience in infrastructure planning and support along with over 20 years' experience in helping organise and run events would be most beneficial in these two committees.

Jen Spencer

I am a suitable candidate having been voted in by public vote and filling the role previously (2016-2018), when I was also Deputy of Amenities. My health is considerably better than it was then so I will be able to return with the knowledge and experience I gained then and really hit the ground running.

My community involvement includes Memory Lane Singing Cafe, being one of the trio who set up the Dementia Friendly Community, I run the 'Thanked St Ives' facebook page (a place to encourage and thank kind deeds), and I am interested in eco initiatives (I attempted to implement such ideas during my previous term, so would be keen to get involved in these). Personal attributes I can bring to the mix: I believe in kindness and people. I plant wild flowers. I pick up litter. I smile at strangers and compliment passers by.

I care about animals (and am often saying hello to dogs!) and volunteer at Wood Green. I like to do things to cheer people up (hand out flowers, mystery snowmen, for example), but whilst appreciate there is fun to be had, I also am passionate about caring for people and the planet and take these things very seriously. I will stand for responsible spending of public funds, especially given the current Cost of Living crisis. I think it is important to have fair representation and different points of view and types of people on the Council. Politics is in such a bad state and I want to bring it back to trust and supporting community. I will care for the residents of our town - human or otherwise - and strive to make it a safe and enriching place for all.

Lisa Valla

I would like to be considered to join your team as a Member of the Council. I have lived in St Ives for almost 6 years. I am originally from a town that held the community at its heart but as an adult, I have not been lucky enough to live somewhere with that same sense of civic pride until I came to St Ives.

I moved to St Ives so that I could take on the post of headteacher at a local infant school. During my time at the school, we rebuilt links with many groups within the community and created a school curriculum that put St Ives at the heart of the children's learning, so that they too grow up with the same civic pride as I see in the residents across the town currently.

As a headteacher for 13 years, I have experience of working within governing bodies and committees. I have worked hard to try and make a difference to children and their families, and during my time in this role I received an Inspiring person Award from the High Sheriff of St Albans.

I am a member of Calmtown and have been so since our very first meeting. As part of this I have supported the organising of events that have helped to bring members of the community together to discuss ways in which we can support each other's wellbeing.

My new role as a school improvement adviser has provided me with capacity to support my local community, which has been so welcoming to me and my family, and so I would cherish the opportunity to take on a role that would enable me to contribute to the town's future.