

The Riverporter

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Oh what fun at election time?

Now it cannot be said that we at *The Riverporter* don't enjoy finding the humour in our local news. So we are absolutely indebted to Ryan Fuller and his eleven associates, who have provided us with lots of fun to share, especially during what is normally a dull local election campaign.

Of course there is a serious side to local elections and as we said in our last issue we decided to help you choose who to vote for by offering all St Ives candidates the chance to say why we should vote for them. We contacted all the parties and candidates and offered them the chance to promote themselves in about fifty words. **The result is on page 2 of this issue.**

What we didn't allow for was the shenanigans that has been going on with the descriptions of the candidates standing in the Town Council Elections.

So what has happened?

When nomination papers were submitted it became apparent that twelve candidates, not connected to the 16 *Independent for St Ives* ones, had also decided to describe themselves as 'Independent for St Ives'.

In fact of the 32 candidates standing for the Town Council only 4 are NOT listed as Independent for St Ives.

How to win friends and confuse the electorate

St Ives is a great town with lots of active groups but there is one failing that has been obvious for some time. We refer to the poor relationship between councils, which was highlighted at last month's Public Meeting when no District or County councillors were available to be questioned. Town and District Councils and more importantly some of their councillors, are constantly at loggerhead, which is often to the detriment of the town. In plain words there has been a political divide ever since the split over the future of the Corn Exchange and this latest action will do nothing to help solve this.

Public upset

Now there is nothing illegal about this, but it has caused a lot of debate in the Hunts Post and especially in the twittersphere, where accusations of underhand tactics have been denied and counter claims made. One resident has labelled it 'Identigate' and some were moved to organise a demonstration, complaining that it is unethical

for 'the twelve' to have copied the *Independent for St Ives* title (see page 3).



The on-line political debate has been a bit of a slugging match although some humour shone through as demonstrated by this cartoon which appeared on a Facebook page.

Unanswered Questions

Nothing is black and white, except *The Riverporter* of course, but even wearing our impartial hat it's difficult to understand why 'Twelve' new independent candidates chose exactly the same title if they didn't collude and why do all their nomination papers have 'Independent for St Ives' written in Cllr Fuller's handwriting on them? Having argued on-line that the Tory party are not contesting Town Council elections and all Town Councillors should be independent, why are two Conservative candidates standing in the South Ward?

***The Riverporter* requested answers from Cllr Fuller to these questions, but received no reply.**

At the heart of this issue is the feeling that this has been a 'tactic' to confuse the electorate and get votes on the back of the original *Independent for St Ives* candidates.

We are dissatisfied that none of the 'Twelve' independent or Conservative candidates engaged with us at all, which is their prerogative. It does seem symptomatic of their approach to only engage with the public on their terms. Further proof of the lack of co-operation which blights politics nationally and locally.

We will no doubt see the effect of this after 3rd May.

Screen St Ives

An independent community cinema in the Corn Exchange. Films are screened on the third Friday of each month in the main hall (Screen 1) and on the first Thursday in the month in the upstairs Tony Burgess Room (Screen 2).

Doors open at 7.30pm for all Screen St Ives shows and films start at 8pm. Refreshments are available before the screening. All tickets cost only £5, and are available online or in person at the Corn Exchange, St Ives.

Screen 1: TONIGHT Fri 20th April



THE DEATH OF STALIN

Screen 2: Thursday 3rd May



HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE

Raised on hip-hop and foster care, defiant city kid Ricky gets a fresh start in the New Zealand countryside. He quickly finds himself at home with his new foster family: the loving Aunt Bella, the cantankerous Uncle Hec, and dog Tupac. When a tragedy strikes that threatens to ship Ricky to another home, both he and Hec go on the run in the bush. Equal parts road comedy and rousing adventure story, director Taika Waititi masterfully weaves lively humor with emotionally honest performances by Sam Neill and Julian Dennison. A hilarious, touching crowd-pleaser.

BOOZE IN THE PEWS

New Beer Festival to be held in St Ives Parish Church!

The PCC of the St Ives Parish Church has announced a new beer festival launching this summer called 'Booze in the Pews' and is inviting the whole town to take part. The festival will bring 12 real ales to the town for tasting, alongside a selection of ciders and wines in the church's unique riverside setting.

Entry is £5, which includes a souvenir festival beer glass. A three-day pass to enjoy the whole festival can be bought for £12. The festival promises to be family friendly with a full day of family entertainment on Saturday including games, stalls and activities, culminating in live music from local band, 'Elements' at 7pm. To make it even easier for local families to enjoy the fun, entry will be free all day on the Saturday until 4pm.

The Festival will be held from 28th – 30th June 2018

Details will appear in *The Riverporter* nearer the date.

Congratulations

The disappointment of not making the Twickers final in the cup was soon forgotten when St Ives Bulls won the Championship the following week with a 33-23 win over Biggleswade.



Helping you to choose who to vote for . . .

The Riverporter is delighted that the candidates below have taken the opportunity to tell you why you should elect them on 3 May.

We have not changed their words, although we may have cut some to make it fit. To help you read the submissions, from the candidates that you can vote for, we have separated Town and District Council candidates and put them in Ward and group or party order, using the *Independent for St Ives* typeface to denote the original group of independent candidates.

The Riverporter is making no recommendations and has contacted all candidates in an effort to help the democratic process. Some candidates, for whatever reason, have not taken up this offer which is a shame.

To ensure our impartiality Ron Westrip, who is joint publisher of *The Riverporter*, and a candidate in the elections, has had no involvement in editing this issue.

District Council Elections

East Ward

Conservative - No submissions

Labour - Sam Feeny

Working as a counsellor I have a keen understanding of many challenges local young people & families face today. Growing up in St Ives, moving back in 2009, I would bring 25+ years experience of building trust across many different communities to help Labour bring your council to you. I like wild things and rainbows. Electors can contact me via my Facebook campaign page at @SamFeenyLabour if they want to follow my campaign news or be in touch with questions etc.

Liberal Democrat - Tony Jebson

I am an electronics engineer, and have previously served on a local Parish Council. I have a strong interest in science and technology policy, which is critical to the Cambridgeshire economy.

South Ward

Conservative - No submissions

Labour - Paula Dean see under Town Council (right).

Liberal Democrat - Malcolm Lynn

I have lived in Huntingdonshire for five years, after moving from East Yorkshire where, amongst other things, I was a leading member of a successful campaign to stop a waste incinerator being built. I have the necessary experience and energy to be an effective councillor for St Ives.

Liberal Democrat - Nic Wells

I have lived in Huntingdonshire and worked in Cambridge for 30 years and have served on local Town and Parish councils. My principal concerns are housing provision, St Ives traffic congestion and parking, recycling and waste management. Godmanchester and Brampton have excellent Lib Dem District Councillors. St Ives deserves some too!

West Ward

Conservative - No submissions

Labour - Mick White

As a longtime resident of St Ives I've been very concerned for some time about transparency in local government. Knowing who's doing what and why is important for all of us so that we know how and where our money is being spent and if it could be better used.

Liberal Democrat - Joe Jordan

I am a local software engineer, father and Lib Dem. I'm very concerned that the complacent Conservatives control our local government at too many different levels. Make sure you vote for the Lib Dems so I can take them to task on Parking, Housing and Local Services!

Town Council Elections

Beech Ward

Independent for St Ives - No submissions

Independent for St Ives

Margaret King

My name is Margaret King - candidate for the town council in Beech Ward. During the next few weeks, before the election on 3rd May, I shall be delivering my leaflet in that ward and hope to have the opportunity to meet many of the electors there. The leaflet tells you a lot about myself and what I believe is expected of a town councillor. If elected I have some personal ambitions to strive for. In particular I have noticed that this town is becoming blighted by litter and I want to find ways of reducing or even removing the problem.

North Ward

Independent for St Ives - No submissions

Independent for St Ives

Angela Ayers-Wilson

It matters to me what happens in the town I live in. Following years of working away I am now able to get involved in local community projects and organisations and it's a worthwhile and rewarding way to help the community. If elected I will continue to encourage people to voice their concerns and engage with the council. Although being a Councillor requires hard work and commitment, it is a privilege and a rewarding form of public service, which I enjoy doing.

Nick Dibben

It has been a privilege to serve on the Town Council and to be part of the many improvements to St Ives from new seats and bus stops to the enlarged Norris Museum and Corn Exchange. If re-elected I will ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan for St Ives has the widest possible consultation to enable residents to help determine our future.

Tim Drye

As a town councillor I want to act as a focal point for this wonderful community. Whilst Deputy Mayor it has been a delight to meet many energetic people all with the interests of the town at heart. I hope you will select me alongside others from the whole community.

Roger Kuch

I shall continue to work towards involving everyone in one agenda - the best outcomes for St Ives Citizens, volunteer organisations and businesses working in concert with the Council to maintain and shape the development of our most desirable Town in which to live, work, play and enjoy yourself. TOWN NOT PARTY!

Jonathan Pallant

I have lived in St Ives since 2013 with Carrie, my wife, and our two young daughters. I was first elected to St Ives Town Council in 2016, and for the last year I've been Chair of the Town Council's Property Committee. I have really enjoyed being able to get involved with decisions around the renovations and maintenance of our Grade 2 listed Town Hall.

As one of the organisers for our first Community Fair last March, I was also delighted to see so many community groups and members of the public turn out despite the terrible weather. If elected I hope to be able to continue to help make decisions that benefit the town for everyone.

Philip Pope

I love St Ives and have done for the last thirty years. I love its history, its traditions and its people and I can't imagine bringing up children anywhere else so I would like to keep the amazing character of the Town preserved for many future generations.

South Ward

Conservative - No submissions

Independent for St Ives - No submissions

Independent for St Ives

Rianna D'Souza

Hi my name is Rianna D'Souza. Back in 2016 I was humbled to be elected for St Ives South. This is an exciting time for St Ives, particularly with new developments & the local plan, it

means there will be a lot to look forward to. My current main concern is the congestion in the town around Harrison way; as the town expands, more pressure is placed on our road infrastructure. Investment needs to be lobbied for. If given your vote I would be honoured to take your views forward.

Pasco Hussain

Hello my name is Abid Hussain, possibly better known as Pasco to many of you. I moved to St Ives in 1970 from Bedford, attended Westfield Junior School and St Ivo and have spent the whole of my working life in the town. I am now semi-retired, and would feel very privileged to have the opportunity, if elected, to serve the people of this town who have supported me and made me feel like a true St Iviian.

Brian Luter

Having been a councillor since 1996 and possessing much knowledge and relevant experience, I'm determined my lovely St Ives will develop the way its citizens desire and not in a direction dictated by other agencies, both in terms of retail and traffic-too much, signs-too many, parking-unpoliced.

Dan Rowe

I have had the privilege to serve for the last four years as an independent councillor. I hope to be able to continue to represent the people of St Ives, as the Council enters a number of exciting projects, such as the new Neighbourhood Plan, and contribute what skills I have to the task.

John Tiddy

I settled in St Ives in 1977. My Independent views were reflected in my support for the Thicket path to remain safe and accessible for everyone. With the proposed development in St Ives, it is important to have an Independent Town Council in order for major decisions to be taken without political influence.

Ron Westrip

I am standing in the South Ward where I live. I have been greatly impressed with what our independent councillors have achieved and hope for the opportunity to work with them in council speaking up for our lovely St Ives. I am especially interested in maintaining the support for our shops and businesses and the many support groups that work hard to promote our town. During the next council term we must consider our neighbourhood plan and develop a strong vision of how we want St Ives to move forward while retaining our community spirit. On May 3rd please give me your vote.

Labour

Paula Dean

I have not been actively involved in politics until now. I am angry at the increasing unfairness in our society on many levels and decided I had to do something about it, not merely complain. I will also bring some much-needed common sense to debate and decisions.

West Ward

Independent for St Ives - No submissions

Independent for St Ives

Carla Pegoraro

As a true independent I believe that party politics have no role to play in decisions that benefit our town. I will support our community by improving amenities and providing opportunities for everyone. I want St Ives to be safe for all and where our two main squares can be used as open spaces. I would work hard to represent you and your needs, as our community is the first priority. I will always put St Ives first and promote the needs and wishes of its community.

Mathew Setchell

If elected my main targets will be the general day to day issues that effect our town. Mainly focusing on infrastructure and events within the town as this is where my skills lie best. On top of this I would like to hear what affects you so please get in touch by email to mathew.setchell@mshgroup.co.uk

Irene Velero-Sanchez

I arrived to St Ives over a year ago to work as an NHS consultant and quickly fell in love with its beautiful corners, which I have portrayed as an amateur photographer. I feel that St Ives has a very special and unique vibe and I would be proud of contributing to its promotion.

Labour

Mick White See under District Council (left).

having your say ...

The Riverporter



Dear Erik PAWS FOR THOUGHT

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

The Quayside clean up gets under way.

The St Ives town Quay has started its big clean up ahead of welcoming our many town visitors and boaters for what we hope will be a glorious summer season. The Quay residents regularly get together to jet wash the paved area to remove the winter grime and mess from our feathered friends. This year saw the team starting the work in pouring rain but the Quay is starting to look great and with a few licks of paint we'll be all ready to go.

Picture shows the Quay clean up crew L-R Ron Westrip, Chris Morgan and George Smerdon



A welcome police presence

Easter Saturday saw a very welcome police van parked for several hours on the town bridge. The purpose of course was to prevent motorists from attempting to rat run through the town which was especially tempting during the closure of the Harrison Road bridge. Driving across the bridge is becoming more and more dangerous, the span of the bridge, Bridge St. and the Quay are a designated pedestrian zone and cars attempting a quick nip across are seriously endangering pedestrians, especially those with small children.



Police had been called earlier in the day after heated disputes rose between pedestrians and drivers as pedestrians annoyed by the cars ignoring the signs turned vigilante and blocked the bridge at both ends. During his vigil the officer turned around many cars but as soon as he departed later in the afternoon cars once again attempted to use the bridge most alarmingly from both directions ignoring all three NO ENTRY signs on the southern approach.

The problem continued through Sunday and several of these dangerous drivers were confronted by angry pedestrians and forced to turn back and the police have advised that car registration numbers should be notified to them.

At the recent town meeting Sergeant Street agreed to call for a review of the town centre signage as motorists often use the excuse that the signs are confusing, so to be clear

When you drive into Crown St. from The Broadway you are entering a pedestrian area. The only parking in this area is either disabled or loading. There is No Parking for any other vehicles (except residents).



Only heavy goods and emergency vehicles are allowed over the bridge and the roundabout at the end of the Broadway, between Crown Street and Merrylands is just that, a roundabout, and not a handy parking space.

On-line news

The Huntingdon Constituency Conservative Association (HCCA) website highlights an article about their Party's Respect Pledge which Party Chairman Brandon Lewis said applies to all Conservative candidates standing in the local elections this year, ensuring they behave responsibly. The Pledge asks all candidates to abide by the Code of Conduct which includes acting with honesty and probity and in a manner which upholds the reputation and values of the Conservative Party.



Dear Erik,
Many residents have been angered by the hijacking of the 'Independents for St Ives' title by other candidates in the Town Council elections. Some of them (pictured with placards) decided to demonstrate outside the Town Hall prior to the last Council meeting before the elections. Pictured arriving for the meeting is Cllr Drye, unfortunately Councillor Fuller who was behind the hijacking did not attend the meeting. Marilyn Zanconato

A letter from the Mayor Mayor's Great Big British Weight Loss

My term finishes on Wednesday 16th May this year and on this day I will present cheques to my Mayor's Charities which include MAGPAS Air Ambulance, the Woodlands Centre at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital and a selection of St Ives Youth and Cancer Groups.

I would like to raise as much as possible and because my doctor advised me to lose weight (probably the best reason), I am doing a Sponsored Weight Loss. I have given myself nine weeks to lose five stone in weight. My finish date is Wednesday 16th May to coincide with my Mayoral term coming to an end and I am being monitored every step of the way. If you would like to sponsor me per stone or in any other way then there are forms available at Floods Tavern, St Ives, PE27 5BX or just drop me a message at: phil.pope@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk Once again, thank you for your support.



Danielle Page, from Somersham and Sam Francis from St Ives handed out leaflets in St Ives town centre last week to raise awareness of the cruelty of the Grand National, and to discourage people from betting on the race which is five times more lethal than other steeplechases. Since 2000, 42 horses have died taking part in the three-day event, eleven in the Grand National race itself. Happily none died during this year's race.



Spring Concert

The Rotary Club of St Ives
Present

Accorde

A wonderfully varied programme of music from:
Beatles and Billy Joel to folk songs, with a few West End favourites along the way!

Saturday 28th April 7.30pm

The Free Church, St Ives

Tickets -£10
Available from 'Just Sharing' at the Free Church
Or Contact Email: melaniesadler101@btinternet.com
Tel: 01223 233 821

In aid of midwifery in Uganda and good causes supported by Rotary
Club of St Ives

Rotary Club of St Ives Trust Fun Charity Commission No. 1035329

WANTED

Part-Time Cook/ Catering Assistant

Tookeys are looking for another member of their catering team to help in their Coffee Shop within the Free Church.

Initially 30 hours per month. Catering experience would be an advantage.

If you would like more information, please contact Pat Clarke on 07876 354 442

PLASTIC IN ST IVES - What can YOU do to reduce plastic waste?

- 1 Buy loose fruit and veg whenever you can - it's a great opportunity to visit St Ives farmers' market (held in the market place on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month).
- 2 Reject single-use plastic bottles. You can save money by buying your own water bottle (either polycarbonate or steel, costing from around £4) and fill it up when you need to. Most food outlets will provide tap water for free. Buy bars of soap, shower gel and shampoo in bars instead of bottles.
- 3 Save money on coffee takeaways by using your own reusable mug. Costa give 25p discount; Greggs 20p; Patisserie Valerie and Pret 50p; Starbucks 25p. You can buy reusable mugs with locking lids, or that are collapsible for easy storage, the point is to make it part of your routine!
- 4 Ask the manager of your usual supermarket what he or she is doing about reducing plastic waste. They all have waste reduction policies, which are available online but keep a

pinch of salt handy - they're all trying to make themselves look great. Ten years ago, Starbucks pledged to replace all their drinks containers with recyclables, but still haven't done it.

5 Be kind to your blue bin. Rinse bottles, foil, tin cans, clingfilm, separate lids and pump dispensers. This gunk contaminates paper, which means it either can't be recycled or if it can, the value is lower.

6 Join a campaign! Sign up to WRAP's Recycle Now campaign to find loads of ways to read symbols on packaging, also reduce, repair, reuse and recycle waste. On Twitter, find #plasticfreeFriday and commit to doing your absolute best to not use or buy plastic every Friday. Then expand your progress to other days of the week. HDC's Recycle for Huntingdonshire Facebook page will keep you up to date with developments and campaigns.

7 Straws and glitter are made of non-degradable plastic so look for eco-friendly alternatives. The more we ask for these items the easier it will be to buy them.

Image WRAP



Next issue: Coffee Cup Crisis



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ADVERTORIAL

HIGH DEMAND FOR RENTAL PROPERTIES

Mike Ellis of Ellis Winters explains that it's not all bad news for landlords



There has been a continued demand for rental properties in all price ranges since the 2nd January having been quiet leading up to Christmas, because of the lack of supply this is unlikely to change any time soon. More first-time buyers were out looking at the beginning of the year, however, it is still expensive to find deposits and all the associated fees that go along with buying and so many are turning to the rental market instead.

Although landlords have been squeezed by the Government with taxation and tighter regulations, there are still very good returns to be had from renting, with an average yield of around 5% being achieved as well as any capital growth as the house prices have risen. There are few other ways to invest that continually have this level of return. It is unlikely that interest rates will increase significantly over the next year or two, because of the uncertainty surrounding Brexit and the state of the economy, this means there are

few ways that investors can earn the kind of interest on their savings that the rental market can offer.

Over the last eight weeks we have let most of our available rental stock and have a list of good tenants waiting for properties. This lack of supply has had two effects; firstly, rental prices are at an all-time high and secondly, landlords are seeing fewer void periods, the time a property remains vacant, it is these void periods that can really make the difference to a landlord earning money. Keeping up-to date with the rental prices is also paramount, landlords often don't increase rents and lose out on thousands of pounds of income every year. Our property management team advises on how rental prices are going and will advise the right time

to look at any increases as well as looking at the sale price should the landlord consider cashing in on their capital investment.

If you have a rental property that's proving difficult to rent or are looking to change your letting agent, talk to us - we have a superb marketing team that knows how to promote your property and has the experience and back-up that comes with years of property management.

Call us on 01480 388 888.



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