

The Riverporter

ST IVES AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER

Issue 83: 16 April 2021

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Council plan for a new normal

As the second stage in the Government's Roadmap is reached, with the opening of pub gardens, hairdressers and public buildings there is some optimism that things will return to normal before too long.

However some of the events we have each year may not take place for some time and those that will resume could look different.

Last Wednesday's Town Council meeting discussed the date for the annual Mayor Making and councillors agreed that it would be on-line one again. The meeting, to confirm the Mayor and Deputy for the next twelve months, will take place on Wednesday 5th May, the day before local elections.

Councillors also agreed the re-opening of the Town Hall, which will happen from 19 April, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays only from 10am to 4pm. This may remain the times for the future should a six month review prove satisfactory.

Previously the Town Hall was open from 9am Monday to Friday but the experience of the last year suggests that there has been no reduction in the level of service with staff working remotely.

Government advice is to continue to work from home where possible and Council staff reported that remote

working has had a beneficial effect on their mental health and work life balance. The Town Clerk, in her report to councillors, also states that there is a saving in fuel as staff travel less often to the office, reducing the Council's carbon emissions.

Further discussions about council meetings decided that they should remain virtual for the time being.

The current Mayor, Councillor Jonathan Pallant has certainly had a year to remember. Being elected Mayor is usually the highlight of a councillor's career. Being the 'voice' and leader of the Town Council is not only an honour but often a life changing experience.

This is largely because the role involves engagements with many groups, clubs, other authorities and people one doesn't usually meet. Most Mayors say that their year in the job really makes them aware of the whole community.

In Jonathan's case he has hardly had an engagement to attend in person but he did say he had still enjoyed the virtual civic engagements and

had found them enlightening. Mayor Pallant has had to deal with a number of unusual issues. It started even before he was 'crowned' as some members tried to put an alternative councillor forward for Mayor on the grounds that lockdown required a more experienced person. This 'coup' failed and fortunately Jonathan showed that his IT skills were essential as meetings became totally on-line.

Wednesday's zoom meeting began with prayers and an opportunity for councillors to share their memories of Cllr Davies, who was buried on 8th April. This was followed by a two minute silence in honour of him.

Co-option confirmed

The Town Clerk confirmed that the vacant seat of former Cllr Wilson will be filled by co-option. The Council will have to wait until Monday to hear if Cllr Davies' seat will also go to co-option. If it does then applicants will have until **29th April** to apply to join the Council. The successful applicants will be chosen by existing councillors.

Festival to raise it's Status

Local band and Festival regulars, The Barefoot Doctors, will be entertaining crowds on The Quay on the Sunday afternoon of the Festival with the addition of a very special guest.

Status Quo and world famous drummer Jeff Rich will be playing with The Barefoots in what the band are proposing will be rocking all over The Quay.



Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival 2021 programme announced

This year's Festival is on track to showcase 23 concerts over four days. The programme below has been agreed by venues and bands.

The organisers, St Ives Town Team, hope that once again the town will see venues welcoming the many music fans returning to enjoy great music in our friendly and welcoming town.



Find out what could be happening in St Ives

Sarah Wheale-Smith of Pleydell Smithyman Ltd, working on behalf of HDC, has informed The Riverporter that a pop-up community information stand about St Ives enhancements projects will be on show -

TODAY FRIDAY, 16 APRIL FROM 8.30AM UNTIL 2PM AT ST IVES MARKET.

The new Berman Park - has it opened too soon? See page 3.



Time	Venue	Band	Music Genre
Thursday 16th September			
7pm	The Oliver Cromwell	Steve Lockwood Band	Harmonica Blues
8pm	Nelsons Head	Soloman Smith	Coolness and Groove
9pm	Taproom	Gravy Train Trio	Funk, and Soul Jazz
Friday 17th September			
6pm	The Haywain	Black Velvet	Irish Blues and Soul
6pm	The Corn Exchange	Savoy Super Six	Trad Jazz
7pm	Golden Lion Hotel	Dickie de Vere & The DMs	Tunes of the 20s/30s
7.30pm	Parish Church	Keith Pearson Band	Gin & Jazz session
8pm	Ivy leaf Club	Freddie Hall	Soul, Mowtown, R&B
9pm	The Corn Exchange	John Verity	Blues
Saturday 18th September			
11am	The Farmers Market	St Neots Big Band	Big Band Jazz
2pm	The Quayside	Chris Lord Blues Express	Rhythm and Blues
3pm	Parish Church	Martin Kemp Quartet	Gin & Gypsy Jazz
4pm	The Oliver Cromwell	Sure-Can Playboys	Sax, Jazz and Blues
5pm	Floods Tavern	Kaffadiva	Riffy-Bluesy-Rock
6.30pm	Taproom	CBT Band	Sophisticated Jazz
7.30pm	Golden Lion Hotel	Rhythm & Blues Band	Rhythm and Blues
9.30pm	Ivy leaf Club	Split Whiskers	Chicago Blues
Sunday 19th September			
Noon	Golden Lion Hotel	Django's Tiger	Gypsy Jazz
2pm	The Quayside	Barefoot Doctors	Electric Blues
4pm	Nelson's Head	Lexie Green	Americana, Blues
6pm	Seven Wives	The Flyin' Leathernecks	Rockabilly
7pm	Amore	Peter Shepherd Duo	Smooth Jazz
8pm	The Lounge	Dr Ika's Pharmacy	Rock Blues

PROGRAMME MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE www.theoldriverportstives.co.uk

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THE NEW BRIDGES CAUSEWAY

Our history correspondent Daniel Wiseman looks at the history of the 'New Bridges', which will be 200 years old next year.



Above: St Ives from the west c1848. In the foreground is Holt Island and beyond several gangs of lighters, some with sails up moored along The Waits and up to the Bridge. The New Bridges can be seen to the right by the old Dolphin.

The New Bridges Causeway carries London Road over the flood plain meadows south of the Great Ouse and was the main route into St Ives for centuries, until the opening of the bypass in 1980. The building of the causeway began in April 1822 and was completed in less than six months. Construction required 1.25 million bricks, all cut from local clay and fired in kilns at The How brickworks (now the country park between One Leisure and The Thicket). These were then loaded onto barges known as 'lighters' and floated down to the wharf by The Dolphin. (The remains of one of the last lighters is apparently buried in Nobles Field, between The Thicket and the river.)

The causeway was owned by the Duke of Manchester and one of the bricks still carries the signature of John Turner, the master builder of the 200-metre (700 ft) causeway, as we mentioned in RP82). Only 25 years after construction was completed, the bridge was modified to install a level-crossing for the new St Ives to Huntingdon railway. You can easily spot where the railway once was because when the crossing was removed and the contractors used red bricks instead, which did not match the yellow bricks on the rest of the causeway.

Until the 1980s, a tollbooth stood between the chapel bridge and the causeway, where travellers once paid to cross the new bridge.

Today the importance of the 55-arch bridge is recognised by its grade II* listed status, which is the same category as Battersea Power Station - more important than a plain grade II listing but not as important as grade I. This means it cannot be demolished and the upcoming repairs need to be carefully regulated to protect its unique character!

FINDING YOUR OUSE VALLEY WAY!

Back in January the Great Ouse Valley Trust received funding from the County Council to provide the Ouse Valley Way with some 'tender loving care'.

The Ouse Valley Way is one of the longest river valley walks (approximately 150 miles) in the country. It runs through Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk.

The Mayor of St Neots, Cllr Stephen Ferguson, recently walked its entire length, mostly in the pouring rain, to raise funds for his charities (his blistered feet ended up featured on Facebook). There is another complete walk being planned for this August

by Celia Woolley who will make a Blog of her journey. And the BRJ Run and Tri Club are just itching to stage their Ouse Valley Way Marathon again this year - the section of the path through Cambridgeshire just happens to be 26.2 miles long!

The original information panels were created by HDC when the path was first waymarked in 2004 and they have stood the test of time fairly well. However, the County Council made the decision that, along with better signage and improvements to



the path itself, a fresh look and update for the panels would be the perfect project for funding from Highways England A14 Legacy Fund. And, that the Great Ouse Valley Trust would be the perfect local volunteer group to provide the panels.

Ian Jackson of the Great Ouse Valley Trust re-wrote the flora and fauna sections with contributions from local experts. Working with the original designer-illustrator Coral Walton, of Coral Design and printers, Create Signs, the boards have been updated and new ones added including one to be installed on The Waits paid for by the Town Council

Number Crunching
26 - Miles covered by the panels
13 - Number of panels
11 - Circular walks along the way
185 - Number of illustrations

Ian Jackson by the replacement board in Meadow Lane.



Have you seen 'The Lake'?

The Lake is the new short horror movie produced by St Ives movie producers and directors Daniel Attrill and Louis Taylor. The movie was shot around Fen Drayton lakes and St Ives. The storyline revolves around two filmmakers scouting a lakeside location, but their trip takes a dramatic turn when they hear a voice calling them from the water...

Daniel and Louis have produced thirteen short films together and this latest work, that was released on 31st March, has been entered into the prestigious 'Lift off' global network film festival. Readers can find 'The Lake' and other works by Daniel and Lewis on YouTube and we hear that the Corn Exchange will be showing a selection of their work in town later this summer including their debut feature movie 'Alone'



Volunteer Groups Message Forum

If you are a member of a community group that wishes to let others know what you do, or needs specific help, or or just want to promote your organisation, you can email us at theriverporter.uk and we will include it on the Message Forum.

ST IVES SPEEDWATCH TEAM LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

After over 12 months of inactivity due to Covid 19 we have been given the go ahead to recommence Speedwatch sessions in St Ives probably from early June. At present we are a small and friendly bunch of people who run a couple of 2 hour sessions every month in an effort to improve road traffic issues in our town. However we are always looking to expand our team so if you are interested in joining us and getting out in the fresh air please contact me on gordnles@gmail.com or 07739853518. What we do isn't difficult and full training will be provided. We look forward to hearing from you. Gordon Walker

Who you can vote for . . .

In just under three weeks voters will be asked to do a lot of choosing. In case you are unsure of what elections are being held we list those for St Ives residents to vote for on Thursday 6th May.

Police & Crime Commissioner

The candidates are:

Nick Massey - Labour
 Susan Morris - Reform Party
 Rupert Moss-Eccardt - Lib Dems
 Darryl Preston - Conservative

Combined Authority Mayor

The candidates are:

Nik Johnson - Labour and Co Operative Party
 James Philip Palmer - Conservative
 Aidan Van de Weyer - Lib Dems

County Councillors

St Ives North and Wyton

The candidates are:

Ann Barnes - Green Party
 Paul Bullen - Independent
 James Roger Catmur - Lib Dems
 Ryan Fuller - Conservative
 Angela Louise Richards - Labour

St Ives South and Needingworth

The candidates are:

Cath Gleadow - Labour
 John R G Parkin - Green Party
 Kevin Reynolds - Conservative
 Nic Wells - Liberal Democrat

District Councillors

St Ives East

The candidates are:

Ann Barnes - Green Party
 Angela Louise Richards - Labour
 Craig Smith - Conservative

St Ives South

The candidates are:

Rianna D'Souza - Conservative
 Cath Gleadow - Labour
 John R G Parkin - Green Party
 Nic Wells - Liberal Democrat

Town Councillors

There are no elections as John Robert George Parkin of the Green Party was unopposed and was therefore duly elected for St Ives South ward.

Please Note: The Riverporter will be offering each of the local candidates the opportunity to submit a brief summary of why the people of St Ives should vote for them, which we will print in the next issue on 30th April.



having your say ... The Riverporter

Sub Editor Milly Moon Dog, sports her new hair cut at last.

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

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

COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE

TIME TO BE BLOOMING CHEERY

St Ives in Bloom has been asked to help decorate the town to try and cheer people up after the long winter. HDC are going to hang bunting and also give the town funding to add some extra bright flower planting in the centre of town. The St Ives in Bloom team think it would be really nice if we could also hang flowers made by knitting or crochet or fabric, and are putting out a request for anyone who would like to assist making flowers, leaves, butterflies, bees or other natural decorations. **CAN YOU HELP US WITH THIS?**

It doesn't matter what size or colour, the brighter the better, though - just make as many as you can in the next two weeks! Drop St Ives in Bloom a message at siibinfo@gmail.com to arrange drop off or collection and get creative!

London road Fire

Police assisted the Fire Brigade in dealing with a fire at the disused commercial garage on London Road on Tuesday morning, 6th April. The road was closed for a time to allow fire fighters to deal with the blaze, thought to have been started deliberately.



Dear Erik,

Subject: Rubbish

This is a daily sight on The Quadrant by Darwood Pond car park which I have to walk past every day on my way into town. It is a mixture of rubbish and recycling bags which grows as we approach the usual Thursday collection but is never fully cleared. The refuse collection lorry will take away whatever they are collecting that week but will leave the remaining bags to be collected the next week. As well as an eyesore it is a health hazard and the town ends up looking like a third world country. When are the people responsible going to be brought to book by HDC or are they not bothered.....as usual!

Gordon

Dear Erik,

Reply to Letter to Erik in RP82 ref: Waste Of Money

Whichever council the above wrote to must be mystified. The trees, not hedge, are pollarded every three or four years most probably by or for the occupant of the adjacent house. They regrow quite quickly and never have nests in them. Anyone who drives past without checking should be more careful.

Local resident

Dear Erik,

The ditch clearance on St Audrey Lane was done many weeks ago but the resulting rubbish, plus awful orange netting has still not been cleared.

What an awful advertisement for our lovely town as people drive through.

Could Heidi get onto the case and see what is going on and what can be done to clear it up!!!!?

Chris, St Ives resident



Parish Hall future not easy to solve

Following the letter in our last issue (RP82) regarding the recent planning application for change of use for the parish hall on Ramsey Road *The Riverporter* sought the views of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) who have instigated the application.

It is a complicated matter, however the nub of the issue revolves around whether there is a need for the hall today. There is no doubt that the building is significant in that it was built in 1869 as a Church of England 'National' Infants School, by a distinguished Architect, William White, who also designed The How, a Grade II listed building 1 km away.

The building is in poor repair and would need in excess of £150k to bring up to standard. The PCC feel that even if they could raise the money the income generated from the rent of the cottage and hire of the hall would not be a good return on the investment.

The PCC is also responsible for the Church, a Grade 1 building, which also requires work to



install toilets and other essential facilities and because of its status this work could cost in excess of £1m.

The fact that there is no parking and more venues are available for hire, the PCC feel that the hall is no longer a reliable source of income and that conversion to accommodation could release up to £500k which could go towards the work on the Church building.

This is just one view of the matter which will require more analysis. We expect that there will be more to say in future issues of *The Riverporter*. Please let us know what you think?

Councillors cross the floor

At the last Town Council elections one of the big issues was who is a real independent councillor after several Tories suddenly announced themselves as Independent for St Ives candidates? Three years on and some councillors are showing their true colours. Cllrs Rianna D'Souza and Craig Smith, who campaigned as independents are listed as Conservative candidates for next month's District Council elections.

Special warning to St Ives residents

The Nottingham Knockers are still in town. The Police have recently confirmed that there is no offender rehabilitation scheme running in our area, but town residents are still receiving calls at the door offering services under this guise. Residents are advised to remain careful.

Residents blamed for wanting election

HDC Leader and Town Councillor, Ryan Fuller, in an email sent to councillors, seemed to blame residents in the Broadway and The Quay for seeking to elect a new town councillor rather than letting him and other councillors choose one, following the resignation of Brian Luter last May. His recent comment has angered some of those residents who quite properly sought to have an election. One resident told *The Riverporter* that they sought the election to ensure that the make up of the council was chosen by voters rather than by councillors, who might choose friends or colleagues. The situation was further complicated by the fact that Covid had postponed the election for a year, and despite there only being one candidate, who was elected unopposed, they were pleased that the new councillor is someone new to the town and represents the Green Party, the first such councillor on St Ives Town Council.



Berman Park opens

The new park on the old golf course has been officially named Berman Park after residents overwhelmingly chose the name of the popular local couple Henry and Joan Berman (pictured).

There has been much praise on-line for the name and the park however not everyone is happy and a local professional with over 30 years experience as a parks & gardens manager was unimpressed, saying he was gobsmacked that a path through a field of mud was ready for visitors. He suggested that the opening was premature and looked like a piece of electioneering and the state of the dried mud could even be a danger for children.

HDC leader Cllr Ryan Fuller, who at a Town Meeting in March 2019 said that he considered securing the land for the park his proudest

achievement said 'We cannot wait to welcome residents to the park at a time when our open

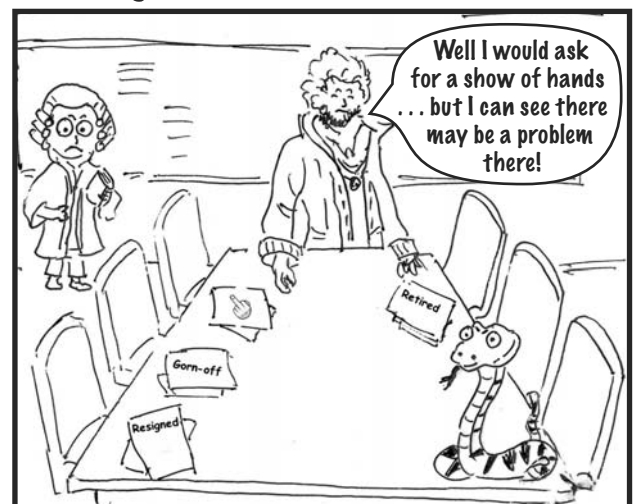
spaces have never been more valued.' *The Riverporter* spoke with one of the workmen there who has said that the ground needs another two machine treatments before it can be sowed and it could do with a bit of rain first.

We also noted that the work had exposed a lot of fossils from the Triassic and Jurassic period showing that Berman park was once a sea bed.



We're running out of councillors!

Well sort of... it certainly has been an interesting year for our current Mayor Jonathan Pallant. If it's not the pandemic and the stress of holding a council meeting via the infernal Zoom, then it's an unprecedented number of councillor resignations, which may have caused other problems...



The COURTYARD

St Ives

Open-air boutique market, run by independents

Now fully Open! The Courtyard Open -Air Boutique Market. We offer a unique open air shopping experience for all kinds of lovely gifts, Furniture, Bespoke handmade product's, Happy Earth Refills, Lorenzo's Coffee and Bakery. Open 7 Days a Week. Join us every Thursday, 6 -8pm for regular Open Air Live Music & Entertainment and Shopping evening



Happy Earth Refills the Eco friendly, Zero waste Refill Shop. Vegetarian and Vegan High-Quality Foods, Cleaning, Toiletries and more. Helping reduce plastic pollution for a 'cleaner planet'



Need a coffee break? Lorenzo's Coffee Serving Coffee, tea, and hot chocolate. We also sell our coffee beans which can be ground to your specification to enjoy within your own home

Open 9.00am - 5pm Monday through to Saturday and Sunday 10.00am - 4.00pm

We are inviting New Dealers for our expanding Courtyard, please call 07983 527733 or [@hyperioncourtyard](https://www.facebook.com/hyperioncourtyard)

The Courtyard, The Salerooms, Station Road, St Ives PE27 5BH
www.hyperionauctions.co.uk/the-courtyard-shopping Tel: 01480 464140

Vote

Paul BULLEN

X

ON MAY 6th

Married with 3 grown-up children, I have lived and worked in Cambridgeshire since I retired from the RAF in 1995 when serving at RAF Wyton. I then served as a Justice of the Peace for 14 years where I sat on the Family Proceedings and Criminal Courts throughout Cambridgeshire.



I was County Councillor for St Ives until May 2017.

But, after yet another large rise in Council Tax, the resignation of the Conservative Police & Crime Commissioner for inappropriate behaviour towards a lady and the resignation of the Conservative Deputy Leader of the County Council following allegations regarding the Cambridgeshire Farms Estate, it is obvious that we are not being well served, either locally or nationally, by our current politicians. Therefore, I have decided to stand, once again, for the division of St Ives North & Wyton. It is clear to me that Party Politics no longer serves the people of this country well and this is especially true in local Government. Therefore, the only way that I can truly represent the people in St Ives & Wyton is as an independent.

Published and promoted by Daniel Bullen of 13 Chestnut Rd, St Ives, PE27 6UF

This is a paid advert. The Riverporter does not endorse any candidates or political parties.

ADVERTORIAL

Top tips to sell your home

Kerb appeal

Buyers form an impression within seconds of pulling up outside your property and you'll never get a second chance to make a good first impression. Give your home "kerb appeal" by painting the front door, tidying the garden and planting those hanging baskets.



Listen to your agent

A good estate agent will offer their impartial advice on how best to stage your home, take this on board when preparing your home for sale and chances are you'll find a buyer in no time.



De-clutter

Buyers need to picture themselves living in your property and it can be difficult to see past all the family photos and other "stuff" that's just hanging around, so de-clutter and make your home as neutral as possible.



Be accommodating at viewings

Be as accommodating as possible with viewings, try to see them at their convenience, make sure pets are out of the way and leave the viewing to the agents, they know what to do and say.



Price correctly

Ask a price that will entice interest, over-valuing can mean extra months sat on the market. Buyers know the market well, they set alerts to see everything that comes available and soon realise when a property is at the wrong price.



Be viewer ready

Viewers turn up just when you don't want them to, be ready. Ask the children to tidy toys away, wash those dishes, you never know when the agents going to call.



Have all your paperwork to hand

Planning permissions, building regulations, insurance, utility costs, have them to hand, you're likely to be asked about them.



Instruct a good solicitor

Engage with a good solicitor, even prior to agreeing a sale. Talk to us about who we recommend locally.



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winters

