

The Riverporter

ST IVES AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER

Issue 84: 30 April 2021

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

ELECTION SPECIAL EDITION

Following on from The Covid crisis, Brexit and the last General Election it is easy to dismiss next weeks local elections as unimportant. However that is not the case as these elections allow you to choose the people who will be responsible for most of your local services.

The **Police & Crime Commissioner** (PCC) is responsible for the totality of policing. Your **Combined Authority Mayor** (CPCA Mayor) is responsible for housing, transport and the region's economy and the **County** and **District** councillors look after almost everything else that will affect you locally.

What do the candidates stand for?

The centre pages of this edition of *The Riverporter* lists all the candidates for the elections in St Ives. We sent an invitation to all the County and District candidates asking them to send us a statement, so that our readers could see them all in one place and judge who they might wish to elect.

We are pleased that all of the candidates responded, except for the Conservative candidates, none of whom took up our offer.

A personal view

At a time when politicians are again under scrutiny nationally it seems easy to dismiss all of them as the same. We know it is often hard to distinguish between candidates, however I believe that this is largely the problem of the system.

'First past the post' voting can elect candidates who have as little as 30% support of electors. Its 'all or nothing' results often mean that one party can dominate councils.

That is the case in St Ives where Conservatives hold all District and

County seats (It can be other parties elsewhere). Also some individuals sit on three councils, being Town, District and County councillors at the same time. Can this be good for democracy? Can one individual do a good job for all councils or do some take second place?

Indeed there could be a conflict of interest on occasions. I feel that it would help to have a wider range of elected representatives reflecting more accurately the views of the people of St Ives.

Every candidate says they want to do the best for their community. A more diverse council might encourage co-operation and, perhaps, wider debate and better solutions. **Ed.**

Spring has sprung - thanks to . . .

Dear Erik, I have just been shopping in St Ives and walked along The Waits. Congratulations to the people who provided the stunning and very fragrant display. **St Ivian**

Dear St Ivian, We believe that the displays have been arranged by St Ives Town Council and St Ives in Bloom. A welcome sight following the 'dark days' of the lockdown. **Ed.**



The Old Riverport Uke Festival attracts international acts



Saturday 2nd October will see the first Old Riverport Ukelele Festival. A whole day of concerts, workshops, open mike sessions and more from 10am to 11pm in St Ives Corn Exchange. Labelled the Ukelele Festival of Cambridgeshire it is attracting some of the countries leading exponents of the art.

Phil Doleman (pictured above) is one such artist. Phil has travelled all over the UK and to Ireland, France, Germany, Finland, Czech Republic, and the US performing and leading workshops at festivals, theatres, and clubs.

He has performed on BBC radio and TV and shared stages with some of the world's finest players. He is a regular contributor Uke Magazine, has composed pieces for the London College of Music ukulele grade syllabus and is the author of several books, including 'How Music Works On The Ukulele' 'How Songs Work' and 'Blues Ukulele'.

Phil's love of vintage blues, hokum, old-time, and jug band music shines through as he blows the dust off obscure old songs and gives new life

to classics with his intricate picking and driving rhythms on ukulele and banjos. His original songs blend in seamlessly, with many believing them to be old songs that had passed them by.

Phil will be holding a workshop during the day and performing on stage in the evening.

Phil's previous gigs include The Acoustic Festival of Britain, The Great British Rhythm and Blues Festival, The Ukulele Festival of Great Britain and The Ukulele Festival of Scotland. Blues Matters Magazine said of Phil that he is 'massively entertaining' and Roots Magazine described his act as a 'Genuinely good-time'.

Details of the Festival can be seen on the *StivesUkeFest* Facebook page.



Read on-line at www.theriverporter.uk or see our Facebook page. Email: editor@theriverporter.uk

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It's not all Jam and Jerusalem at The Riverport WI

The Riverport WI (Women's Institute) group based in St Ives is four years old and the past year was their most successful yet, despite not meeting in person!

The WI has a reputation of being for old ladies who just bake cakes and sing Jerusalem, yet many groups (like Riverport WI) are nothing of the sort as Sally Burgess, President of the Riverport WI explained to *The Riverporter*.

'The Riverport WI is a modern and thriving group with members ranging in age from around 30-70 years old. Personally, I'm 41 years old... and I do like a bit of cake but I'm more of a buyer than a baker!'

'We've embraced the advantages of technology and have moved our monthly meetings onto Zoom. We have been able to get virtual speakers that we otherwise wouldn't have been able to get.'

In the past year meetings have included:

- ◆ A beer tasting with local Ivo Brewery
- ◆ Ballet for beginners (tutor located in Cyprus!)
- ◆ A historical talk on the salacious gossip of the Royal Court by a Hampton Court Palace guide



The Royal Ballet or is it members of The Riverport WI last month?

- ◆ A talk by Major Alex Janaway on his army career and his other career writing books (he's based in Scotland)

Some of the talks planned for 2021 include:

- ◆ A chocolate tasting with an expert
- ◆ A history of gin
- ◆ Our first in-person meeting for

over a year in August, visiting the goats at Monach Farm in Hilton.

If you're interested in knowing more about the group or even joining them go to their Facebook page: [The Riverport WI](#)



Heralding the coming of Spring

One of the most charming traditions in France is the offering of a sprig of muguet to family and friends on the first of May. This is to bring good luck and in my case I found lilies-of-the-valley in a variety of pretty containers on my doorstep – from tradesmen who had done work for me, from little lads who had walked home from school with me, from my grandson and from a nurse who had cared for me.

It is also the custom for M le Maire to offer these flowers to every mother in the community. In our village this ceremony took place on the pétanque court in front of the church. I have a feeling this will not happen this year as my daughter reports that the Pandemic rules are being rigidly monitored.

Shirley Mitchell.

Chris Lord Blues Express



*The Old Riverport
Jazz & Blues Festival
Saturday 18th September
2pm The Quayside*

Another new act for the Festival. A powerful and raunchy Rhythm & Blues 5 piece, Chris Lord & her Blues Express produce classic Blues, R&B and Blues Rock with exuberance and joy.

The band is driven by the superb voice of Chris Lord, supported by a heady mixture of tenor saxophone and guitar, all built upon a first class rhythm section. Together the band merges to weave a magical spell wherever they perform.

Influences range from early artists like Bessie Smith and Big Mama Thornton, to the golden years represented by the three Kings, all the way to more modern exponents of the art like Etta James and Beth Hart.

But don't expect the same old covers - The Express take pains to dig out some rare gems of lesser known tracks which always keep their performances interesting.



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.



Would you like to join our team?

The St Ives Dementia Community Group is a voluntary organisation founded in 2016 in association with the Alzheimer's Society's initiatives. These are intended to increase awareness through creating Dementia Friends and building Dementia Friendly Communities, where people with dementia and their carers are understood, respected and supported. Our activities continue online for the time being, and we are looking forward to restarting them in person as soon as government regulations allow. Currently we are looking for some enthusiastic new volunteers to join our team, especially with expertise in marketing and accounting.

If you're interested, please contact our Chair, Roger Kuch email: rnjkuch@gmail.com

THE CHICORY FACTORY

By our history correspondent Daniel Wiseman



Above: An aerial view of the factory taken in 1951 with the town in the background. In the distance you can see the railway, the Mill, the Free Church and the Parish Church, with little housing beyond the town centre. In just 70 years St Ives has grown considerably and the same view today would show housing, roads, factories and shops and little countryside. Inset: The Factory as seen from Somersham Road.

Chicory is a type of daisy, with a pale blue flower. Its roots are used as an additive, blended with coffee, and during World War II it was used as a coffee substitute. The first chicory factory in the country opened here in St Ives in 1930, at a cost of £10,000, and aimed to supply all the chicory the nation needed.

The factory was built on the site now occupied by Aldi. (The site was also a temporary home for Cromwell Vets.) There was a rival factory in Lakenheath, also claiming to be the first in the country, and at one point its owners took the St Ives company to court, accusing it of trying to steal its staff! The court case was unsuccessful.

Chicory needs to be dried at high temperatures on huge drying floors. It was turned by hand, which made for unpleasant working conditions. The high temperatures also meant there was a high risk of fire. Sure enough, in January 1932, the first floor of the factory caught fire in the early hours of the morning. The flames quickly spread, damaging machinery. But that didn't stop the factory from expanding as more farmers were persuaded to grow the crop.

Some St Ives residents may remember the factory being on fire again when the abandoned site was used as a location for the television drama, London's Burning. A warehouse fire (see below) was part of the storyline for the concluding two episodes of the fourth series, shown on ITV in late 1991. The show's largest ever audience, 18.86 million viewers, turned on to watch the last episode.



Turn over to see . . .

To help St Ives readers decide who they wish to vote for in next Thursday's elections, we list overleaf all the candidates and what they say they will do if elected.

We recognise it is often hard to decide who will do the best job and that election leaflets can leave voters more, not less, confused. For that reason we have listed the candidates main points, in the hope that you will know which candidate is likely to best represent your views.

We are sad that all the Conservative candidates decided not to tell you, our readers, why you should elect them. Their leader Ryan Fuller has told *The Riverporter* that he considers we will misrepresent his views and it is clear that all his fellow candidates have been told not to engage with us.

It is entirely their right to take this action but it does raise some issues.

Firstly, while *The Riverporter* tries to remain politically neutral we occasionally do ask difficult questions of councillors and point out issues that need debating. In particular, along with the best of publications and journalists we ask questions of those in power, because in general those are the people making the decisions that affect us all. Some politicians incorrectly assume that by doing this we are anti their party. This is not the case and we would ask the same questions of any leader regardless of which party they are in. Secondly for all the candidates of a party to avoid engaging with voters in this way suggests that they cannot make their own decisions. Can we rely on them to look at each issue with a clear mind or will they follow the party line? If this is the case does it matter who they are and whether they are capable or not? Will they add to the democratic process or simply be 'yes men'.

Thirdly it brings into question the motive of some candidates. Every candidate says that they are passionate about their ward and want the best for all voters and they may genuinely believe that. The lure of joining a party should be about the parties' policies, such as strong environmental issues for instance. Sadly this is not always the case and it is often said that there is little point in being politically active if you do not win and gain power.

As pointed out in the front page editorial, the system may be to blame and this means that some candidates will join a party to access power, particularly if that party has a strong hold on the council. All of which leaves us wondering if it was necessary for Craig Smith and Rianna D'Souza, who both stood as Independents for St Ives Town Council, to stand for the Conservatives in the District elections? Was this because they agree with Conservative policies or was it to be assured of victory?

More Berman Park controversy

Suggestions from an experienced parks & gardens manager that the premature opening of the new park looked like a piece of electioneering (RP83) seem to have proved correct as it featured on a number of Tory candidates election leaflets.



The Lonely bench.

We received these comments from a reader . . .

To the left of the photo in your last issue is a lonely bench in the middle of a sea of large chunks of clay that has come from where the pond is now.

The clay has to be rotavated before grass seed can be spread so the bench will hinder both operations. Furthermore the clay has been piled on top of where the attenuation tanks are located. So when they silt up, as they will inevitably do, a shaft will need to be dug so that the silt can be pumped out.

The bench will be in a good position once the grass has grown but right now, oh dear!

Sadly the canvas welcome sign was vandalised almost as soon as it was installed with three holes torn open so that the sign flopped over. On investigation this evening I found the sign close to the Thicket completely ripped off. **Pro Bono.**

Who you can vote for . . .

Next Thursday is election day and an unusual one. Because of Covid, last year's elections were postponed and will be run with this year's meaning that voters in St Ives will have four different elections to contend with.

Voters are also asked to vote in two different ways. The election of the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) and the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) Mayor will use the supplementary vote system. Voters rank their two favoured candidates on the ballot paper as a 'first' and a 'second' choice. If a candidate wins 50% or more of the first preference votes, they win outright. If not, all but the top two candidates are eliminated, and the second preference votes of eliminated candidates are reallocated. The candidate with the highest total resulting from this count is elected. **Please Note** It is important when voting under this system to choose one candidate in the 'First Choice' column. You can then select your second choice in the 'Second Choice' column if you wish. **If you only select a second choice person or select two people in the 'First Choice' column your votes will be discarded.** The winner of the County Council and District Council elections are selected under the usual 'First Past The Post' system so you vote for just one of the candidates.

Police & Crime Commissioner candidates

Nicky Massey, Labour



Nicky Massey is a police and crime panel member, and executive councillor for community safety at Cambridge City Council and hosts an annual domestic abuse conference in Cambridge.

She says that she will work hard to drive down crime and antisocial behaviour, tackle its root causes and ensure that criminals are brought to justice. She will also ensure that our local police are effective, efficient and accountable.

Nicky pledges to:

- Be the voice of the community
Prioritise neighbourhood policing, after the Neighbourhood Policing team was disbanded and the number of PCSOs halved
- Investigate "high" crime areas and work together to help make them safer
- Tackle rising levels of violent crime including knife crime, and County Lines drug dealing
- Stamp out hate crime and encourage community cohesion
- Rapidly respond to spikes in reported crime whether it is bike theft, hare coursing or shop lifting
- Tackle violence abuse and harassment of women and girls.

As a domestic abuse survivor, Nicky leads initiatives to empower victims to speak up. She wants all victims to be properly supported and says 'they should be at the heart of the criminal justice system'.

Susan Morris, Reform UK



Susan Morris has a wealth of business experience and has worked at Holloway and Wormwood Scrubs prisons in their psychology departments.

Susan believes that The police should understand and enforce the few laws directed at our protection but not squander precious resources on the woke agenda.

Susan's priorities are to:

- Tackle crime against the self employed and local business.
- Get constables back on the beat, developing strong relationships with the people in their care.
- Give the police confidence in applying the laws most needed to carry out our priorities.
- Clarify the relations and boundaries within the justice system to establish accountability.
- Concentrate on retaining experienced officers. I would support the Chief Constable in finding practical ways to improve job satisfaction.

'I would target commissioning on helping young people find their way into adult life.'

Rupert Moss-Eccardt, Liberal Democrat



An IT consultant from Ely and is a policing and security professional. He helped to establish the National Centre for Policing Excellence and considers it a privilege to work with the police services, alongside enthusiastic and dedicated staff.

If elected he will improve the policing of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in three ways:

- Cutting crime, through liberal approaches that work
 - Set neighbourhood police priorities locally not centrally
 - Police with integrity, consent and without discrimination
- 'Other parties focus on arrests and enforcement. I will focus on reducing crime in the first place. I will therefore put more resources into:*

- preventing first-time offenders from going on to reoffend
- helping recently-released prisoners who want to go straight

- focus attention on offenders just released from prison who don't want to give up their life of crime.

'I will restore neighbourhood and community policing and will enhance support for victims, not just by funding support groups but also fighting to fix the broken courts system.'

Darryl Preston, Conservative



A former police officer who served for 30 years, including 10 years in the Metropolitan Police and 20 years in Cambridgeshire, he says 'As a 16-year-old schoolboy at my interview to become a police cadet, I was asked 'Why do you want to be a police officer?' I replied I wanted to catch criminals, help victims and keep people safe. My motivation to be your PCC remains the same.'

After retiring from the force he became a senior official at the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) in Westminster – the body helping PCCs to develop policy positions and influence change in the criminal justice system.

He says the most important job of a PCC is to listen to the concerns of local communities and businesses and act upon them. *'I have done just that and developed a straightforward plan to cut crime in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough:*

- Reduce crime – by recruiting many more police officers
- Tackling rural crime – investing in rural policing
- Safer roads – reducing accidents and cracking down on speeding
- Preventing crime – investing in early intervention schemes
- Fighting organised crime – catching the very worst criminals
- Communities first – ensuring the police prioritise local issues

'I have the vital experience required to be a PCC, please support me in keeping all our communities safe.'

In 2016 Jason Ablewhite beat the Labour candidate after second choice votes were allocated with 53% of the vote.

CPCA Mayor candidates

The current Mayor, James Palmer has been quite controversial, partly for his CAM Metro scheme and accusations of cronyism and poor use of taxpayer money and most recently for the loss of £45m from his own Government for his affordable housing scheme. In 2017 Palmer beat the Lib Dem candidate after second choice votes were allocated with 56.9% of the vote.

Nik Johnson, Labour



A children's doctor who has worked at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital for 14 years and has been a District Councillor since May 2018.

'I want every single resident to know their mayor puts the three Cs of compassion, co-operation and community at the heart of every single decision he makes.'

His priorities are:

- Be the mayor who develops a fully integrated, greener, countywide transport system.
- Be the mayor who provides free transport for 16-18 year olds, and subsidised travel for all under 25s.
- Deliver affordable and social housing with green, sustainable, carbon neutral developments.
- Help build a county-wide water management group to prevent flooding and save precious water resources.
- Encourage people to lead healthier lifestyles.
- I will be the mayor who encourages the arts.

He believes that the Cambridgeshire Autonomous Metro is not the answer to our transport challenge – and cannot realistically be delivered. He says *'I'm not totally opposed to a rapid system project but this has all the hallmarks of being an expensive folly and a potential financial blackhole.'*

James Palmer, Conservative



A former leader of East Cambridgeshire District Council and the current Mayor.

His priorities are:

- Housing: I will build £100k homes in every district in the CPCA area, at least 10 per cent of all homes built will be £100k homes for local working people.
- Continue to help communities build their own Community Land Trusts, providing homes to rent for local workers.
- Deliver transport solutions across the whole area. My priorities will be: CAM Metro, Cambridge South station, dualling of the A10 and the A47. Upgrading of Ely North

Junction and Wisbech Rail. I will work alongside government to deliver a newly refreshed franchised bus service.

- Education: Delivery of phase 3 and 4 of the new ARU Peterborough University. Continued delivery of the adult education policy of the last four years.

He says *'It is imperative that the Cambridgeshire Autonomous Metro is delivered. The latest concepts prove the technology and the affordability of CAM, with predicted costs being no more than £2bn. CAM is a platform for sustainable growth for the area. It is the only way to deliver carbon neutral growth for the area and will benefit huge swathes of the county.'*

Aidan Van de Weyer, Liberal Democrat



The deputy leader of South Cambridgeshire District Council, responsible for transport and strategic planning.

His priorities are:

- Work to protect our environment, with actions for getting us to zero carbon and improving our green spaces.
- Prioritise sustainable transport, with buses under local control and better, safer routes for cyclists and pedestrians.
- Get higher environmental standards for housing.
- Make our society fairer, building many more homes that are genuinely affordable and helping small businesses through the pandemic.
- A better future for young people and I will boost apprenticeships and improve access to post-16 education and training. I will shape a green recovery with skilled long-term jobs.

Regarding the Cambridgeshire Autonomous Metro he asks can it realistically be delivered?

'Palmer's CAM is a money pit. He has spent over £12million, but much has been binned. All we've got are some sketches of imaginary tunnels and maps. The risks are huge. The extensive tunnels won't be completed until the 2030s. Autonomous vehicles might never be able to navigate urban streets or country roads. We've got no idea where the money is coming from.'

I will replace CAM with a plan for a realistic mass rapid transit system that can start delivering benefits now, not in a decade.'

County Council candidates

Here is a list of the candidates in the County Council elections.

St Ives North and Wyton

Ann Barnes -The Green Party



I moved to St Ives with my husband in 2019. Despite all the curtailment of activities due to lockdown for such a large chunk of time since then, I have felt quite integrated into the community, and we feel very settled here. I am involved with the EcoAction Group and with St Ives in Bloom. I have an allotment, and am excited that the EcoAction Group has been allocated a part of a small plot for a Community Allotment.

I joined the Green Party in 2016. Its policies regarding Trident and the arms trade, proportional representation at general and local elections, and the environment being very much the issues I value. I would work to support community building, improved public transport, the improvement of cycle- & walkways, as well as a greener and more sustainable environment.

Paul Bullen, Independent



The former County Councillor for St Ives and UKIP Group Leader on Cambridgeshire County Council, has decided to contest his old seat in St Ives North & Wyton on 6th May 2021. Paul, who retired from the Royal Air Force in 1995 whilst stationed at RAF Wyton, now runs his Cambridgeshire based business from St Ives & Huntingdon.

Paul said "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 the Conservatives. Therefore, I have decided to stand, once again, for the division of St Ives North & Wyton but, on this occasion, I will stand as an Independent. 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".

James Roger Catmur, Liberal Democrat



I have lived and worked in the county for 35 years and we raised two children here. After my wife died from MND in 2016 I felt it was time for me to follow in her footsteps. She had always spent time helping and looking out for other people and I want to do the same. I saw how poor the care provision is in Cambridgeshire and want to help improve it and make it fairer. I realised that my skills would help in other areas too. I became a local Parish Councillor and provide advice on road safety, the A14, A428 and East West Rail, as I am a transport consultant.

I will use my skills to help CCC improve the state of our road and transport network. We need to change transport to be low carbon and look to 'mobility as a service' to provide more equitable transport. We also need to stop paying hidden road taxes (damaged tyres, ruined suspension) and make our transport network fit for the future.

I am disabled so you will not see me out and about canvassing. My disability means I cannot serve you physically but will be an active Councillor challenging the CCC on behalf of those of us who find too many people do not understand what we face.

Angela Louise Richards, Labour



I am a longtime resident of St Ives and regular user of public transport. I would push for the area to get the investment it deserves and would tackle local issues such as litter, graffiti, and potholes.

Please note: Conservative candidate, Ryan Fuller did not respond to our invitation to submit a statement.

St Ives South and Needingworth

Cath Gleadow, Labour Party



I have lived in St Ives for 30 years and can think of no better place to live, work and bring up your children. St Ives has a vibrant and active retail and social economy, which needs to be nurtured during these difficult times and particularly as we come out of a national pandemic.

If elected, I will champion St Ives from an individual, business and area standpoint. I will seek to ensure that inequalities are addressed; businesses can develop sustainability and that our local environment and infrastructure can cope with changes in demand as well as changes to weather patterns.

John Robert George Parkin, The Green Party



I moved to St Ives in 2018 with my wife, Carolyn, and two young daughters to become a university lecturer in education. My wife and I fell in love with the town as soon as we visited. We thought St Ives would be the perfect place to bring up our family. Before moving to St Ives, I was an assistant head teacher of an infant school in Surrey and I have been a primary teacher for over fifteen years. I am also a governor of a Cambridgeshire primary school and a member of a pre-school management committee.

I have been a member of the Green Party since 2013. I joined the Green Party as I felt it was the only political party that promised to build a sustainable society for the common good. It is a privilege to be a Green Party candidate in St Ives, both for the District and County Council. If elected, I would champion putting people and our local environment at the heart of decision-making. I will be a passionate, independent and determined voice for local residents and business as we recover from the pandemic.

Nic Wells, Liberal Democrat Party



I have lived in St Ives for 5 years and in Huntingdonshire for over 40 years. I have been a Town Councillor since last November, and in that role have gained a good understanding of the current issues and opportunities for the Town.

I'm standing in these elections because I believe that south St Ives and Needingworth would benefit from more proactive representation and better and more frequent communication to residents on County and District matters than it receives currently. The Liberal Democrats have a track record of working hard, they won control of nearby South Cambridgeshire District Council in the 2018 elections, and have since introduced a "doubling nature" strategy.

When out canvassing for these elections I've been pleased with the many positive responses I've received from voters in the division. A few people who have been isolating have been keen to have a longer chat, and I've been happy to listen and learn about their experiences. My canvassing opportunities have been reduced due to the sad deaths of Cllr John Davies and of the Duke of Edinburgh, but I am always happy to receive and respond to feedback from electors I haven't met.

Please note: Conservative candidate Kevin Reynolds did not respond to our invitation to submit a statement.

District Council Elections

St Ives South Ward

The candidates are:

Cath Gleadow - Labour (see above)

John R G Parkin - The Green Party (see above)

Nic Wells - Liberal Democrat (see above)

Rianna D'Souza - Conservative, did not respond to our invitation to submit a statement.

St Ives East Ward

The candidates are:

Ann Barnes - Green Party (see above)

Angela Louise Richards - Labour (see above)

Craig Smith - Conservative, did not respond to our invitation to submit a statement.



A Song Thrush lives up to his name. Picture reproduced by kind permission of Warren Photographic.

From our environmental correspondent Heidi N. de Tries

HEIDI'S HEROES!

My theme this week darlings is flood debris and litter – ugg! Doncha just hate it? Oh my, it is sooooo depressing. And isn't there more around than usual?

Well the big flood at Christmas has something to do with it. But also, we are all outside more. So?

Well dears, my big beef is there are certain selfish people who enjoy our lovely spaces with a beer or two, maybe with a barbie, and then they WALK AWAY, expecting somebody else to clean up their mess! Worse still, they chuck it in the river. Somehow we have to get the message across that this is simply unacceptable. Here I have to salute all those wonderful EcoAction folk who are not only clearing up other people's rubbish but also tackling sources, exploring packaging and recycling alternatives and spreading the word. Fantastic! They are Heidi Heroes.

There are also special folk I see in the big meadow most mornings, out for their constitutional, but always with a plastic bag and pickers. They are Heidi's Heroes too. Sad to say it is mostly the youngsters who are the worst offenders here, fresh out of class and shooting the breeze on the bank. But I also hear that litter trails are evident in the hedgerows on the routes to and from St Ivo, and especially in the brand-new community Berman Park. Tragic!

Perhaps the school should be encouraged to introduce talks on 'environmental and community respect'?



Another Hero who has to be exalted is the self-effacing yet striking Cap'n Morgan, who not only enriches our lives with his dry wit and poetic observations, but also shows visitors the beauty of the river. He recently invited me under the arches of the New Bridges. My knees went weak I can tell you as I wondered what was on his mind (careful Heidi – Ed).

Well, what he showed me was certainly impressive. With only two helpers he had taken it upon himself to clear all the debris from every one of the 55 arches to enable flood waters to more easily discharge. He also sawed logs that were wedged in place causing major obstructions. He claims it has been



10 years since the arches were last attended. Let's hope the Environment Agency and District and County Councils sit up and realise their responsibilities. After all, he is a Heidi's Hero First Class!

And now for my final Hero – the Song Thrush. Eh? Wait - stand by for a magical moment that saved my bacon. One evening last weekend I was standing in a Cambridgeshire wood with yet another gentleman, but this time it was our very own hard-hearted Editor. He was cautioning me about my innuendo (can you believe it?).

Suddenly a beautiful song filled the air – it was a sound pure and simple and with repeating phrases that rose and fell in the fading sunshine. We were transfixed. It was such a powerful, moving moment my chastisement was forgotten, the hard heart melted and I survived to tell you more tales!

My thanks to all Heidi's Heroes! **Byeee, Heidi x**

Cap'n Morgan's exploits revealed in his own pictures above. And the cleared arches below.



 HYPERION

Entries Invited for Next Fine Art & Antiques Sale on 5th June 2021



After an Auction reaching an international client base we saw a record sale with many prices over double estimate!



Cambridgeshire Regiment Interest; Parker-McGee Family, medals to three brothers, all died on the same day 12th October 1916.

Sold £650

Rare Large Moorcroft Toadstool Vase dated 1991. Renamed from the original fairy rings design this was only produced in very low numbers by Phillip Richardson

Sold £600



Good Quality George III Silver Regency Oval and Half Fluted Tea Set with Gadrooned and Shell borders

Sold £800

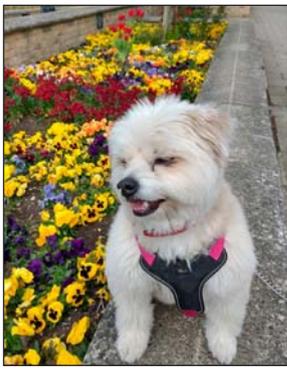
-Next Antiques & Later Sale on Saturday 8th May-

Hyperion Auctions, The Salerooms, Station Road, St Ives PE27 5BH

www.hyperionauctions.co.uk

01480 464140





having your say ...

The Riverporter

Erik inspects the great flower display on The Waits.

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

Getting ready to welcome you back

The St Ives Corn Exchange continues with its preparations for re-opening with many regular and exciting new events being planned.

Sharp eyed town visitors may have noticed the re-furbished front doors have re-appeared in all their splendour. The solid oak doors are around 100 years old and took a lot of work stripping and repairing. But thanks to local craftsman Dave Macintosh for the re-finishing and Dennis O Carroll for the brass work, the front doors will be ready to welcome visitors back soon.



Dear Erik

Ref: Doggy passports for humans

'I've had the jabs' certificates are a bone of contention with humans, evidently. But us commonsensical canine types, we know the score, don't we? So we're trying to nudge our human chums to man up over this.

But no amount of gentle growling and gnashing of teeth is having an effect. So, under cover of darkness and on production of their little cards we want to start dishing out 'I've been fully jabbed' certificates.

They're only like the doggy passports they give us to carry about. Intended location and time: 'the parklets' aka The Quay and The Waits every evening from now on. We know it makes sense.

Your common sense canine chum,
Doberman

Oh Fence-ive behaviour

A police report received this week states that in our new Berman Park vandals removed between 10 and 15 wooden slats from fences at Berman Park, then set light to them (see below), and this was done some time overnight on Friday 23rd /Saturday 24th April.



Police Appeal for Witnesses:

At around 1:15 pm on Tuesday 20th April there was a traffic incident on Fen Road, Pidley, in which a car left the road and ran into trees on a steep roadside bank. Very sadly, the driver, Robert Chasse of King Street, Somersham, died in the incident. No other vehicles were involved and there were no passengers in the car.

Police are asking anyone who saw the crash to contact them, dialling 112 quoting Incident Number 195 of 20th April.

Nobel's field AGM

The Nobel's field trust chaired by Mr Sid Fisher and secretary Tim Thomas held the Annual general meeting on Monday 26th April. The meeting which had been previously delayed due to Covid restrictions had to be held via Zoom, nevertheless, the meeting which gave open access to the public was well attended. As usual the AGM had a guest speaker and, on this occasion, attendees were entertained by local ornithologist Tim Reed who gave an entertaining and very informative presentation on Nightingales in the Cambridgeshire area. A key topic of the AGM was the continuing problem with erosion of the riverbank bordering the 4.5 acre field and a decision to renew efforts to combat the issue and raise money to reinstate the bank was agreed by the committee. The area of riverbank now lost is estimated by chairman Fisher to be approximately 60 metres long by up to 4 metres wide, a considerable area. The trust has launched a covenant scheme where anyone who shares our care and concern for Nobel's field can set up a bank order to contribute just a few pounds regularly to assist in fund raising and the maintenance of the beautiful natural habitat area. If you would like to help, please email . . . r.westrip@sky.com



How to select your councillor

Erik was dissatisfied that no candidate had suggested free dog biscuits in their manifesto

Tory

Lib Dem

Yellow

Green



So he decided to use the Alternative Voting Method!

Mayor Making will be virtual on 5 May

Current Mayor, Jonathan Pallant has held his last full council meeting. Next Wednesday he will be giving thanks for all the help he's had during the year, handing out two awards and announcing his charity donations before handing over his robes to the new Mayor. Jonathan is hoping to do this with Mayor elect, Councillor Pasco Hussain, in person in the Town Hall, all being well. Incidentally The High Court ruled on Wednesday that from May 7, council meetings in England must take place 'in person' - dashing hopes that remote meetings would be able to continue after the coronavirus restrictions, which allowed them to take place.

Mayor Pallant wanted us to let our readers know that the Council are currently co-opting for two councillor vacancies. The detail are on the Town Council website. If anyone is interested in applying he encourages them to attend the 5 May (zoom) meeting to get a feel for how the Council is run. The closing date is 10 May and the Council hope to be selecting the new councillors at their June meeting. Finally Mayor Pallant told *The Riverporter* that he was delighted to report that the toilets at the Bus Station are still in operation!

The Council announced that a Civic Sunday and Parade will be held this year (Covid restrictions allowing of course) on Sunday the 18th July.

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.

Town Team News

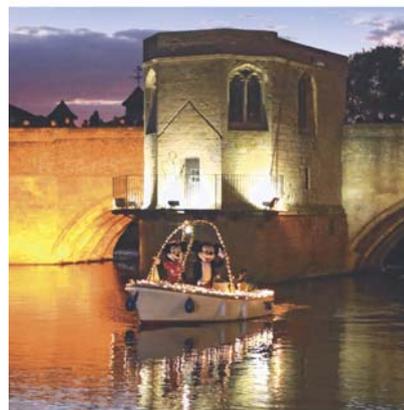
St Ives Town Team, which works closely with the Town Council to promote the town, is busy organising events for later this year including The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival, The Old Riverport Ukelele Festival and the Illuminated Boat Parade.

The Team has also been working during the lockdown on producing a new leaflet to attract visitors from the Northstowe area and amending its website.

The new site has been simplified to make it easy to find what is on in town and where visitors can get vital information such as how to get here, where to camp, walk or hire a boat and access to the other useful local websites.



THE ILLUMINATED BOAT PARADE



16th October 2021

The main website address is www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk although references to the riverport should continue to find it.

The team is delighted to announce that it has agreed a major sponsorship deal for the Jazz & Blues Festival with Ellis Winters Estate Agent. Their generous sponsorship will ensure that the Festival will be as good as ever, despite the additional costs as a result of Covid and there will be at least 23 wonderful FREE concerts over the four day Festival.

Thanks Ellis Winters.

ADVERTORIAL

Market Reflection

It's certainly a sellers' market with new instructions being at their lowest level for as long as I can remember.

Buyers are rushing around these new listings and are snapping them up within days, often several buyers are offering on the same houses with many being sold over the asking price. Great for the seller, until that is, they come to buy their next house and find they're having to pay a little extra as prices edge up, but it's all relative, "swings & roundabouts" as with all free markets.

The most asked question at the moment, "how long will this last?"

Well, probably another couple of months until the school holidays. Usually the market slows down from the middle of July until the end of August and this year, as lockdown eases, I'm sure that millions of people are going to want to get away from it all. Couple that with the end of the stamp duty holiday and I think that things will start to ease.

The lack of supply is probably all down to covid. Fewer people have been changing jobs and many are concerned about their job security, fewer new homes are being built, the lockdown has restricted movement and sellers have been worried about letting people into their homes.

As a consequence fewer people are moving and with the restricted supply there are more buyers than sellers, the result, higher prices!

As soon as lockdown eases though I'm sure they'll be more houses available and the market will settle down once again.

Are you buying or selling your home?
Get **FINANCIALLY & LEGALLY PREPARED (FLP)**

We'll help you move quicker and keep ahead of the competition.



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winters**