

# The Riverporter

PLEASE READ AND PASS ON

COVERING THE NEWS FOR ST IVES AND AROUND

Issue 209: 29 May 2026

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

## Can Andy keep it up for 24 hours?

**The amazing Andy Cranch will be at St Ives Bandstand on June 11th to attempt to complete one hundred thousand Keepie Uppies in 24 hours.**

Andy will be raising money for the children's hospice EACH and will start the challenge at 5am. Arranged to coincide with the start of the 2026 World Cup, Andy hopes to complete the challenge with time to spare and possibly beat some world records. So come on down and support Andy by giving a donation to this very important charity. You can give via Andy's JustGiving page or scan the QR-code.

Sorry Andy we couldn't resist doing a cartoon, see page 3.



## District Election results split evenly

**H**untingdonshire District Council faces an interesting period as the coalition of Lib Dems, Greens and Independents failed to get a majority. Although it intends to lead the Council, the new Joint Administration only represents half of the seats on the Council (26 of the 52 available).

Last week's first meeting of the new council, highlighted this, when some committee positions had to be referred to full council after a 50:50 vote.

The Council's composition is: 20 Lib Dems, 15 Conservatives, 10 Reform, 4 Independents, 2 Greens and 1 Labour. During the vote it was clear that the Conservatives and Reform were acting together, despite saying they wouldn't.

The single Labour member is Alex Bulat from St Ives South Ward and despite not being part of the administration group she may wield some power as her vote

could break a deadlock.

*The Riverporter* spoke to Alex about her situation and how she had voted or abstained at the meeting, which may have contributed to Conservatives being Chairs of some of the committees.

She said that she voted for the person she thought would do the best job, regardless of party.

She also said that in the main she is likely to support the new administration (which is led by Lib Dem Sarah Conboy) and is most unlikely to support any Reform candidates or proposals.

The positions agreed were:

Chair of the Council, Cllr S. Ferguson (Green), Vice-Chair, Cllr M. Burke (LD). Chair of Development Management Committee, Cllr W. Smith (LD), Vice-Chair, Cllr J. Hunt (LD). Chair of Corporate Governance Committee, Cllr P. Hodgson-Jones (Con), Vice Chair, Cllr J. Gray (Con). Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Performance & Growth), Cllr A. Wood (LD), Vice-Chair, Cllr L. Ascroft (LD). Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Environment, Communities & Partnerships), Cllr T. Alban (Con), Vice-Chair, Cllr S. Mokbul (Ind). Chair of Employment Committee, Cllr A. Blackwell (LD), Vice-Chair, Cllr S. Smith (Ind). Chair of Licensing & Protection Committee, Cllr N. Wells (LD), Vice-Chair, Cllr A. Hunt (LD).

## New Mayor, new Deputy and lots of awards



The annual Mayor Making took place on Wednesday 13 May when Cllr Alexander Thompson was elected as Mayor for 26/27. His Consort is Margaret King and the

Deputy Town Mayor is Jacqueline Spencer. Her Consort is Philip Pope. During his term of office, Mayor Thompson will be raising funds for 2331 (St Ives) Squadron Air Cadets, Dreamdrops Children's Charity, St Ives Hockey Club and St Ives Youth Theatre.

Outgoing Mayor, Julie Kerr welcoming a packed house of guests, public, staff and councillors. Her awards included:

**Millennium Shield** - Town Team.

**Community Challenge Award** - Mr Malcolm Harrington.

**Commerce in the Community Award** - Broadway Cellars.

**Volunteer of the Year Award** - Ms Emma Parker.

**Hidden Gem Award** - Civic Society.

**Care in the Community Award** - St Ives Against Rubbish.

**Heart of St Ives** - Awarded posthumously to David McCandless. **Sports Club of the Year** - St Ives Boxing Club.

A total of £12,330 was raised for the Mayor's chosen Charities, the schools of St Ives, and this will be split between them.

The Mayor also presented an additional fifteen 'Role of Honour' awards to other groups and individuals in recognition of their exceptional contribution and service to the town.

You can see a list of the recipients on page 3.

## DIARY OF EVENTS

Please email: [editor@theriverporter.uk](mailto:editor@theriverporter.uk)

### JUNE

**Wednesday 3rd** - Engage Talk: Why On Earth Would A Mayor Jump Out Of A Plane And Other Stories by Julie Kerr - 2pm, St Ives Library (donations welcome)

**Saturday 6th** - Repair Café - Methodist Church 1pm to 4pm.

**Saturday 6th/14th** - St Ives Great Big Green Week - 30 events see all at: <https://www.stivesinbloom.co.uk/st-ives-green-week>.

A special concert for  
**ST IVES GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK**



**The Native Oysters Band**

The Town Team are delighted to present this New Orleans-style marching band

Originally a community street band formed

for the Whitstable Oyster Festival parade, *The Native Oysters* have evolved into a funky, electrifying experience with tight, powerful horn arrangements and creamy, soulful vocals.

This FREE to attend concert has been arranged to start St Ives' Great Big Green Week in style.

**SATURDAY 6TH JUNE - 2PM AT THE BANDSTAND**

In the case of wet weather the concert will take place in St Ives Free Church, Market Hill.

A TOWN TEAM EVENT - DETAILS AT [WWW.STIVESCAMBRIDGESHIRE.CO.UK](http://WWW.STIVESCAMBRIDGESHIRE.CO.UK)

**Sunday 21st** - Picnic in the Park - 12 noon to 6 pm in Warners Park St Ives. With music and activities for children - Beer tent - Food stalls.

**Saturday 27th** - St Ives Choral Society Summer Medley Free Church, 7.30 [Ticketsource.co.uk/st-ives-choral-society](http://Ticketsource.co.uk/st-ives-choral-society).

### JULY

**Every Sunday** - Music on the Waits - The Bandstand 2 pm to 4 pm

**Saturday 4th** - St Ives Community Choir's Summer Concert 7.30pm St Ives Free Church.

**Saturday 11th** - Songs from a Big Country - a concert by the Meridian Singers at St Mary's Church Bluntisham at 7pm. Tickets £10.

**Saturday 11th/12th** - St Ives Carnival and Music Festival.

**Sunday 12th** - WOW! Day Walk The Ouse Valley Way between St Neots and Earith, a FREE event. Details - [greatousevalleytrust.org.uk](http://greatousevalleytrust.org.uk).

## A series of concerts celebrating the 600th anniversary of St Ives Bridge Chapel

The concerts taking place at 7.30pm in the Chapel are almost fully subscribed. It is important that the people who have booked seats should attend. If you decide not to, you should let Ticketsource know at least a week before so your seats can be re-allocated.

**JUNE Saturday 13th** - Les Moutons Noirs Choir.

**Friday 26th** - Dan Ecclestone and friends.

**JULY Friday 17th** - Kaveri Blues - Ranjan Vasudevan.

**Friday 31st** - Picking with a heart - David Youngs.

**AUG Friday 28th** - Percussion evening - Derek Scurliff.

Read on-line at [www.theriverporter.uk](http://www.theriverporter.uk) or see our Facebook page. Email: [editor@theriverporter.uk](mailto:editor@theriverporter.uk)

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Supported by  
**BOONGATE KIA**  
Peterborough PE1 5JA, Tel: 01733 346344

**Screen St Ives** Community Cinema

**Hamnet**  
Thursday 4 June 2026 at 7:30pm, Tickets £7  
Director: Chloé Zhao (2025), 126m, Cert: 12

Hamnet is a fictionalised historical drama, based on Maggie O'Farrell's 2020 novel Hamnet, directed by Chloé Zhao, exploring the profound grief of William Shakespeare (Paul Mesca) and his wife Agnes (Jessie Buckley) following the death of their 11-year-old son, Hamnet, from the Black Plague in 1590s Warwickshire. The film focuses on their different ways of coping—Agnes through intense, earthy mourning and William through creative escape in London—eventually inspiring the writing of his masterpiece, Hamlet.

**One Battle After Another**  
Thursday 2 July 2026 at 7:30pm, Tickets £7  
Director: Paul Anderson (2025), 115m, Cert: 15

One Battle After Another, directed by Paul Thomas Anderson, is a dark satire following Bob (Leonardo DiCaprio), a former left-wing revolutionary living quietly until his daughter is kidnapped. Set in a fascist, dystopian America, Bob is hunted by "Lockjaw" (Sean Penn), a manic military man obsessed with Bob's former partner. The film is a chaotic, comedic thriller exploring generational trauma, the failure of 60s radicalism, and surveillance culture as Bob attempts to rescue his daughter.

Tickets at [screenstives.org.uk](http://screenstives.org.uk) or in the Corn Exchange

## Do you want to find out about birds, bees and other pollinators?

If so join in with the St Ives Great Big Green Week celebrations where you can save money, save the planet and have fun with community music and dance events. Starting on Saturday 6th at the Farmers' Market, plus (on The Waits) community gardening, a Free Band Concert and a Repair Café. The week continues with walks, talks, coffee mornings, Morris dancing and even, on Wednesday 10th June, a fantastic Green Marketplace Community Afternoon at Burleigh Hill followed by a **Fairtrade Wine Tasting and Green Quiz Evening** for only £8 a ticket (£5 for Co-op members). (Email the Free Church for details and your ticket: [office@stivesfreechurch.org](mailto:office@stivesfreechurch.org).)

Look at the week's timetable for all the details <https://www.stivesinbloom.co.uk/st-ives-green-week/>, search for St Ives Green Week on Facebook, or email [stivescocafe@gmail.com](mailto:stivescocafe@gmail.com) if you would like a paper copy of the timetable.

**FAIR TRADE WINE-TASTING AND QUIZ**  
Green Week themed

**When: 7pm**  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2026

**Where: Free Church, Market Hill, St Ives, PE27 5AL**

**How much: £5 for Co-op members - please bring your card; £8 for non-members**  
Max 6 per team for the Quiz

Event sponsored by The Co-op, also sponsors of Green Week events.

**FUNDRAISING with FUN!** at the Free Church, St Ives

**THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK**

**Our COOP**

Together for good

ADVERTORIAL

## Living your life your way is so important

**A**t Care UK's Field Lodge in St Ives, every resident is supported to live their life the way they choose. Our experienced team takes pride in offering quality residential, nursing, dementia and respite care.

Angela, a Care UK care home resident, shares how the support and reassurance of the team has improved her confidence - and her health. 'I feel very reassured' Moving into a care home is a big change. That's why our teams take extra care to help residents settle in quickly and effortlessly. Angela says the consistent support not only made her feel safe, but also comfortable and confident in her new home. 'I only have to ask if I want anything,' Angela says, particularly from the maintenance team. 'They repaired my broken pen in just a moment's notice. They've hung up my many pictures and helped me to plant bulbs and plants in the patio garden. I feel very reassured and supported in my daily life.'

Knowing that the home provides 24-hour care gives Angela peace of mind. 'I like to know that the team is checking on me regularly during the day and night. At first, I thought it was a bit intrusive, but now I realise it is a very secure feeling to know somebody's checking on you so frequently.'



### 'My health has improved'

Not only has the team's care helped Angela to live a more comfortable life, but it has also had a measurable impact on her health. 'My health has improved a lot,' she says. 'I feel calmer and happier than at home where I lived alone. In fact, the district nurse took my blood pressure the other day and it was normal for the first time for years because I'm relaxed.' Angela's physical health is also supported by exercise sessions run by the home's activities team. When living on her own, Angela travelled to exercise classes, but

after she stopped driving she could no longer attend. Now, she enjoys being active again. 'I take full advantage of all of those,' she says.

### Trust us to care

Our team provides support and reassurance to ensure every element of your loved one's experience is safe and comfortable. Care UK is a leading independent care home provider with some of the highest quality ratings of the UK's larger care providers, and over 40 years' experience of delivering high-quality care to older people. For more information about Field Lodge in St Ives, call 01480 710673 or visit [careuk.com/field-lodge](http://careuk.com/field-lodge)

## Piano in the Chapel may return in June

Having a piano in the Bridge Chapel for a week, that anyone could play proved extremely popular with over 100 performers and 1000 visitors. Visitors came from far and wide and left comments in a diary:

*I have enjoyed it so much. A lovely place and town - Ilana from Israel.*

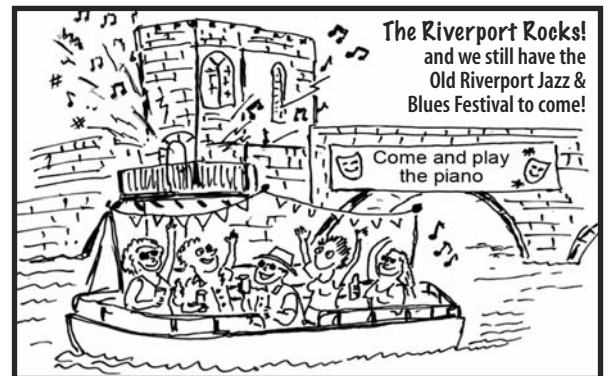
*I could probably do with some practice! - Andrew.*

*I have lived in St Ives since 1974 and have never been in the Chapel before. It is WONDERFUL - Carol.*

*I played the piano in the Chapel on my 11th birthday - Pippa from Australia.*

*I have just enjoyed listening to three generations of my family play in this beautiful venue. I hope it becomes a regular event - Jean from Houghton.*

Clips of some of the performances were put on the Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival Facebook page,



**The Riverport Rocks!** and we still have the Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival to come!

Come and play the piano

including 15yr old Stan Wright who played his saxophone on the balcony - this has been viewed 40,000 times. Our final pianist of the week was the amazing St Petersburg Conservatory pianist, Oksana King, who came from Market Harborough to play. Her recording has been seen by 5,000 viewers. The Town Team are hoping to repeat the week in June.

**Flea on the Quay**  
NEXT ONE 14TH JUNE

## ENJOY BREAKFAST AT THE FLEA ON THE QUAY

Get 20% off bacon or sausage bap and coffee at **THE TAPROOM**

Visit the Town Team stall and collect your voucher to take advantage of this special offer.

The market is on from 10am to 1pm on 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month - May to September.

To reserve a table for just £5 please call Sandra on 07913 346845 or email: [townteam@stivescambridgeshire.co.uk](mailto:townteam@stivescambridgeshire.co.uk)

COLLECTABLES • CURIOUS ITEMS • CRAFTS • OBJETS D'ART • ANTIQUES



having your say . . .

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

Jeffery, our new News Hound.  
He's barking mad!

PLEASE NOTE: Letters are reproduced as presented by the writer. Editing is confined to grammatical corrections or minor trimming to fit the space. *The Riverporter* neither condones nor condemns the opinions expressed.

Dear Milly & Tilly,

I thought you might like a Report on our Eco Café in May.

Fast Fashion is the second worst polluter worldwide after oil and gas; that's shocking! At our May Eco Café we learnt so much about Fast Fashion, realising that we need to think a little more when considering our clothes . . . save a beloved garment with a new zip or fresh buttons, upcycle if it no longer fits – and of course, think before we buy! Do we wish to have even more fabrics made from plastics that can pollute the seas as we wash and eventually throw them away? We can wash on a cooler cycle and use a machine with a filter, but what happens to the microplastics in the filter . . . and in the end what happens to the garment? And do we ask who made it and consider the conditions endured by the workers, plus the waste discharge from factories? Perhaps we are guilty of encouraging this because we don't see it for ourselves.

We might think that charity shops are the answer to our feelings of guilt, but if the clothes need a new zip, are damaged or not clean they are binned.

Carrie Johnson wore a hired outfit for her wedding; perhaps we, too, should think about hiring for a one-off event. At least the larger companies like M&S and John Lewis are now taking clothes for recycling; we hope they are doing this responsibly and thus saving local authorities the cost of disposal or going to landfill.

Let's stop our spur of the moment buying and learn to treasure what we have; a simple repair . . . then try the Repair Café.

The next is 6 June, 1 – 4pm at the Methodist Church; to book email stivesrepaircafe@gmail.com / 07377 01 4401 or take along on the day for assessment. There's also Sew, Mend & Save (second Weds 2 – 4pm at the Burleigh Hill Centre) or one of the shops in town. stivesecocafe@gmail.com

# The Riverporter

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

## OTHER NEWS

### Mayor's 'Role of Honour' awards

The Mayor presented an additional fifteen 'Role of Honour' awards in recognition of exceptional contribution and service to the town to:

**Mathew Setchell** - St Ives Flood Action Group; **Jenny Spencer** - volunteer and event support in the community; **St John Ambulance** - valuable service in the community; **Sally Stenton** - volunteer with creative projects; **Anna Marie Gauge** - phenomenal rubbish collection efforts; **Butterfly Legacy Project** - charity fundraising; **Daniel Smith** - volunteer and community work; **Karen Alexander** - volunteer for community and civic events; **Anthony Stanton** - St Ives Cares supporter; **St Ives Cares Advisory Panel** - support the St Ives Cares project; **Erica Price** - Methodist Café morning volunteer; **Rebecca Chapman** - STAR volunteer; **Friends of the Norris Museum** - serve as external members; **Gerald Brunning** - Darby & Joan; **Sid Fisher** - Nobles Field and Darby & Joan; **Lily Robinson** - Mayor's Cadet.

### Laura is running again . . .

Laura Bird is currently running 31 marathons in 31 days for children's charity Rays of Sunshine. That's 812.2 miles in a month, aiming to raise £31,000. She is currently on nearly £16,000. The marathons start and finish every day at One Leisure Indoor Centre.



The routes vary every day and lots of local runners have already taken part.

### New Youth Group in St Ives

Are you aged 13-17 and not in full-time education? Are you neurodivergent or looking to meet others who understand you? Then come and join Rebuild, Share, Connect - a group created by young people just like you. We'll be meeting on Fridays from 5th June 1-3pm in the Burleigh Hill Community Centre on Constable Road. This is a group run by St Ives Town Council's Youth Engagement Participation Coordinator, Charlotte, so if you have any questions email her at youth@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk. We're also looking for volunteer support.

### Fun and games at the seaside

*The Riverporter* has received a copy of an anonymous letter that was posted to five Whitby Town Council HR committee members, urging them to consider whether to confirm Ryan Fuller's appointment as Whitby Town Clerk. The letter sent by 'members of the community of St Ives' listed information about Mr Fuller whilst he lived here. It even listed articles in *The Riverporter* verifying these comments. We also received a copy of an email sent by Mr Fuller to HR members, refuting the 'spurious allegations' about him. Of course we tried to find out who wrote the letter but no-one we asked admitted to it. Mr Fuller seemed to know the perpetrator as he claimed he had 'endured this type of harassment from the author for many years' and 'had to go to the Police, who treated it as a stalking and harassment case'. It would appear that Mr Fuller causes concern wherever he goes as we understand there is an ongoing issue with Kents Hill & Monkston Parish Council, where he was Clerk until moving to Whitby. Due to lack of space we are unable to print the letter sent to Whitby which is in our online version.



## Summer CHARITY CONCERT



Saturday 13th June, 7.30pm

St Ives Free Church, Market Hill St Ives, Cambs PE27 5AL

An evening with

Huntingdon Male Voice Choir  
& Westfield Junior School Choir



Tickets £12.50, Interval refreshments available

Book tickets at [www.trybooking.com/uk/GGOI](http://www.trybooking.com/uk/GGOI)  
or scan the QR code





St Ives Electric Riverboat Co



# Great Ouse RIVER TRIPS & Self Drive Hire

## PASSENGER TRIPS FROM THE QUAY

### Houghton Mill Trip

Join us for a wonderful boat trip along The River Great Ouse followed by a tour of Houghton Mill. The trip will leave St Ives Quay every Wednesday, heading under St Ives Bridge towards Houghton via Hemingford Lock.

The trip includes a tour of Houghton Mill which will be led by one of their guides, returning to the quay at the end of the day.

This trip is run in conjunction with the National Trust and is proving popular for everyone. National Trust members look for member prices.

Please contact us for details.



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# Why pay eye-watering prices for eyewear?

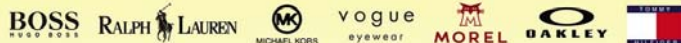
## EyeSpecs

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OR scan the QR code to visit our website

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25 Edison Road  
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Cams  
PE27 3LF

Open Monday to Friday 9-5  
Saturday 9-1 (by appointment)  
PARKING AVAILABLE



# The COURTYARD St Ives

Boutique Market featuring over 30 independent traders

Located in the cobbled courtyard of Hyperion Auctions in St Ives, you will find our unique market style shopping experience.

30 independent local businesses, selling everything from crafts to home wares, furniture, trinkets, gifts, baby clothes, refurbished items, retro chic, books, artisan jewellery and much much more.

While you're browsing why not take a seat in our outdoor café for coffees and snacks made by our excellent Barista here in the Courtyard.

Scan the QR code to find out more about us!



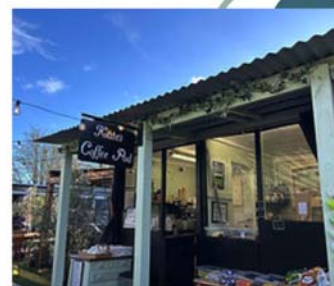
Awarded the "Business in the Community Award" from the Mayor of St Ives

Come and visit!!

Opening times:  
Mon - Sat : 9am - 5pm  
Sun: 10am - 4pm



Station road, St Ives, Cambs, PE27 3BH



This letter was sent anonymously by someone from St Ives to five members of Whitby Town Council's Human Resources Committee (see RP 209 page 3).

St Ives  
Cambridgeshire

Wednesday 29 April, 2026

Dear Members of the Whitby Town Council Human Resources Committee,

**Ref: Town Clerk Ryan Fuller**

We are writing to you in utmost good faith as members of the community of St Ives in Cambridgeshire who have known Ryan Fuller since his early years. We have recently become aware of your appointment of Ryan Fuller as the Town Clerk of Whitby Town Council through a local wholly independent St Ives newspaper which details his appointment. (See attached).

We are aware that Mr Fuller is currently in his 6-month probation period, and so will not yet have had his appointment confirmed. Therefore, we would like to make you aware of information pertaining to Mr Fuller which you may not have access to in North Yorkshire.

We will restrict what we include in this letter to information which can easily be verified by the local news. Further reading see:  
<https://www.theriverporter.uk>

Issue 7 – 20 April 2018  
Issue 109 – 6 May 2022  
Issue 126 – 13 Jan 2023  
Issue 128 – 10 Feb 2023

We know Ryan Fuller to have an ability to deploy charms and persuasion skills and to make himself indispensable. He targeted local community groups and befriended local community volunteers, with the aim of climbing the local political ladder, and he succeeded, but with considerable notoriety. He continued to exploit those same people and groups to serve his career furtherance purposes. But his early political exploits in the town were marked by duplicity, double-dealing and deceit.

He ingratiated himself with our local MP, Jonathan Djanogly, working for a time as his assistant, and subsequently made for himself a platform as a district council executive leader, but much of his involvement on the town and district councils has been divisive and confrontational in nature.

'The Riverporter' newspaper has followed Mr Fuller's political antics throughout. In 2018 as local Agent for the Conservatives, he brought the local Party into disrepute and Private Eye notoriety by registering all local Conservatives as Independents on the nomination papers in a deliberate and cynical attempt to confuse the electorate. (See Riverporter No 7).

The latest issue reminds us of the fact that, although still a County Councillor, he failed to attend any meetings for three years from May 2022 when he lost his District Council seat, until the next council election in May 2025. Yet he continued to take his £11,500 annual salary. (He did show up once every six months, *allegedly from Thailand*), sign in and then leave the meeting). This is well known in the town and well documented.

There is a You Tube video of Cambridgeshire County Councillors speaking in Council about Fuller's continued absence and his travel time from Thailand.

The continued interest of 'The Riverporter' newspaper, and its readers in Mr Fuller's career, some 4 years since he was last seen in the Town in May 2022 when, as executive leader of the Council, he was defeated in the Huntingdonshire District Council election, is itself indicative of the level of notoriety and disdain he achieved in St Ives.

This information alone should lead you to question Mr Fuller's character and principles and ask yourselves whether he is a fit person to serve your Council, supervise your Town Hall staff and oversee the management of your finances.

We assume you have obtained references, but we urge you to delve much deeper into his past employment (*prior to 2022 we know of no actual employment other than local councillor and political positions*), and employment gaps. We also urge you to require and check certificates proving his supposed qualifications.

We have first- and second- hand evidence that letters sent by St Ivisians to their former MP were intercepted by Ryan Fuller as his parliamentary assistant, and then either ignored or replied to by him dismissively in the name of the MP. For that reason, we are sending this letter to your home addresses, as we know that you would never see it if it were to fall into the hands of the Town Clerk.

And we know what Mr Fuller is capable of on a personal level when crossed which is why we are sending this letter anonymously. We need to protect ourselves, as must you in your

lovely seaside town of Whitby.

We sincerely hope that we have helped you, the Personnel Committee and your fellow councillors in your considerations whether to confirm Mr Fuller in his employment.

We wish you all the best.

**Sent to:**

Cllr Heather Coughlan  
Cllr Jane McLaren  
Cllr Chris Riddolls  
Cllr (Mr Mayor) Sandra Turner  
Cllr Linda Wild

*The Riverporter* would like to state that it, nor its Editors have had anything to do with this letter. Images of the letter were sent to us out-of-the-blue and the fact that *The Riverporter* is mentioned several times in the letter is totally coincidental. We were unaware of the content of the letter until we received the images of it.