



A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Who will control the District?

In two weeks time the local elections will be over and we should see who our Town and District Councillors are. With Local Government Reorganisation on the horizon these elections seem a little lacklustre compared to previous years.

Of the four Town Council wards three are uncontested, therefore the following are already elected:
Beech Ward - Margaret King
South Ward - Pasco Hussain, Jeff Massey, Andrew Riddell, Craig Smith, Alexander Thompson, John Tiddy and Nic Wells.
West Ward - Julie Elizabeth Kerr, Jacqueline Spencer and Lisa Valla.
 Meanwhile six of the seven candidates in the **North Ward** will complete the Town Council following the elections. The seven candidates are: Keith Brown, Michael Burke, Martin Gill, Shariqa Mokbul, Phil Pope, Noah Sanderson and Laura Thompson.
 There are five District Council seats being contested by all the main parties and two independents.

HDC list of Candidates

St Ives East Ward (2 seats)
 Paul Bullen Conservative
 Michael Burke Liberal Democrats
 Martin Gill Conservative
 Mandy Harrington Reform UK
 Simon Jordan Liberal Democrats
 Shariqa Mokbul Independent
 Louise Newberry Green Party
 Noah Sanderson Reform UK
 Luke Viner Labour

St Ives South Ward (2 seats)
 Peter Brasher Green Party
 Alex Bulat Labour
 William Deacon Labour
 Paul Dickinson Reform UK
 Natasha Fatio Reform UK
 Cath Gleadow Liberal Democrats
 Andrew Riddell Conservative
 Craig Thomas Conservative
 Nic Wells Liberal Democrats

St Ives West Ward (1 seat)

Cheryl Cannon Conservative
 Patricia Jordan Liberal Democrats
 Julie Kerr Independent
 Max Mulcrone Reform UK
 Rose Williams The Green Party

Will Reform make a mark?
 It is difficult to see Reform taking seats in St Ives but in the District as a whole they may. Currently the Conservatives are the largest group although the Lib Dems, working with other parties, control the Council. They have seen success and with a full slate of candidates may retain control. What happens to the Labour and Conservative votes is likely to affect the overall make-up of the Council, which will certainly look different after Thursday 7th May.

Does developer Gladman really seek your views?



Having published the leaflet (left) about a 600 house development off Marley Road, Gladman say this is your opportunity to shape their proposals before a planning application is made. Having seen the response on-line it seems doubtful that the public will support the proposals at all due to the lack of infrastructure which is already unable to cope. We suggest that you keep an eye out for Town Council surgeries at the farmers' market, where you will be able to raise concerns and hear what councillors are proposing.

What about the birds and bees?

Usually we like to put a nice picture here, especially at this time of year as everything is bursting into life. Thanks to our County Council the London Road entrance to St Ives now looks like this! Not only does it look appalling, but according to Ian Jackson this work has contravened the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1961 by destroying bird nesting habitat during the bird nesting period from March through August. The County has yet to respond.



DIARY OF EVENTS

Please email: editor@theriverporter.uk

MAY

- Saturday 2nd - Silent Disco** - 8pm to Midnight St Ives Corn Exchange featuring Motown, Disco, Rock playlists from DJ Michael. Tickets £7
- Monday 4th/10th - Open Piano at the Chapel** - Ever wanted to play music in our Bridge Chapel? Now is your chance. see page 2.
- Wednesday 6th - Engage Talk: Tree Rings and What They Tell Us** by Cambridge University - 2pm, St Ives Library (donations)
- Saturday 9th - St Ives Eco Cafe** at the Library from 10am on for a discussion about sustainable fashion and plastic waste.
- Sunday 10th and 24th - Flea on The Quay** - 10am to 1pm. To book a table (just £5) call Sandra on 07913 346845.
- Wednesday 13th - Mayor Making** - St Ives Corn Exchange 7.15pm.
- Friday 15th - Civic Society - The Life of Lord Fairhaven:** 7.30pm at the Free Church. Members free, visitors £3.
- Saturday 16th - St Ives Community Information Day** - St Ives Corn Exchange and the Free Church 10am to 1pm.
- Friday 29th - Lunch Time Concert** 'The Two Richards' Violin and Piano - St Ives Free Church 1pm.
- Friday 29 May - The Houndogs** - Fundraising concert for The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival. 8pm St Ives Corn Exchange. Tickets £15 from the venue or www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents.

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/13th - St Ives Great Big Green Week** - starts with a free concert at 2pm at the bandstand with The Native Oysters Band.
- Sunday 21st - Picnic in the Park** - 12 noon to 6 pm in Warners Park St Ives. With music from Si Dartford, So 80s, Denim Roses, Joyrider. PLUS activities for children - Beer tent - Food stalls.

JULY

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

A SERIES OF CONCERTS CELEBRATING THE 600TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST IVES BRIDGE CHAPEL

These free concerts take place at 7.30pm in the Chapel. Due to limited space tickets must be booked: www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives

JUNE

- Saturday 13th - Les Moutons Noirs Choir** 15th century music.
- Friday 26th - Dan Ecclestone plays Radiohead.** Pianist Dan accompanied by friends, will also play tracks from his new album.

JULY

- Friday 17th - Kaveri Blues** - a Hindustani classical music concert with Dr Ranjan Vasudevan on specially tuned guitar (sitar), Vivek Dinesh on violin and Abhiram Sahathevan on Mridangam (drum).
- Friday 31st - Picking with a heart** - Percussive acoustic fingerstyle guitar concert with David Youngs.

AUGUST

- Friday 28th - An evening of Percussion** with composer and arranger Derek Scurl on drums and Vibraphone.

Supported by
BOONGATE KIA
Peterborough PE1 5JA, Tel: 01733 344344

Screen St Ives Community Cinema

I SWEAR
Thursday 7 May 2026 at 7:30pm
Doors open 6:30pm. Tickets £7
Director: Kirk Jones (2025), 121m, Cert: 15

I swear is a drama that tells the true story of John Davidson (played by Robert Aramayo), a Scottish campaigner who, despite having severe Tourette's Syndrome—which includes physical tics and uncontrollable outbursts—became an advocate for the condition. The film shows his battles with bullying and abuse in the 1980s, his path to adulthood and his ultimate triumph in raising awareness. It delves into the tough realities of living with Tourette's, highlighting the 'cruelty and misunderstanding' John experienced while also including moments of humour, uplifting and moving scenes that celebrate life.

CALLING STALL HOLDERS

Do you want to sell your goods or unwanted items?

Flea on the Quay
The Town Team will be running a Flea Market at The Quay on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month from 10am to 1pm - May to September, starting on 10th May. If you wish to have a stall for just £5 contact Sandra on **07913 346845** or email: townteam@stivescambridgeshire.co.uk

COLLECTABLES • CURIOUS CRAFTS • OBJETS D'ART BRIC A BRAC • ANTIQUES



Come and play the Piano in the Chapel

Ever wanted to play music in our Bridge Chapel? Now's your chance ...

Come and see Dan Ecclestone start the proceedings off at 10am on 4th May

The chapel will be open everyday for a week and all players are welcome. There may be some occasional filming & broadcasting by the Town Team but you can ask for that to be switched off during your set.

TIMETABLE:
Mon 4th May 10am - 4pm
Tues 5th to Thurs 7th May 11am - 2pm and 3pm - 7pm
Friday 8th May 1pm - 7pm
Sat 9th May 10am - 8pm
Sun 10th May 10am - 4pm
For details email: townteam@stivescambridgeshire.co.uk

TOOKEY'S CAFE

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Could you help out in our friendly cafe?

We're seeking for volunteers for Tookey's cafe!

- Work on a weekly or a monthly basis on the same day or be a reserve if someone is unable to do their shift due to unforeseen circumstances.
- Staff always work in twos and will receive training from an experienced volunteer
- There are **two** shifts daily: **Monday 9.30-11.30 and 11.30-2pm**, (no cooking required, no handling of money, simply writing food orders to give to paid staff.) **Tuesday- Saturday (NOT Thursday) 9.30 - 12pm and 12 - 2pm.** Allow time for setting up and clearing away.

If you are able to volunteer or know any family or friends who could help please contact
Pat Clarke 07876354442

Ely Folk Festival celebrates 40 years

Festival patrons Boo Hewerdine and Brooks Williams will host a specially curated afternoon of music on Sunday featuring top secret guests!

Ely Folk Festival is on from 10th – 12th July at the Stuntney Estate adjacent to Ben's Yard.

There will be a number of special items on the bill to celebrate the anniversary including an exhibition in the bar with photos, programmes and memorabilia across the years.

On Friday Merry Hell will be headlining the main stage with their joyful and uplifting folk-rock with a message. Saturday sees folk legend Steve Knightley take the stage with his new band The Winter Yards to perform new



Photo Nigel Graver

songs, old Show of Hands favourites and maybe the odd unusual cover.

Sam Kelly and the Lost Boys will also make a welcome return on Saturday after their hugely popular Friday headlining set at the festival last year. On Sunday another folk legend in former Steeleye Span man Peter Knight brings his Gigspanner Big Band to Ely. The band includes Phillip Henry and Hannah Martin aka Edgelarks and John Spiers of Bellowhead and Spiers and Boden fame.

There will also be performances from bluegrass stars The Coal Porters, featuring the legendary Sid Griffin of Long Ryders fame, folk stars Hannah Sanders and Ben



Savage playing one acoustic set and a full band one, high energy Celtic-folk from Greenman Rising, powerful songs from Grace Petrie, beautiful harmonies from True Foxes and many more.

The festival also has a local music showcase, an 'open mic' competition with the chance to play on the main stage, ceilidhs, workshops and a large children's entertainment programme including Nick Cope of CBeebies fame. There's an outstanding real ale bar too, with over 25 real ales and ciders, an enormously popular gin bar and a wide range of mouth-watering food as well as plenty of tempting craft stalls. Tickets are available from: <https://elyfolkfestival.co.uk/tickets>

Do you find that local buses go where & when you need them to?

And would you fly when you could go by train? At April's Eco Café we discussed travel questions and problems, like it taking three changes of bus to reach Ely! We all felt we need more information but also more joined-up thinking by the bus companies; do they actually ask us where and when we'd like to travel? The recent Bridge magazine, delivered to local residents, has an

excellent diagram on the back showing routes out of St Ives; we could do with more clear information like this. However, lack of advertising means that the local bus to Bedford is ceasing. For those cycling there is now a map of cycle routes around the County available at libraries; excellent. And if you're going to Stansted there's a bus from Huntingdon - but not late evenings.

As for flying, did you know that France has banned domestic flights when a direct train takes less than 2.5 hours? Should we do that in the UK? A train from London to Paris emits 2kg carbon per passenger compared to 61.5kg by air. However, we have few such trains here. We increased our attendance in April so perhaps you will consider coming to our next Eco Café about Sustainable Fashion & What to Do about Fabric Waste - see the diary on page 1.

Could you volunteer?

The Civic Society needs help to promote its events or research some of the town's historic sites? We are an independent volunteer-led charity run by a small group of trustees, local residents ourselves, who promote the town's identity heritage, preserve its heritage & shape proposals for its future development. Our expanding events calendar has created new opportunities for volunteers:

- ◆ as an event coordinator to ensure the event calendar syncs with our agenda process and create publicity materials & social media posts;
- ◆ as a coordinator to help find, meet & greet speakers, file their presentations, take occasional notes;
- ◆ as local history researchers to help us compile the back stories of the town's historic features, digitise documents, create web content.

Whilst the work is not remunerated, the work is local, the hours are flexible and can be undertaken at home. If you could help us to deliver in any of these three areas we would love to hear from you? All enquiries to Chair@stivescivic.org.uk www.stivescivic.org.uk

St Ives Youth Theatre presents Back To The 80's from 22nd-25th July, at the Burgess Hall

Join Corey Palmer as he reminisces on his senior year at William Ocean High School, competing for the heart of Tiffany Houston against the coolest guy in school, Michael Feldman. Throw in some nostalgic tunes, exciting dances, a couple of lightsabers, and some legwarmers, and you've got a great night of 80's fun for all the family!

Tickets available from <https://siyt.co.uk/box-office.html>
Adults £15, concession £10, family £40.



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,

The Councillor's response to my letter, ignores the fact that we vote for the political party the person represents, not the individual as such. If they move from that party, their seat should become vacant, as they no longer represent that party, and should result in an immediate by election or a replacement from their political party. Cost for the by election should be borne by the defector. **Anthony**

Dear Anthony In the UK you are voting for the candidate (the person) not for a party. If you decide to cast your vote for a person because of the party they represent that is up to you, but in law it is the person you are voting for regardless of the party they represent. **ED.**

Dear Milly and Tilly,

I was going to Somersham the other day, about mid day. When, on the Harrison Way we came to a grinding halt at the roundabout near the several offices complex. I had two passengers Vic and John who are not known for their patience. We inched forward and eventually got to the Morrisons/Aldi roundabout. The A1123 is an acknowledged important trunk route, not helped by the siting of large food stores and offices at this critical junction. As we prepared to turn left we realised that a light controlled pedestrian crossing had been installed hard up to the roundabout and yes, one person had again just operated the lights.

John piped up 'YOU CANNOT BE SERIOUS' and Victor added 'I DO NOT BELIEVE IT'. I said 'Come on guys, no one would deliberately screw up an important roundabout, there

must be a reason for all this. Maybe they are thinking of putting a new Northern By-Pass around the Town thus freeing up further farm land for building. But I grant you it would be nice to know. **Richard**

Dear Milly & Tilly,

It is, of course, tragic that three people have been killed on the guided busway. But a sensible response would have been to carry on as normal and accept that, although accidents happen, they are exactly that and that the vast majority of people are perfectly capable of keeping out of the way of buses.

Unfortunately, however, we live in an age where Health and Stupidity rules so instead we are being subjected to months and months of inconvenience in the form of detours and speed restrictions so that necessary - or unnecessary, depending on your point of view - safeguards are being put in place.

And on the subject of detours - what is happening between Histon and Orchard Park? Twenty weeks to put up a bit of fence - that's ridiculous! If the work has to be done surely the long suffering passengers are entitled to expect it to be done as expeditiously as possible and not, as appears to be the case, in geological time. **J. Lee**

Dear Milly & Tilly,

Year in year out we pay more and more in our Council Tax for an invisible or non-existent police force. Police officers in our town are rarer than hen's teeth. Meanwhile shoplifting and some other crimes are soaring. If this was a voluntary subscription, I would not renew it. **Anthony**

PLAYERS TO PERFORM SMASH HIT MUSICAL

The Centre Theatre Players are in the final stages of rehearsal for their forthcoming production of Dolly Parton's smash hit Musical 9 to 5 which they are performing in the Burgess Hall of One Leisure, St Ives on May 6th - 9th, evenings at 7.30pm with a 2pm. matinee on Saturday.

First produced on Broadway in 2009 the show contains some great iconic musical numbers, an hilarious story of friendship, thought provoking and revenge tinged with a touch of romance. Supported by a live band this promises to be a great evening of entertainment and one not to be missed.

The show will be directed by Matthew Wilson and Amy Barker who will be taking on their second directing role for the Players following their very successful production of Beauty and the Beast in 2025.

Tickets for the show are selling fast so to avoid any disappointment book your tickets now, available on line from www.ticketsource.co.uk/burgesshall or from the One Leisure main reception.

**SATURDAY
6TH JUNE 2026**

**ST IVES
Repair Café**

WHERE?
St Ives Methodist Church
The Waits, PE27 5BY • 1pm - 4pm

WHAT?
A regular pop up to repair loved items, bikes, jewellery, electricals, tool sharpening, sewing repairs, ceramics, electronics and much more...
Repaired by expert volunteers.

HOW?
Book a slot:
Email: stivesrepaircafe@gmail.com
or Voicemail: 07377014401
You can bring items on the day for assessment.
Donations Welcome Cash or Card

 Enjoy drinks and home made cake..

The Riverporter

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

OTHER NEWS

Do you know when St Ivo Feast Day is?

Ian Squire, a special needs teacher for many years with a passion to help enable disability sport, does and he is riding from Lytham to St Ives to celebrate it.

He is taking 4 days to get here for the feast day of St Ivo which is on this Friday 24th April, so keep an eye out for him. We couldn't find any celebrations planned but Ian sent an email to St Ives parish church. He is hoping to raise £800 for disability golf. You can see his Go Fund me page at: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/disability-golf?lid=4tm7sxlkzoj6q>



Have you seen Nobles Field lately?



If so you may have wondered what's going on? Three huge areas staked off with hazard tape? The Great Ouse Valley Trust is pleased to announce the second stage of the habitat improvements funded by HDC's Biodiversity for All initiative. Now, we are hoping to see three large wildflower seedlings produce a spectacular display to support our dwindling insect populations. Further work later in the year will create more bird nesting opportunities. So, as well as providing a wonderful green space in the town for recreation - walkers, boaters, regattas - all supported by the Nobles Field Trust - the field can now begin to contribute more to nature, and its needs.

New bakery in town

The Cambridge Oven is opening in the old VK Gallery shop on Bridge Street. Offering everything from artisan breads to pastries. Jolita Durant (pictured) said the reaction has been 'great', adding a number of people in St Ives already travel to its shop in Cambridge, which opened in 2018.



Ryan Fuller finds a suitable home

The Riverporter has recently heard that Ryan Fuller, who disappeared after losing his HDC seat but continued to collect his £11,133 per annum County Council allowance until last May, has become Clerk to Whitby Town Council. It would appear to be a perfect job for Mr Fuller, who always seemed to have 'Something of the Night' about him.



In Riverporter issue 35 we printed the this cartoon (left) when he said he 'had brought together stakeholders from across the district to help in producing the masterplans'.

Not only is Mr Fuller knowledgeable about

council rules and regulations, something very useful for a town clerk, Whitby is renowned for its association with Bram Stoker's Dracula and its amazing Goth weekend, which should suit Mr Fuller perfectly.

Tory leaflet questioned

Claims in the Conservative leaflet that money allocated to regenerate Market Hill was spent on consultants by the Lib Dems has caused anger. Not surprisingly as it was the previous Tory run District Council that agreed the contracts. Those of us with long memories recall that it was also a Tory run council that took away money allocated to the town 20 years ago.

REGENERATE ST IVES TOWN CENTRE

St Ives has been let down by the Lib Dem led coalition at HDC. Money was allocated to regenerate Market Hill, but it was all spent on consultants and consultations. We want to see St Ives as the jewel in the crown of Huntingdonshire, not the forgotten town. We deserve so much better.

Ex Clerk onto third council . . .

Another old face has resurfaced. Matthew Price who was dismissed by St Ives Town Council in 2023 and was Clerk at Kings Langley until resigning in 2025 has been appointed as Parish Clerk & Responsible Officer at Waterbeach Parish Council.



St Ives Electric Riverboat Co



Great Ouse RIVER TRIPS & Self Drive Hire



Passenger Trips available from now until October leaving The Quay from 11am



Contact us about Self Drive Hire
Skippered Trips • Weddings
and Special Events
Tel. 07906 257308
www.electricriverboats.co.uk
info@electricriverboats.co.uk
*subject to river conditions.

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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 5B11