



Annual Report 2013/14

USEFUL NUMBERS

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY DIAL 999
AND ASK FOR THE SERVICE YOU REQUIRE.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY FLOODLINE

0845 988 1188

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY INCIDENT HOTLINE

0800 807 060

AGE CONCERN

01872 266388

RSPCA ANIMAL WELFARE

0300 1234 999

WESTERN POWER (ELECTRICAL)

0800 365 900

EDF ENERGY

0800 096 9000

SOUTH WEST WATER

0800 169 1144

BRITISH TELECOM

0800 800 151

TRAVELINE

0871 2002233

POLKYTH LEISURE CENTRE

01726 223696

WHEAL MARTYN MUSEUM

01726 850362

ST AUSTELL MOBILITY CENTRE

01726 624060

ST AUSTELL SHOP MOBILITY

01726 70706

RAILWAY ENQUIRIES

08457 484950

ST AUSTELL LIBRARY

0300 1234 111

THE EDEN PROJECT

01726 811911

PINE LODGE GARDENS

01726 73500

ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL

01726 223374

**Your guide to St Austell Town Council,
what we have achieved and
how to get in touch**

St Austell Town Council

St Austell Town Council
Room 231
St Austell One Shop
39 Penwinnick Road
St Austell
Cornwall PL25 5DR

Telephone: 01726 223374

E-mail: dpooley@staustelltc.cornwall.gov.uk

Website: www.staustelltowncouncil.com

Cornwall Council

Cornwall Council has wide ranging responsibilities, including:

- Education
- Social Services
- Highways and Transportation
- Determining Planning Applications and Development Control.
- Collection of Council Tax
- Benefits Administration
- Social Housing
- Libraries and Arts
- Fire Brigade
- Magistrates Courts and Probation Services
- Waste Disposal and Refuse collection
- Environmental Health
- Leisure and Parks
- Youth Services

Cornwall Council can be contacted at:

Cornwall Council
County Hall
Treyew Road
Truro
Cornwall TR1 3AY

Telephone: 0300 1234 100

E-mail: enquiries@cornwall.gov.uk

Website: www.cornwall.gov.uk



TOWN TEAM:
Clerk David
Pooley with
Deputy Clerk
Sara Gwilliams
and (seated)
assistant
Kimberley Gay

or **Cornwall Council**
One Stop Shop
39 Penwinnick Road
St Austell
PL25 5DR

In the 2013/14 civic year Cornwall Council had five Councillors representing St Austell. These were Councillors Brown, Bull, French, Heyward and King.

St Austell Town Council Councillors



	Boulton, Frank Bethel Ward 07804 667378 fbvra@outlook.com		Keast, John Mount Charles Ward 01726 61444 john@keast.myzen.co.uk
	Bradford, Val Bay Ward 01726 813540 val.ann.bradford@gmail.com		King, Gary Mount Charles Ward 01726 77944 gking@cornwall.gov.uk
	Brown, Malcolm Bethel Ward 01726 63696 mabrown77@btinternet.com		Lake, Monica Gover Ward 01726 63949 mlake@monicalake.plus.com
	Bull, Jackie Poltair Ward 01726 74619 jbull@cornwall.gov.uk		Leonard, Robin Mount Charles Ward 01726 70719 me.robin@rocketmail.com
	Collins, Derek Poltair Ward 07508 423735 soundtec@aol.com		Murtagh, Peter Bay Ward 07780 333420 petermurtagh81@gmail.com
	Oxenham, Nicky Bethel Ward 07891 346689 noxenham@btinternet.com		Palmer, Brian Poltair Ward 01726 65379 brianpalmer379@btinternet.com
	Double, Anne Mount Charles Ward 07974 808854 anne@stevedouble.org.uk		Pears, Richard Bethel Ward 077931 13150 pearsnet@me.com
	Double, Steve Poltair Ward 07977 121529 steve@stevedouble.org.uk		Pollard, Janet Mount Charles Ward 01726 77038 councillorjanetpollard@gmail.com
	French, Tom Gover Ward 01726 73735 tgf@tomfrench.co.uk		Stewart, Jenny Gover Ward 07765 186268 jennypstewart@me.com
	Heyward, Sandra Gover Ward 01726 65045 seheyward@yahoo.com		Walker, Graham Bethel Ward 01726 63707 gwalker1@gmail.com

Council Address: Room 231,
St Austell One Stop Shop,
39 Penwinnick Road,
St Austell PL25 5DR

Tel: 01726 223374

E-mail: dpooley@staustelltc.cornwall.gov.uk
Web: www.staustelltowncouncil.com

Balance sheet as at March 31, 2014

31.3.13 £		£	31.3.14 £	Notes
Fixed Assets				
98,025.00	Ceremonial assets		98,025.00	1
2,521.00	Allotments and other premises		2,521.00	
1,150.00	Notice Board		1,150.00	
19,022.00	Street Furniture		19,022.00	
6,456.39	Office Equipment		6,915.05	
127,174.39			127,633.05	
Current Assets				
5,197.97	Debtors	1,992.76		2
1,569.36	Prepayments	1,611.36		
304,362.38	Bank Balances	286,176.38		
57.95	Cash in Hand	100.00		
311,187.66		289,880.50		
Current Liabilities				
53,486.17	Creditors and advance payments	13,716.98		3
257,701.49	Net Current Assets		276,163.52	
384,875.88	Net Assets		403,796.57	
Represented By:				
100,546.00	Asset Revaluation Reserve		100,546.00	
26,628.39	Capital Financing Reserve		27,087.05	
122,701.49	General Revenue Balance		94,743.52	
135,000.00	Earmarked Reserves		181,420.00	4
384,875.88			403,796.57	

Notes

1. Ceremonial assets have been valued by independent valuers using an insurance methodology as at 31st March, 2010. It is not considered necessary to revalue all assets annually.

2. Made up of bank interest and VAT due at the year end.

3. Creditors at the year end include CCTV monitoring costs, administration expenses and monies collected for the Mayor's charities.

4. The following sums have been set aside as earmarked reserves:

	£
Elections	25,000.00
Projects Reserve	46,420.00
Devolution of Services	110,000.00
	<u>181,420.00</u>

Message from the Mayor

Being the Mayor of my home town has been the biggest honour of my life so far.

My wife Anne and I have thoroughly enjoyed every minute of the past year. I have sought to represent our town to the best of my ability and make sure the views of local people have been listened to.

I want to say a huge thank you to my fellow Town Councillors and also to our council staff, David Pooley and Sara Gwilliams, for their hard work and support over the past year.

It has certainly been an interesting year for our town and the council. We have seen further cuts to the services provided by Cornwall Council as they continue to need to save money from their budget. This has meant the Town Council having to decide whether to allow certain services to be stopped or to take responsibility for delivering them locally.

So far we have taken on the responsibility for maintaining footpaths, spraying for weeds on roads and pavements and also for the provision of CCTV coverage in the town centre. I am sure there will be much more to come in the months and years ahead, but we have shown that even though we are still a relatively new council we have the willingness and capacity to provide services where needed.

When I became Mayor one of my aims was to see a Youth Council established to give local young people a voice and encourage younger people to engage in local politics. I am delighted that St Austell now has its first ever Youth Council and we have a group of enthusiastic young men and women who will represent the views of young people.

Planning has remained a major and at times controversial issue. The decision by Cornwall Council to refuse the application for the retail park at Coyte Farm provoked an unprecedented reaction from local residents. The issue looks as though it has not gone away and the debate continues to divide opinion in the town. However, there certainly appears to be a groundswell of opinion that clearly wants to see the



MAYOR STEVE DOUBLE: Receives the chains of office from his predecessor John Keast OBE

investment, jobs and retailers a development of this nature would bring.

Personally I remain very concerned that St Austell is once again falling further behind Truro, as well as other towns in Cornwall, in terms of the number and quality of retailers available to local people. There is certainly a feeling around of history repeating itself as we lose out to Truro once again.

We have also seen progress on the Town Framework and the Town Council has worked hard to make sure that the views of local residents have been made known to Cornwall Council. We can only hope that those views are taken into account when the final document is published.

The future of Cornwall Council offices and jobs in our town remains in the balance. The construction of new offices in Bodmin continues to cast a large shadow and I believe remains a threat. I know that



MAYOR STEVE DOUBLE: With wife Anne, Deputy Derek Collins and Town Clerk David Pooley, and presenting council cheques to STAK and Mount Edgcumbe Hospice

there is a very strong feeling among local councillors that I share, that it is vital that Cornwall Council maintains its office presence in St Austell and the level of jobs we currently enjoy. It is a situation we need to monitor closely and I am sure the Town Council will continue to fight any plans to diminish Cornwall Council's presence in the town.

I have always been very proud to be a St Austell lad. That pride has grown even stronger over the past year as I have had the unique opportunity as Mayor to experience the incredible community spirit and work carried out for the good of our community by so many people. Although we continue to face many challenges, we also have some great opportunities and with the right political representation and

leadership I believe together, as a community, we can make the most of what the future has to offer.

We are now into our sixth year as a Town Council but I believe we are growing into our role and responsibilities and will continue to play a vital role in helping to provide the leadership our town needs to help make our town an even better place to live, work and raise our families.

I have done my best for the past year and I now pass on the chains of office to Cllr Derek Collins and wish him well for his year as Mayor of our Town.

Steve Double
Mayor of St Austell 2013/2014

PAYMENTS cont.

Miscellaneous Expenses	
5,000.00	Elections
37,105.00	Grants
44,114.46	Projects
27,947.79	CCTV
1,410.89	Civic Ceremonial
1,375.00	Audit fees
3,570.77	Mayor's Charities
120,523.91	111,271.88

232,931.30	Total Expenses	235,146.11
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16,397.85	Surplus for Year	18,462.03
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100,303.64	General Fund Balance B/Fwd	122,701.49
16,397.85	Add Surplus for Year	18,462.03
6,000.00	Add Contributions from Reserves	0.00
0.00	Less Contribution to Reserves	46,420.00
122,701.49	General Fund Balance C/Fwd	94,743.52



MAYOR'S CHARITY: Golf day fundraiser at Porthpean

Annual accounts 2013/14

The Council's Statement of Accounts for 2013/14 has been prepared in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011. The Council's Accounts are audited annually by an independent internal auditor and forwarded to Grant Thornton, an external auditor, for final appraisal.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2014

2012/13 £		2013/14 £
	RECEIPTS	
17,226.16	Miscellaneous Income and Grants	20,700.89
6,572.22	Interest received	2,626.34
221,960.00	Precepts	186,910.00
0.00	Council Tax Support Grant	37,845.82
3,570.77	Mayor's Charities Income	5,525.09
249,329.15	Total Receipts	253,608.14
	PAYMENTS	
	Employee Expenses	
96,544.88	Salaries and Wages (Inc. oncosts)	103,921.74
1,065.29	Training Expenses	1,784.00
177.45	Travel & Subsistence	344.45
333.90	Chairman's Allowance	298.80
41.17	Members' Allowances	15.30
98,162.69		106,364.29
	General Administration	
20.00	Room Hire	20.00
5,180.00	Office Accommodation	5,181.00
592.00	Office Supplies	998.45
201.73	Refreshments	189.29
1,610.47	Printing and binding	1,600.22
809.75	Postages	508.95
353.69	IT Support & software	1,155.19
1,190.00	General publicity	3,392.33
1,774.38	Insurance	1,569.36
0.86	Bank Charges	5.32
2,511.82	Subscriptions	2,791.33
0.00	Books and Publications	98.50
14,244.70		17,509.94

St Austell Town Council

St Austell Town Council was formed in June 2009 and has 20 elected Councillors (4 Councillors representing the Gover Ward, 4 Councillors representing Poltair Ward, 2 Councillors representing St Austell Bay Ward, 5 representing Bethel Ward and 5 representing Mount Charles Ward).

A list of current Councillors is included on page 15 of this report.

Town Council elections were held in May 2013 and will take place next in 2017.

Each year, the Council elects one councillor to be the Mayor who then acts as the civic leader and chairs Council meetings. The Council has a Code of Conduct and is committed to proper standards and sound corporate governance arrangements.

Meetings are usually held in Cornwall Council's One Stop Shop at Penwinnick Road, St Austell. The full Council meets approximately every six weeks. In addition to the full Council meetings, the Council has three standing committees to ensure the effective management of its business:

- Finance and General Purposes Committee
- Planning Committee
- Communities Committee

There is a public participation session at each of the Council's official meetings to allow members of the public to make comments or raise issues about items on the agenda.

From time to time, working groups are formed to address particular issues.

A calendar of Council meetings for the forthcoming year can be found on the Council's website at www.staustelltowncouncil.com

Agendas and minutes are published on the website.

The Council employs two full-time and one part-time member of staff who are

based at the St Austell One Stop Shop, Penwinnick Road, St Austell, PL25 5DR. These are:

- David Pooley — Town Clerk
- Sara Gwilliams — Deputy Town Clerk
- Kimberley Gay — Mayor's Secretary / Administrative Assistant (Part-time)

The Town Council serves the town of St Austell which has a population of approximately 22,000. Services and facilities provided within

the town of St Austell are also enjoyed by people living in the surrounding villages and by the many tourists who visit the town each year.

The Town Council is very keen to ensure that however the town changes in the future the process is managed properly and that appropriate infrastructure accompanies it.

The Town Council currently manages very few services. Its main role is to represent and lobby on behalf of local residents and businesses to ensure that their views are taken into account by the larger organisations operating in the area.



NEW MAYOR: Current Mayor Derek Collins with wife Gilly, Town Clerk David Pooley and Deputy Mayor Brian Palmer and his wife Alison

It has, however, submitted a business case to Cornwall Council to demonstrate how it could provide more services within the town. Cornwall Council is currently considering this.

The Town Council is consulted on all planning and some licensing applications in its area and in relation to many of the other services provided by Cornwall Council.

The Town Council is keen to work in partnership with Cornwall Council and other agencies in order to ensure delivery of the highest quality services and facilities to local residents.

2013/14 Activities

Feast Week

St Austell Town Council, along with a large number of community groups, charities, businesses and community interest groups, organised a week of feasts celebration in July 2013 in St Austell. The week, which was the first of its kind for 70 years, was a real success in the town and was recreated in the summer of 2014.

The week included historic talks, walks, a schools' concert, a furry dance, a community play, an open air church service, a gargoyle parade and a theatrical performance. Most of the events were free for the public to attend and geared towards the entire St Austell community. The Town Council successfully obtained £10,500 of grant funding from various sources to enable this event to take place.



MARKET HOUSE: Townscape Heritage Scheme bid

Town Heritage Scheme

Following the successful completion of the Conservation Area Appraisal for St Austell, the Town Council is working with Cornwall Council and the Market House to bid for a Townscape Heritage (TH) scheme for St Austell. Such bids usually take up to two years to develop.

Townscape Heritage schemes fund quality traditional repairs to targeted historic buildings in Conservation Areas. A scheme in St Austell would complement Management Plan actions in the Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan and the ongoing Business Improvement District (BID) scheme. It will boost the local economy and make the town a better place to live, work and visit.

Town Framework

The St Austell and surrounding parishes Town Framework will be a document which will set out a vision and options for the future development and change of the urban area of St Austell and its immediate hinterland. Work has taken place throughout the year with Cornwall Council's planning officers to produce a

draft Town Framework consultation document. A number of consultation exercises and meetings have taken place and it is hoped that a final Town Framework will be in place within the next 12 months. Once finalised, this document will be part of Cornwall Council's formal planning policies.

Standing committees 2013/14

Planning Committee

Frank Boulton
Valerie Bradford
Derek Collins
Anne Double
Gary King
Peter Murtagh
Nicky Oxenham
Brian Palmer
Richard Pears
Janet Pollard
Jenny Stewart
Graham Walker

Community Committee

Frank Boulton
Jackie Bull
Anne Double
Sandra Heyward
John Keast
Monica Lake
Robin Leonard
Jenny Stewart
Richard Pears
Janet Pollard

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Valerie Bradford
Malcolm Brown
Steve Double
Tom French
Robin Leonard
Peter Murtagh
Nicky Oxenham
Brian Palmer
Graham Walker

Working Parties

A number of working groups met during 2013/14 to help progress Council business. These were:

- CCTV Consultation Working Group
- Town Framework Working Group
- Youth Council Working Group
- Devolution of Services Working Group

Representatives on outside bodies

- St Austell Carnival Committee — Councillor Heyward.
- St Austell Bay Chamber of Commerce — Councillor A Double.
- CALC - Larger Councils Liaison Group — Councillor Palmer.
- CCTV Liaison Group — Councillors Collins, Oxenham and Palmer.
- Cornwall Council – Town Framework Steering Group — Councillors S Double and Palmer.
- Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Flood Forum — Councillor Stewart — Deputy Councillor Collins.
- St Austell Bay Economic Forum (SABEF) — Councillors T French, S Double and the Clerk.

Mayor on the march ...



BUSY YEAR: Cllr Double launching his charity walk to Westminster, with wife Anne at the Mayor's Ball and showing off culinary skills in White River Place



St Austell Business Improvement District (BID)

The Business Improvement District (BID) for St Austell became operational in April 2013. This is an initiative funded by local business ratepayers in the town centre to enhance and promote the BID area. The Town Council has supported the BID in its first year of operation. It is already beginning to make significant progress and has organised a number of events and environmental initiatives in the town centre.

Footpaths/Weed Treatment

Due to cutbacks at Cornwall Council, the Town Council in the summer of 2013 took on the maintenance of the designated footpaths in St Austell for the first time. Responsibility for weed treatment on public highways and pavements also passed to the Town Council in the spring of 2014.



YOUTH COUNCIL: Cllr Steve Double with members of the Youth Council at Penrice

Youth Council

One of the priorities for our Mayor during his Mayoral year was to set up a Youth Council for St Austell.

A small working group was set up, and the Mayor visited the local college and secondary schools to explain what was involved.

On the 28th April 2014 a Youth Council for St Austell was formally constituted and is currently working on an outdoor cinema event in the town.

New Town Council website

At the end of 2013 the Town Council reviewed and updated its website. The Town Council regularly updates the website which includes information such as our Councillors, Council agendas and minutes, financial information and the Town Council's Small Grant Scheme.



TORCHLIGHT CARNIVAL: Supported by St Austell Town Council

Environmental initiatives

The Town Council undertakes a number of environmental projects each year. In 2013/14 we:

- Installed a bench at Holmbush
- Improved the flower beds in the town centre
- Facilitated a tree planting scheme at Wheal Eliza
- Liaised with Cornwall Council on improvements to local parks
- Explored the options for the use of surplus land at Acorn Drive.

Other initiatives

The Town Council has:

- Assisted with a new lease for the Community Centre and Arts Theatre and helped fund internal improvement works.

- Operated a small grants scheme for local community and charitable groups. The Council gave 23 grants totally £5,630 in 2013/14.

- Begun negotiations with Cornwall Council regarding the devolution of services.

- Undertaken pre-planning consultations with a number of developers, arranged a number of large scale public meetings to give residents the opportunity to raise concerns and suggest improvements to major planning proposals;

- Responded to consultations affecting the town on many issues including Cornwall Council's Local Plan, a Town Framework Plan, cycle ways, road closures, licensing policies and bus shelters.

- Worked closely with local businesses to strengthen their representation and input to local issues;

- Provided funding once again to the St Austell Discovery Map, meaning that the map can be distributed free of charge to members of the public.