

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

## A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

**S**tarting to write a Christmas message when we are still in a time of uncertainty is a difficult challenge.

Without a doubt it's a message of hope, joy and love however you are spending the festive season.

This time of year is always special to many but also can be tinged with sadness. I'm so pleased that as a community there are so many wonderful people who take time out to care for family, friends and neighbours including preparing meals and doing shopping to help. If you have someone close by who may be on their own this Christmas, please knock on the door and make their day.

I have been fortunate over the past 8 months to see first hand the amazing work that goes on in our beautiful town and surrounding area. There is a plethora of local community groups and charities making a difference along with our emergency services, and many who will be putting time in over this period to keep us safe and well. Please spare a thought for those who will be working.

Very often, I am invited to many social occasions and charity events and have taken great pleasure in meeting many more people from the town and learning more and more about what makes St Ives so unique. When it comes to community, the town has community at its heart.

Everyone I meet is looking forward to spending time with loved ones in the festive season. It's reassuring to see you all venturing back into local shops and I'm sure you can't wait to see the faces filled with joy as your loved ones open their gifts.

Sometimes though it's not always about presents. After the couple of years we've had, this year, more than ever, it's about being present. Hold your loved ones close, make memories and new traditions, and most of all soak up the love and atmosphere. **Councillor Pasco Hussain, Mayor.**



This message was written before the latest Covid restrictions were announced.

## Crowds welcome Santa on The Quay



Photos by Alan Bennett of Media Imaging Solutions

**COVERING THE NEWS FOR ST IVES AND AROUND**

On Saturday 4th December, Santa, accompanied by the Giant Snowman, arrived by boat at The Quay and was welcomed by crowds of adoring children and adults. Santa's boat was escorted by a host of christmas characters, including Rudolph (pictured), Frosty, reindeers and elves all paddling alongside in their canoes.

In what has become one of the more enjoyable events in the year, Santa was piped aboard The Quay by the



Second St Ives Sea Scouts and met by the Mayor, Pasco Hussain and The Macebearer, Phil Ganney.

Santa was then escorted through the town to the Corn Exchange where he spent a couple of hours handing out presents to children at the Festival Events St Ives (FEST) Grotto in the Riverport Café Bar.

Santa's Grotto is open for the next two weekends, Saturday and Sunday

from 2 to 4 pm. FEST, a not-for-profit volunteer group, raises funds so that every child who visits the Grotto receives a FREE gift.

It's just one of many events to bring us some festive cheer along with The Snowman Festival Trail where children have the chance of winning a £25 Townrow Voucher by visiting at least 20 of the shops on the Trail. Maps can be found in stores taking part or on the Town Team website at [www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk](http://www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk).



Wishing all our readers a happy

Christmas and safe

New Year from

Milly, Erik

and all at

The

Riverporter



Erik wants to know where the Christmas biscuits are!



Milly & her new best friend Rudolph.



8pm Thu 16 Dec 2021



Tickets £5 from [screenstives.org.uk](http://screenstives.org.uk)  
or in the Corn Exchange

Pre-screening drinks in the licensed  
Riverport Cafe from 7pm

EMMA STONE

Cruella



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## MEETING TO PROMOTE THE OUSE VALLEY



On 27 November the Great Ouse Valley Trust held a Partners Meeting in Godmanchester to invite delegates to contribute thoughts and ideas to influence its plans going forward. The Trust's aims are to protect, promote and enhance the special landscape of the Great Ouse Valley through Cambridgeshire. Our Team, Town Council, The Friends of Holt Island Nature Reserve, Jones Boatyard and the Rotary Club of St Ives are all Partner Members. Representatives from most local Parishes, Towns and the District Councils also attended, along with many other groups.

The Trustees want to explore ways to increase awareness of our beautiful river and its surroundings for residents and visitors alike, help improve enjoyment of the Valley but also ensure that development pressure does not adversely affect our unique environment. The objective is to create a 'sense of place' that will identify the area, engender pride and help improve tourism income for our communities.



The keynote speaker was Godmanchester resident Emma Thornton, previously CEO of Visit Cambridge and Beyond. The Chair, Graham Campbell, said, 'I was delighted at the enthusiasm shown by our Partner Members to share their thoughts to ensure we make the best use of the wonderful natural asset that links our communities – the beautiful Great Ouse River.'

a superb new restaurant has  
opened  
in St Ives on Bridge Street



Dhaba is serving quality cuisine with amazing service

**Call 01480 464422**

Or visit our website <http://www.stivesdhaba.co.uk>

Also offering a takeaway service and giving a

**10%** discount if you collect yourself

**Opening times**

Sunday - Thursday 05:30PM - 10:00PM

Friday & Saturday 05:30PM - 10:30PM

## St Ives Day Centre celebrated 25 years at Copley House

On Friday 3 December Pascoe Hussain, the Mayor of St Ives, came along to help us to celebrate along with Ian Langworthy who was Chair of Trustees at the time of the building opening and is still involved today. Members celebrated with drinks and cake and raised a toast to the centre's future. St Ives Day Centre is open Monday-Friday and is a friendly group for anyone in St Ives and the surrounding villages to spend the day in good company in a safe environment and we offer a much needed break for families.

**New members are always welcome, we can be contacted on 01480 463444**



# COMING IN THE NEW YEAR

### Friday 28th January - Lexie Green and Johnny 'Magic Boy' Wright

Lexie has a great reputation for her live performances. Whether performing solo, or as here with the amazing guitarist Johnny 'Magic Boy' Wright, her fun-filled and happy presence shines through. She loves nothing more than to bring a smile, raise an audience to their dancing feet and make you feel like you are a huge part of that moment.



### Friday 25th February - The CBT jazz quartet

CBT are fronted by the amazingly versatile vocalist Lizz Taylor. Specialising in songs from the great American songbook and more the quartet also features guitarist and vocalist Nick Barraclough and the sax, clarinet, vocals and flute of Myke Clifford. From Bossas to Bacharach CBT ooze class and musical sophistication.



### Friday 29th April - Fran McGillivray and Mike Burke

A welcome return for this excellent duo. Not only are they great musicians, their relaxed manner is perfect for a Friday night in the comfortable Riverport Café Bar. Enjoy some fine Blues music with a little Country and some humour thrown in for good luck.



### Friday 27th May - Dickie de Vere & The Dorchester Mavericks

Dickie de Vere & The Dorchester Mavericks are one our most popular acts. This will be their first appearance in the Riverport Café Bar, which should be just the right venue to enjoy the very finest in toe-tapping light music entertainment.



All concerts start at 7.30pm in the Riverport Café Bar, St Ives Corn Exchange.

**Tickets: £10** from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives) or can be purchased from the Riverport Café Bar.



8pm Thu 6 Jan 2021

Tickets £5 from [screenstives.org.uk](http://screenstives.org.uk)  
or in the Corn Exchange

Pre-screening drinks in the licensed  
Riverport Cafe from 7pm

Supported by

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## MEMORY STARS ARE HERE



SHADES OF WHITE



## MEMORY STARS ARE BACK!

### Help decorate the Manor Mews Christmas Trees.

Christmas is the time we really miss those we have lost. We also want to show our love for those close to us who are unwell and perhaps also for those who care for them.

Feel free to take a Memory Star from the venues in Town, including the Corn Exchange, and write your message on the blank side. Take it to Manor Mews, off Bridge Street, where you will find two beautiful trees outside Shades of White waiting for your dedication, memory or Christmas message. Tie on your star.

Contact Roger for more information at [rjkuch@gmail.com](mailto:rjkuch@gmail.com) or 07796783521.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas from the St Ives Dementia Friendly Community Group.



### Book Review by Sandy Souter

## Diary of a River Tramp

A year in the life of a young man living on a narrow boat in St Ives on The Quay.

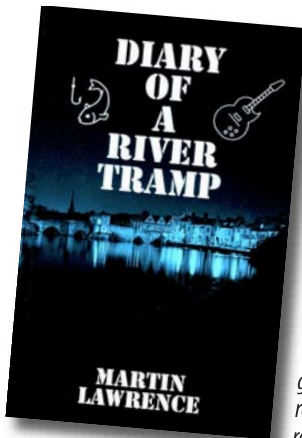
As someone who spent four years living on a boat and one who enjoys a bit of filth and toilet humour this book reminded me of reading *Bridget Jones' Diary* for the first time, way before it was turned into a film.

Similar giggles while reading it. I liked the historical 'On This Day' references and the footnotes which tied the narrative together. Short snappy day to day diary entries to keep this readers interest.

A book I didn't want to sit and read straight through though, one to dip into when in need of a bit of diversion. And definitely a book for younger people than me.

Good fun trying to work out who the characters really are!

**Diary of a River Tramp is £9.99 and available from Amazon.co.uk**



*My name is Kes. I'm 21 and confused. Why are doner kebabs, atheism and fishing offensive to my neighbours? Why does living on a narrow boat upset the local NIMBYs? Why can't I find a girlfriend, and is rock stardom out of reach?*

*So many questions, so much time: for coffee, top five lists and worrying about what I should be doing with my 27,375 days on the planet.*

Martin Lawrence has written and had two previous novels (about fishing) published, and for 22 years worked in the education team at the Natural History Museum in London, where he managed the David Attenborough Studio. He now works locally, teaching young people who, for a variety of reasons, struggle to access mainstream education.

## ST IVES ANTIQUES FAIR

AA signposted

Burgess Hall (One Leisure)  
Westwood Road, St Ives, Cambs, PE27 6WU

2022

**Sunday & Bank Holiday Monday**  
**January 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
&  
**Saturday & Sunday**  
**February 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>**

**9:30am – 4:30pm each day**

**£2.50 Adults**  
**£2.00 Concessions**

45 stands, prestigious venue, ample free car parking, wheelchair access from street level, refreshments & licensed bar.

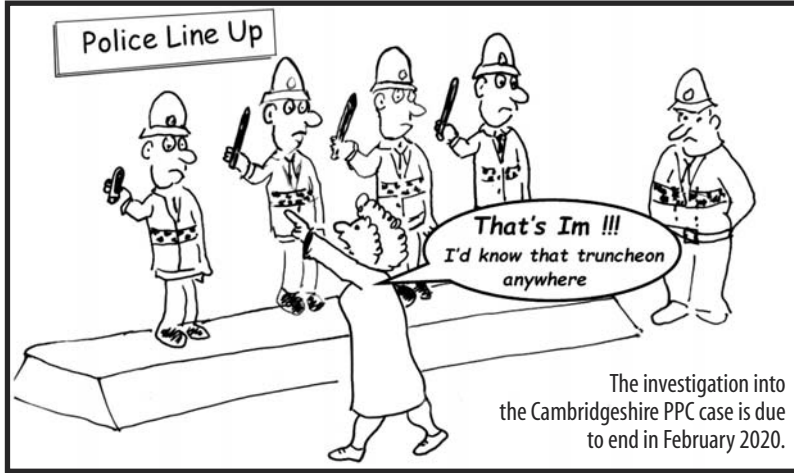
Email: [stivesantiquesfair@gmail.com](mailto:stivesantiquesfair@gmail.com)  
Tel: 07803820347

[www.stivesantiquesfair.co.uk](http://www.stivesantiquesfair.co.uk)

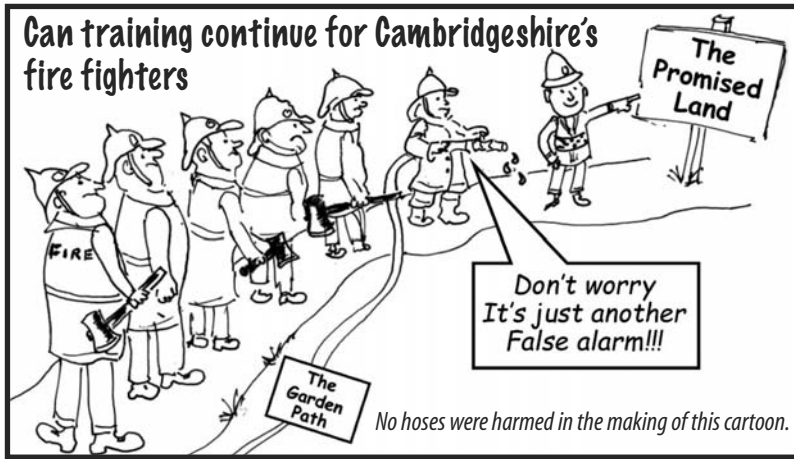


# The Best of The Riverporter . . .

We decided to celebrate our 100th edition by printing some of Erik's cartoons and what could be more fun over Christmas than to colour them in. [Okay there are some things that are more fun but it could give the kids something to do during the Queen's speech.]



2020 starts as 2019 ends with reference to Police & Crime Commissioner, Jason Ablewhite resigning from his post, following texting snapshots of his truncheon to a 'vulnerable' woman.



## Cambs Fire Service wastes thousands of pounds

Ex PCC Jason Ablewhite had promised land for a new training facility which, according to Kevin Reynolds, Head of the Fire Service, was withdrawn after they spent four years getting planning permission.

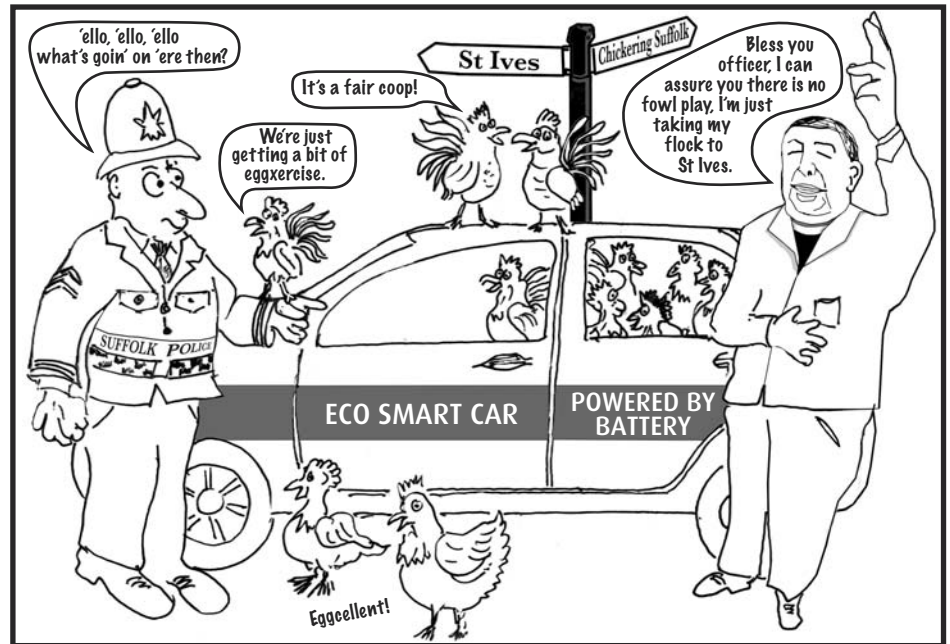
## Covid restrictions bite, causing a shortage of toilet rolls.



## East Ward by election

According to Conservative literature Independent Town Councillors wanted to 'flood' the area North of Marley Road with new houses. This led to confusion for some councillors, such as the District Council Conservative Leader Ryan Fuller, who had been elected as an Independent candidate on the Town Council.

## Erik interviews the Prime Minister ...



## The Great St Ives Chicken Run

Father Mark Amey, the Vicar of All Saints Parish Church, whilst dressed in dog collar and with a car full of chickens was stopped and questioned by Suffolk Police. Father Mark, who had been waiting for the lockdown to ease so he could collect his new flock, clearly aroused the suspicion of the local constabulary. Wondering if they stopped him because of the corona virus situation, it turned out they wanted to check his insurance, which their computer indicated didn't appear to exist.

The Vicar said 'They were very polite. As it turned out it was a computer error and I was able to show them that the vehicle was insured.'

Father Mark keeps a coop of hens in his garden at the vicarage on Westwood Road and will probably be looking forward to a new batch of eggs each morning for his breakfast. Of course this raises the question.

**What came first? The Chicken or the virus?**

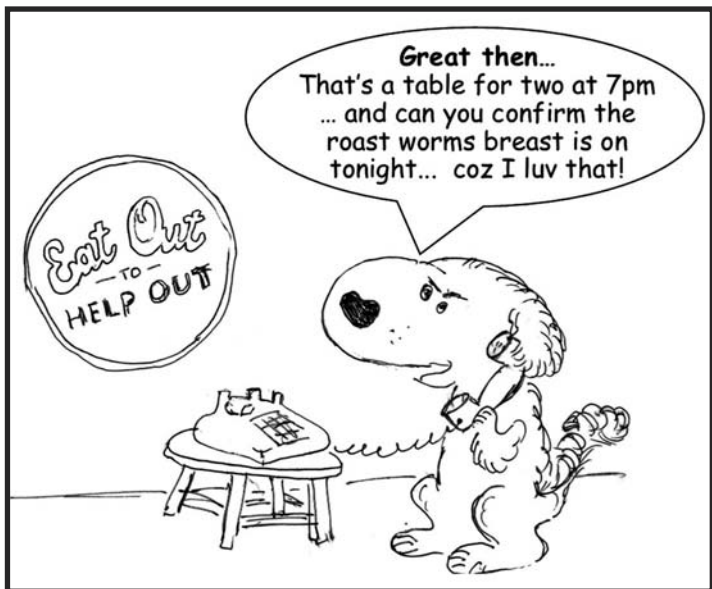


# Erik's Christmas colouring sheet

## In August 2020 there was shock news . . .

On a St Ives discussions Facebook site, Jackie Ablett announced angrily, that ERIK is in fact A DOG!

Here at The Riverporter office we were shocked at this revelation and requested a meeting with Erik to explain himself. Ms Ablett did go on to give *The Riverporter* a true accolade announcing that we were not Cambridgeshire's Local Newspaper of the Year but were 'Lower than a worm's tit!' We suspect that several local politicians probably agreed.



This coincided with the Eat Out to Help Out campaign, so Erik made the most of it.

The covid lockdown continued but eventually there was good news ...

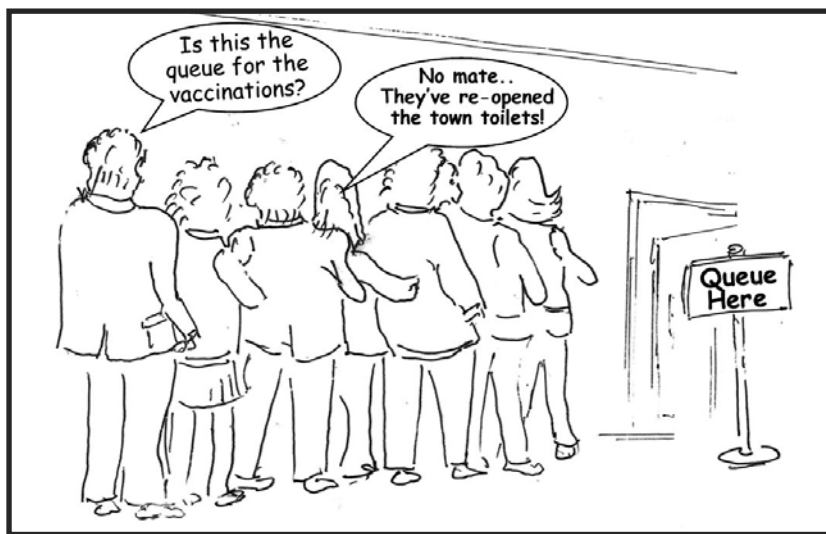
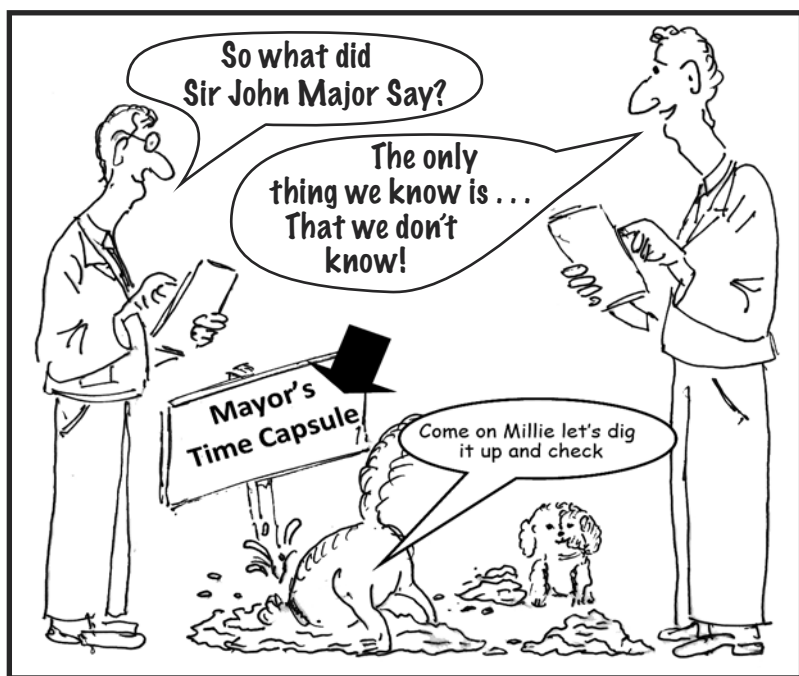
## The Town Centre toilets were open again

and remained open from the 5th February, much to everyone's relief.



## Mayor Jonathan Pallant buried a Time Capsule

Ex PM John Major wrote something for inclusion but refused to say what it said, so we will have to live another 29 years to find out, which will clearly be a problem for most of us 70+ year olds!



## An unprecedented number of councillors resigned . . .



## Difficult start for new Mayor

As soon as the new Mayor, Pasco Hussain, took over there was a major problem with solar lights at the cemetery resulting in a public petition following a notice from the Town Council to remove lights from the graves. Finally this Autumn the ..

## Planning Committee went conkers

The Planning Committee had to consider an application from Mr Brettell of Wilson Way, which requested the removal of a Horse Chestnut Tree because of the large amount of sharp conkers landing in the garden, posing a health and safety risk to children living in the property.

It prompted this comment from a reader. Since when did conkers, albeit in their shells, represent a health and safety hazard to children? Has the world gone mad?

Erik had a solution.





# Where to dine in St Ives?

Visitors often ask us, 'Where can we eat in town?', and with all the changes recently, it's sometimes hard to know where to suggest. So we thought we would find out. Little did we know just how much choice there is.

Having lived here for a pretty long time and probably eaten in most restaurants I thought this will be easy. Okay one or two places have sprung up recently and probably a few might have closed, particularly over the past two years, but it can't have changed too much I thought.

## Well how wrong can one man be?

The first thing I noticed was that there was quite a lot, especially if you include the Takeaway Only restaurants, the drive-thrus, pubs, hotels, cafes and pubs. After four hours of gathering data I realised that this was going to be a mammoth effort. It turns out that there are at least 61 places to buy a meal and that didn't include 10 or so food shops and supermarkets in town.

Almost 200 years ago there were 64 pubs in St Ives, according to Bob Burn-Murdoch's fascinating 'Pubs of St Ives' booklet. The highest number of any town in the country in the 1840/50s. Now it seems that St Ives has swapped pubs for food outlets and I am left wondering if we still have more than any other town?

Anyway I digress because the purpose of this article is to list all the places one can buy a meal from. Something that should be of interest to visitors and even to residents who might want to dine out occasionally, especially over this festive period if we can, although as I write this Boris is tightening the rules! We are not making recommendations but simply listing what is available. To help in this I sorted them into food types.

## Places where you can eat in

St Ives is blessed with many good restaurants offering a wide choice of meals. They include pubs and cafes offering food during the daytime and restaurants open in the evenings.

### Where you can eat during the day and evenings

<b>Amore</b> 4 The Quay PE27 5AR	01480 700204 Italian restaurant
<b>Di Rita's at No2</b> 2 The Pavement PE27 5AD	01480 465737 Italian restaurant
<b>Montaz</b> 9 Merryland PE27 5ED	01480 468400 Indian restaurant
<b>Sultan Tandoori</b> 16 London Road Fentanton PE27 5ES	01480 464650 Indian restaurant
<b>The River Terrace</b> 1-2 Bridge Street PE27 5UW	01480 468098 Family restaurant
<b>The Seven Wives</b> Ramsey Road PE27 5RF	01480 462180 Family pub restaurant
<b>Marsh Harrier</b> Needingworth Road PE27 4NB	01480 300930 Family pub restaurant
<b>The Haywain</b> Constable Road PE27 3EP	01480 301519 Sizzling Pub & Grill
<b>Nelson's Head</b> 7 Merryland PE27 5ED	01480 494454 Traditional Pub food
<b>The Oliver Cromwell</b> Wellington Street PE27 5AZ	01480 465601 Traditional pub food
<b>Swan &amp; Angel</b> (Wetherspoons) 8/9 Market Hill PE27 5AL	01480 499060 Traditional Pub food
<b>The White Hart</b> Market Hill PE27 5AH	01480 463275 Pub and Thai food
<b>Vadi Kitchen</b> 40 The Broadway PE27 5BN	01480 495666 Turkish restaurant
<b>The Taproom</b> 23 Bridge Street PE27 5EH	01480 492255 Wine bar
<b>Pizza Town</b> 3A Station Road PE27 5BH	01480 494949 Pizza restaurant
<b>McDonald's</b> 1 Harison Way PE27 4WY	01480 300007 Burger restaurant
<b>Local Fish &amp; Chips</b> 6 Crown Street PE27 5EB	01480 494156 Fish & Chip restaurant
<b>Eric's Fish &amp; Chips</b> 5 Harrison Way PE27 4AE	01480 598410 Fish & Chip restaurant
<b>George's</b> 1 Lorna Court PE27 6ED	01480 495544 Fish & Chip restaurant
<b>Morrisons Cafe</b> Parsons Green PE27 4NB	01480 367696 Supermarket cafe

### Where you can eat during the daytime only

<b>Local Cafe</b> 10 The Broadway PE27 5BN	01480 469281 Cafe/restaurant
<b>Tookeys</b> in the Free Church, 3 Free Church Lane PE27 5AY	01480 468535 Cafe/restaurant
<b>Nuts Bistro</b> 1 Station Road PE27 5BH	01480463759 Cafe/restaurant
<b>Tom's Cakes</b> 19 Market Hill PE27 5AL	01480 842200 Cafe & cake shop
<b>Costa Coffee</b> Crown Street PE27 5AB	01480 467695 Coffee bar
<b>Black Robin Coffee</b> 6 Foundry Walk PE27 5FW	01480 462 023 Coffee bar
<b>Oana's</b> 18 Bridge Street PE27 5EG	07956 140243 Coffee bar
<b>Riverport Café Bar</b> in The Corn Exchange PE27 5AD	01480 496454 Coffee bar
<b>Costa Coffee</b> 2 Harrison Way PE27 4WJ	01480 498642 Coffee bar
<b>Greggs</b> 5 The Pavement PE27 5AD	01480 463153 Snack bar
<b>Munchkins</b> 8 Merryland PE27 5ED	01480 496416 Sandwich Bar
<b>Rockabilly</b> Cromwell Mews PE27 5HJ	01480 509586 Sandwich Bar
<b>Subway</b> 3 Harrison Way PE27 4AE	01480 301946 Sandwich Bar



## Hotels

**NB** Some hotels have restaurants open daytime and evening for non residents, such as The Golden Lion, however this is not true for all, so we suggest you call them before seeking to book a meal.

<b>The Golden Lion Hotel</b> Market Hill PE27 5AL	01480 492100 Traditional pub style menu. Food is served throughout the day in a large comfortable restaurant and bar area.
<b>Olivers Lodge Hotel</b> 50 Needingworth Road PE27 5JP	01480 463252 Call to check if open
<b>Slepe Hall Hotel</b> Ramsey Road PE27 5RB	01480 463122 Call to check if open
<b>The Dolphin Hotel</b> London Road PE27 5EP	01480 466966 Call to check if open

### Where you can eat during the evenings only

<b>Cherry Valley</b> 24 Bridge Street PE27 5EG	01480 461515 Chinese restaurant
<b>Welcome Restaurant</b> 2-4 East Street PE27 5PB	01480 493202 Chinese restaurant
<b>The Dragon Boat</b> 1 Carlisle Terrace PE27 5PQ	01480 466668 Chinese restaurant
<b>Zzohanna</b> 8 Bridge Street PE27 5UW	01480 465888 Indian restaurant
<b>St Ives Dhaba</b> 21 Bridge Street P27 5EH	01480 464422 Indian restaurant
<b>PR Massala</b> Chapel Lane PE27 5DX	01480 493222 Indian restaurant
<b>Floods Tavern</b> 27 The Broadway PE27 5BX	01480 700676 Traditional pub food

## Takeaways

Most restaurants do a takeaway service these days, largely due to the pandemic forcing them to shut for diners. There are also many food outlets that only provide a takeaway service and we list them here and, where possible, the style of food supplied.

<b>Fortune Dragon</b> 29 The Broadway PE27 5BX	01480 356535 Chinese
<b>Flaming Wok</b> 80 Ramsey Road PE27 3XW	01480 498800 Chinese
<b>St Ives Chinese Thai</b> 21 The Broadway PE27 5BX	01480 465636 Chinese Thai
<b>Cyprus Kitchen</b> The Quadrant PE27 5PE	01480 497183 Greek/Cypriot
<b>Salt 'N' Spice</b> 32 The Broadway PE27 5BN	01480 460830 Indian
<b>Khaani</b> 15 East Street PE27 5PD	01480 498500 Indian
<b>Curry Kitchen</b> Constable Road PE27 3ER	01480 300514 Indian
<b>Jerk Up</b> 8G Harding Way PE27 3WR	07541 559751 Jamaican
<b>Pizza Perfection</b> 30 The Broadway PE27 5BN	01480 495700 Pizzas
<b>Domino's Pizza</b> 1 Library Row PE27 5BW	01480 494000 Pizzas
<b>Papa John's Pizza</b> 8 Abbey Retail Park PE27 4AE	01480 570200 Pizzas
<b>Delish</b> 9 East Street PE27 5PB	01480 461800 Pizzas, burgers, kebabs
<b>Hot &amp; Spicy</b> 8 Crown Street PE27 5EB	01480 494945 Burgers
<b>Holy Burger Company</b> 21 Burrell Road PE27 3LE	07802 674431 Burgers
<b>Chicken Licking</b> 8 The Broadway PE27 5BN	01480 469281 Fried Chicken
<b>St Ives Fish &amp; Chips</b> 13 Kings Hedges PE27 3XS	01480 463316 Fish & Chips







having your say .

Milly looks up to Erik, especially when there's a biscuit about.



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



# The Riverporter

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

## OTHER NEWS

### 2022 is Queen's Platinum Jubilee Year

The country will be celebrating the longest reign of a British monarch next year and St Ives will be hoping to mark the occasion in style. The Town Council is hoping that the community will make the 4-day weekend of 2nd to 5th June a time to remember. The Council is planning a range of activities on Saturday 4th June, including a 'Freedom of Town' military parade, entertainment and a large 'picnic' in The Broadway.

Other groups will also be arranging events and St Ives Town Team are hoping to hold a mass 'Sing-a-long' to celebrate the best songs from the seven decades that Queen Elizabeth has been on the throne. The Team are also planning to mark the Queen's reign with a lasting memorial in the form of a bandstand on the Waits (see artists impression below).



The project is in its early stage and the Team hope to hold an open meeting with all interested parties in January. The Waits is owned by the Town Council and there will need to be some serious fund raising should the project get the go ahead from the community. Of course there is a precedence for such a memorial with the Victoria Monument just 200 yards away in The Broadway, which marked the reign of the other longest serving monarch.

### History of the St Ives Station marked

A project to mark the history of the St Ives Railway Station is due to be completed in the next few weeks with the installation of two information boards at the end of Station Road.

#### ST IVES RAILWAY STATION 1847-1970



St Ives in Bloom created new flower beds using railway sleepers in Station Road by Waitrose. This flower bed and the information panels mark the site of St Ives Station, which helped bring prosperity to the town for over a century. St Ives Town Team have designed and produced the boards which are being installed for free by Kevin of KA Page Groundworks. This collaborative project has been made possible with the support of St Ives Town Council, Thomas Quinn Chartered Accountants, Waitrose and of course KA Page Groundworks.

### Crash victim named - witnesses sought

The woman who died in a car crash at the junction with Marsh Lane and London Road at about 1.05pm on November 30, when she was in collision with a lorry has been named as Sheila Simms, from Hemingford Grey.

Officers, fire crews and paramedics attended the accident, but Mrs Simms died at the scene. Cambridgeshire Police are asking anyone who witnessed the collision, or believes they saw either vehicle in the build up to the incident, should contact police via their webchat service or call 101 quoting incident 197 of November 30, and ask for Sgt Mark Draper.

### Welcome Back Fund has money available

Wednesday's Town Council meeting had a report from Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) stating that there is still a pot of money left to be spent under the Welcome Back Fund. The update did not specify the amount available only that if projects came in at £2,499.00 or less, then funding would be available direct from HDC. In order to qualify for funds the money would need to be spent by the end of March 2022 with invoices submitted by the end of February 2022. The fund is a UK-side Government initiative to attract people safely back to the high street and fund projects designed to increase footfall.

### Mayor is busy promoting St Ives

We couldn't but help notice how busy the St Ives Town Mayor, Cllr Pasco Hussain, has been lately. Pictures of Mayor Pasco visiting St Ives businesses and sports groups and parading through the town in full Mayoral regalia have dominated the local press. His efforts are highlighting just how busy St Ives is and clearly the best place to live in Huntingdonshire.

Dear Erik,

Subject: Riverporter

Great issue this week [RP99]. Good to see you sticking to your principles with news no other local newspaper would have the guts to carry.

Peter

Dear Erik,

Thanks for printing my comments about St Ives [Issue RP99 Subject: Wonderful time had].

I am returning with a party of eight in January, Covid/Boris willing. Again staying at the Golden Lion.

I was going to ask your recommendations for our evening meals, but will now try Dhaba and hopefully the Robin Hood.

Merry Christmas

Barbara Simmons from Kent.

Dear Barbara, So pleased you are returning and you will see a list of places to eat in this issue. You will notice that the Robin Hood is not listed and although the owner has said he intends to open it again this year there is no date yet for this wonderful event (it has been shut for many years). It seems unlikely to be open by the time you return but hopefully you will find some nice places to eat and enjoy our town. If you need some entertainment, and like a panto, then Cinderella will be on (see page 8), but you will probably need to book! Ed.

Dear Erik

Your expose' of the Longstanton insurance fraud in Issue RP99 was unique in more ways than one, in that it also goes back to the big question posed in Issue RP94 of 'Who do we trust these days?'

Obviously, in the Longstanton case, not the Council and not the Police. That they were complicit and prepared to forego a £60,000 insurance claim in order to let parish clerk Pauline Haywood off the hook told the people all they needed to know that this was a criminal enterprise.

To then arrest and charge the whistle blower with harassment served not only to confirm this, but also to show the desperation of both Council and Police to cover up this sorry business for keeps.

In noting that The Riverporter was not able to speak to Chief Constable Dean perhaps the route to take now is through our Police and Crime Commissioner Darryl Preston.

As our recently elected representative he is the one person who can hold the chief constable to account for the poor performance, and in this case, the most serious and egregious misconduct of his officers.

Perhaps then The Riverporter will have at last found someone 'Who we can trust these days.'

Sincerely,

Ms Laura Naude.

Slimming World  
taste  
the  
freedom

Join one of St Ives' warm & friendly  
Slimming World groups today!

TUESDAYS 9.30 am &  
SATURDAYS 8.00 am & 9.30 am  
Call Kathie 07772 868472

THURSDAYS 6.30 pm  
\*\* New Consultant \*\*  
Call Kim on 07536 457520

slimmingworld.co.uk







HYPERION

The **COURTYARD**  
St Ives  
*Open-air boutique market, run by independents*



 **Hyperion Auctions, Antiques Centre**   
**and the Courtyard would like to**  
**thank all our customers and wish them a Happy**  
**Christmas and New Year!**



**Come and visit us on the snowman trail and for**  
**late night opening with Live Music and Shopping**  
**every Thursday late until 8pm**

**Next Antiques & Interiors Sale 8<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

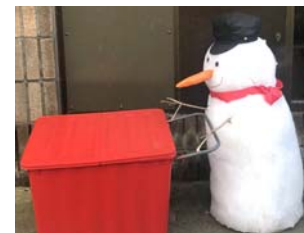


**the saleroom**  
The home of art & antiques auctions

Hyperion Auctions, The Salerooms, Station Road, St Ives PE27 5BH  
[www.hyperionauctions.co.uk](http://www.hyperionauctions.co.uk) 01480 464140

## Lots to do this Festive Season

**1** Come and see the Snowman in the town shops and take part in the **Snowman Trail** (for kids) with a chance of winning a £25 Townrow Voucher. The Prize Draw takes place on Saturday 18th December. Details and Trail map at [www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk](http://www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk)



*Santa and tree at Floods winebar.*



**2** Visit **Santa's Grotto** in the Riverport Café Bar, St Ives Corn Exchange between 2 and 4pm on the next two Saturdays and Sundays. A free event - each child receives a gift.

**3** **St Ives Choral Society Family Christmas Concert** - Saturday 18th December. The Free Church. Tickets £8 (acc. children U12 free) from The Fair Trade Shop or Ticketsource.

**4** **COSI Winter Concert**. Saturday 8th January -7pm in the Free Church. Concert includes Beethoven, Symphony No 5 and Elgar, Wand of Youth Suite. Tickets £10 (under 16s - free) from Just Sharing or on the door.

**5** **Cinderella**  
Pantomime by the Centre Theatre Players. The Burgess Hall. Wednesday 12th to Sunday 16th January. Tickets: 07555 394697.



ADVERTORIAL

## This year has been...well...interesting!



It hasn't ended up where we predicted it would at the start of the year and actually we've been pleasantly surprised by the increased activity in the local housing market. It hasn't all been a bed of roses though, there's been a shortage of properties for sale, chains have been more difficult to put together, sales transaction times have increased slightly and of course we've seen prices rising all year.

If I'm asked to predict what we'll see next year, I'd probably say pretty much the same. The first quarter tends to set the scene for the rest of the year and usually we have a flurry of activity in the first three weeks of January after the Christmas holiday.

If you're looking to move in the New Year and can't find that next 'forever home' it's still worth putting your house up for sale. If this last year is anything to go by, where we sometimes had five or six people bidding on the same property, you'll need to put yourself in the best possible position, i.e. sold subject to contract, to be in with a shot of getting the house that's 'just right for you'.

All of our staff would like to wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. If you'd like any advice if you're thinking of moving, call us, we'll be happy to help.

*Mike Ellis*

**ellis&co**  
**winters**