

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

HDC's plans in tatters

The Town Council's public meeting on Wednesday 5 October in the Ivo School hall, about HDC's Draft Masterplan, proved a rather one-sided affair as speaker after speaker slammed the proposals.

The decision to move the meeting to a larger venue proved essential as around 100 residents attended. The meeting began with Tetra Tech's Andrew Clarke (responsible for the plan) explaining to the audience the proposals. He was assisted by a colleague and Pam Scott, HDC's Housing Regeneration Officer.

All three were on zoom, rather than being present and this proved a little problematic especially as Mr Clarke was in his car and the reception wasn't of the best quality.

After the 30 minute presentation Mayor Pope, who chaired the meeting, opened the floor to questions and it soon became apparent that very little in the proposals pleased residents.

The list of points made included:

- Concern that the plans were presented on-line only, and were difficult to read.
- No proper evaluation of the town today, or the significance of its heritage, so projects proposed were based on false assumptions.
- Why was no public accessible data available to back up proposals for a £40 million project. Andrew Clarke did say that all the background papers will be accessible and hoped to present these over the next week.
- Reduction of the area for markets could jeopardise their existence entirely.
- Assumptions that companies or entrepreneurs would want to locate to a small market town without a rail connection were false.
- No mention of the impact on the natural environment and that growth without reference to climate change is outdated.
- Public transport has been ignored and if these plans were imposed the bus services would be unable to operate.

- Concern that the HDC may be about to sell off the cattle market to developers.
- Questions were raised about the costs incurred (estimated at £100k) and the potential loss of funds promised. Pam Scott said that there were no funds attached to these proposals.

Confusion remains about the £1million that was allocated to each of the Market Towns (Huntingdon, Ramsey and St Ives). We reported in Riverporter 64 in July 2020 that the CPCA had £1million available for each of the market towns in the area including St Ives. Where is this money is now?

The pragmatic view

The proposals are centred on land owned by HDC or the County Council for obvious reasons. It is far easier than dealing with private land owners and this has stoked the fear that in effect HDC could be selling off our historic cattle market site to developers.

As there are no funds it is highly likely that none of the proposals would go ahead, especially in the current economic climate. This project was devised by the previous elected council and officers have continued to progress it. Adverse comments about the first stage in 2019's Prospectus For Growth were not taken on-board and hence this plan, based on it, has found no support.

The current councillors need to take control and, in the words of Liz Truss and Kwarzi Kwarteng, listen. No I mean really LISTEN!

The Town Team produced a plan in 2019, which cost taxpayers nothing. It has just been revised. It will be available to view from next week at www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk or in print at the Riverport Café.

All the fun of the Fair?



Pictured are: St Ives Town Mayor, Phil Pope; Deputy Mayor, Nic Wells; Macebearer, Phil Ganny; Town Clerk, Matthew Price; Town Councillors Michael Gleadow, Mathew Setchell and Shariqa Mokbul who joined with members of the Scarrott family, the Fairground proprietors, and Muriel Moore to enjoy the sight of the Fair once again in town. It really is a colourful event which has been captured by local photographer Alan Bennett using a drone. You can see one of his pictures on page 2, or to see them in glorious colour go to the facebook page St Ives Cams . . . Serious discussions and posts.



A special treat this month for lovers of guitar music.

Two of the finest guitarists around - the brilliant Johnny 'Magic Boy' Wright and superb Chris Newman.

Friday 28th October at 7.30pm in the Riverport Café Bar. Tickets: £10 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives or from the Riverport Café Bar.

Doors open at 6.30pm a TOWN TEAM event.



FA Cup fever hits ahead of historic match

All roads lead to the Quattro-Tech Westwood Road stadium on Saturday afternoon as St Ives Town compete in the fourth qualifying round of the FA Cup for the first time.



Action from the Ives win over Chasetown. Picture Louise Thompson.

The historic cup tie sees the Ives welcome FC Halifax Town as they bid to book a place in the first round proper and a potential clash against a team from the football league.

It won't be easy. Halifax are a National League side, a full two steps ahead of St Ives but the FA Cup has a history of springing surprises.

The visitors are now known as FC Halifax after the original Halifax Town ceased to exist in 2008. As Halifax Town, they were a football league side until the early 2000's before getting relegated to non-league. Nicknamed 'The Shaymen' they have made a stuttering start to their current league campaign having won 3 of the opening 13 matches to date.

Such is the history of the opponents, the match is receiving plenty of attention with a real buzz around the club as cup fever grips the town. The Ives have already knocked out Barking, Canvey Island and Chasetown en-route to this stage of the competition. With the team

making headlines on the pitch, there is also a big effort off it with more volunteers and matchday stewards being recruited as the attendance is expected to hit four figures.

Manager Ricky Marheineke has fitness doubts over right back Kane Lewis and striker Jonny Edwards. If Edwards is fit to play, he will come up against the team he made 33 appearances for in season 2018/19.

As with the last round, the club is appealing for the local community to come out and support them. The match is not all ticket and is pay on the day. Due to the bumper crowd expected, supporters are being advised to arrive early to avoid queuing. Kick-off is at 3:00pm.

The admission prices are: Adults £11, Concessions (Over 65) £8, Military Discount (with ID Card) £5, Students (With ID Card) £5, U16's £2 and U12's are free when accompanied with an adult. Please note that season tickets are not valid for cup ties

St Ives's starts a mending trend with 40 items saved from Landfill!

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped to operationalise St Ives' first ever Repair Café on Saturday 8 October at St Ives Methodist Church, 1-4pm. While the event had been two years in the planning, with a superb team of organisers, repairers, caterers and cheer leaders it finally happened on Saturday, and what a truly splendid effort and achievement it was!

Around 40 items were fixed in 3 hours by a team of 12 superb expert repairers. Local residents came with all manner of items which had previously been booked in, including clothing, electrical items, jewellery, garden tools, bicycles, lamps, computers, a paperweight, an old ceramic pipe and a mandolin! Around 20 items were diagnosed not repairable. Over £120 were received in donations, which will help to pay for the hire of the church hall and other expenses.

Special thanks also to St Ives Town Council for the grant that has enabled the project to get off the ground, and with recognition to the International Repair Café Foundation and to Cambridge Carbon Footprint for their ongoing inspiration and support.

If you are a volunteer with repairing, organising or communication skills, or just someone who would like to help us to build a culture of mending things here in St Ives and the surrounding area, please email us at stivesecoaction@gmail.com.



Clive and David with the pipe.

With so many products designed to fail and difficult to fix, it's little wonder that many items end up on the scrapheap or in landfill. The growing global movement of Repair Cafés aims to turn that around, and St Ives has now joined the trend by adding to the growing network of repairers and Repair Cafés in Cambridgeshire, and internationally. This Repair Café, the first in St Ives, was an initiative of St Ives EcoAction, the community-led local climate action group that formed in 2020 to form a local climate action plan.



Customers said: 'Being a student this year and having my items fixed by kind-hearted people such as yourselves really warmed my heart. Well done to all involved for running such a successful event.'

'The repairer who helped to fix my item was extremely approachable and it was a pleasure to work through 'solving' the problem with him. I was not aware that I needed to stay but now completely understand why it is a far more interesting experience to actually be a part of the repairing job!'

To order your copy of this 490 page thriller, email editor@theriverporter.uk

Copies cost £15 and are available 16 December.

ST IVES AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER

Issue 1254 9 December 2022

The Riverporter
COVERING THE NEWS FOR ST IVES AND AROUND

The History of St Ives

Five years that shook the world ... a Riverporter Special every issue from January 2018 to December 2022

Fundraising gifts from the Friends of Holt Island Nature Reserve

We have delicious honey from the Holt Island bees for a £5 donation per 250g jar. To claim your treat call Ian on 07836 248360.

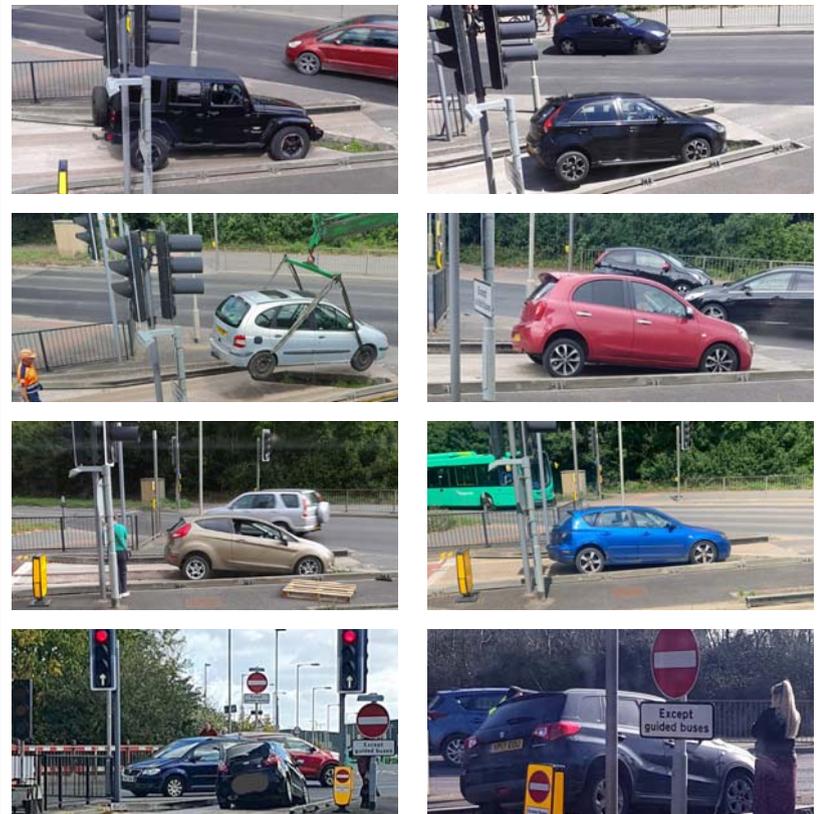
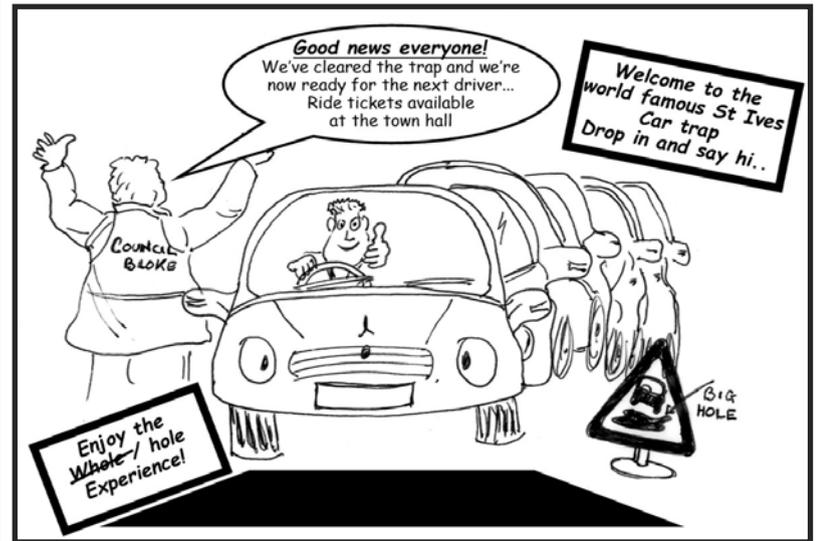
And we have the perfect Christmas stocking filler - a spiral bound desk calendar for £10. For your ADOPT-A-BOX application form call Julian on 07802 166722

For spring, there is an early chance to reserve a nesting box for next season for £10. For your ADOPT-A-BOX application form call Julian on 07802 166722

It's no laughing matter

Every few days local Facebook pages picture yet another car that has fallen foul of the TRAP.

As our picture gallery shows at least 14 drivers have recently failed to see the warning signs. Sadly every time a car gets stuck it disrupts the buses using the Busway. We are indebted to Helen Bays of Thomas Quinn for supplying the pictures and it appears regularly helps the victims. Analysing the data we discover that there is rarely an incident on Mondays for some reason! On-line comments range from 'They should go to Specsavers' to 'Feed The Trap' and 'Have cameras and fine the drivers instead'. One person, who was returning to Dorset, having attended a funeral in St Ives, missed the signs due to a bus in front of them, described getting caught as a surreal moment!



Even in black and white this picture by Alan Bennett shows what a colourful sight the Michaelmas Fair is.



Erik is home.



having your say ...

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

A GENIE-US OF A SHOW

This year the Centre Theatre Players excursion into the land of fantasy and make believe takes us to Peking as they present the traditional family Pantomime ALADDIN, which they are staging in the Burgess Hall of One Leisure on **January 11th – 15th**. 8 performances in total. Aladdin is one of the most well known and loved fairy stories of all time and remains one of the most popular pantomimes performed by both amateur and professional groups.

Tickets for the show can be booked online www.ticketsource.co.uk/burgesshall.co.uk or from the One Leisure main reception. Last January's Cinderella was a complete sell out, so you are advised to book early to avoid disappointment particularly for the matinee performances.

Blue Plaque honours family of doctors

An addition to the existing St Ives Civic Society blue plaques will soon be displayed outside the historic Sleppe House in Cromwell Place, a Grade 2 Listed building built in 1849. This building has been used continuously as a surgery since 1881 and is now the Grove Medical Practice. The practice is named after three generations of the Grove family who were doctors there until the birth of the National Health Service in 1948.



Peter Flower, a grandson of Dr Reginald Grove, and the author of his biography, 'The Life and Times of a Victorian Country Doctor' is seen presenting the plaque to Simon Stitson, the Practice Business Manager last week.

FEST Quiz raises over £500 for Bandstand

Festival Events St Ives, which organises Santa's Grotto and other events held a quiz to raise funds for the Queen Elizabeth II Bandstand. The turnout was amazing as 17 teams battled to win the first prize of a chauffeured boat trip on Ouse Cruise. The Town Team are delighted that the funds have brought the total raised to over £37,000. The public continue to pledge funds and there is now sufficient for the project to go ahead once planning approval is given.



OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Friday 21st - Civic Society talk and AGM** - 7.30pm The Free Church. Talk by Dr Sue Oosthuizen on the *Emergence of the English*. Non members welcome.
- Saturday 22nd - Huntingdonshire Philatelic Society Stamp and Post Card Fair.** The Corn Exchange 10am -3pm. Free admission. Further information contact 01480 468037.
- Saturday 22nd - Stand Up Comedy Night** - 7pm The Corn Exchange. 01480 496454.
- Friday 28th - COSI Lunchtime concert** - COSI strings perform a programme for half term.

Dear Erik,
Another fab musical event . . .
I have enjoyed an abundance of great music and local musicians recently including The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues. However I attended another fabulous concert at The Corn Exchange on Thursday afternoon 22 September. It was the fabulous duo of Neil Richardson and Mark Burton (a local St Ives Resident) with their show 'BROADWAY OUR WAY'. With songs from all the big blockbuster musicals, as you would expect (and I've seen practically all of them on the professional stage) from Rogers and Hammerstein, to The Drifters Girl - all beautifully sung and brilliantly accomplished accompaniment. Neil Richardson hits all the right notes. His great voice and relaxed stage presence lets you know you are in safe hands with these colossal songs of the theatre. Mark Burton's musical pedigree is equally impressive, classically trained-you name it he can play it. It felt as though you were listening to a full orchestra. Fabulous. I have enjoyed being in the audience at most of their concerts at The Corn Exchange and they always deliver something different. Their next concert is their popular 'Christmas Cracker' on Thursday 15th December. We are so lucky living in St Ives with all these great local musicians and venues to attend.

Evie Lewis



Dear Erik, The Thicket for sale?
It's been reported that a housing developer can buy private mooring rights on the Ouse and remove greenery on The Thicket in the process. I'm going to apply to have a burger stall half way along. **Peter Law**
Dear Erik, Subject: PRIVATE JETTY!
Could someone please enlighten me as to how a private, fenced, gated jetty was granted planning permission for the new How development in the Thicket?? **Chris (a St Ives resident)**

Dear Peter and Chris,
As the picture shows, part of the bank has been fenced off. We believe a planning application has not been made yet, but there is a video saying an application will be made - see the link on the Facebook page St Ives Cams . . . Serious discussions and posts. If they own the riverbank (which is in doubt) they may be allowed to moor their own boat there, however a jetty will need planning consent. A local councillor is looking into this, so let's see what happens. This does raise another point, which is that there is a boat moored on a jetty a little further upstream, which we believe has never had planning approval. It seems rules are seldom enforced these days? **ED**

Is this what traffic management is?



A fine example.

Erik gets lots of letters, mostly by email but this letter we received by hand made us aware that not all our readers are able to go online so we have added a phone number to our contact details. This is part of what it said.

Dear Erik, RE: Implementation plan

At last someone with some common sense e.g. David Stewart of the Civic Society (see RP118). I agree with everything he said, however I was not aware of the loss of the bus station, which I use on a regular basis!! Surely all residents should have a right to what happens in their town? There should be at least somewhere, other than on-line to have our say. I don't like going out late. Why not a public daytime meeting for all residents? St Ives needs more shops and we need our Market!! When I came to St Ives 60 odd years ago there were four supermarkets and three butchers. We have less choice now the town is bigger and still growing!

On a separate subject I hope you receive this letter as I could not find your address or telephone number! It seems to me that anyone not on-line doesn't exist anymore. A regular reader **Miriam Norman**.



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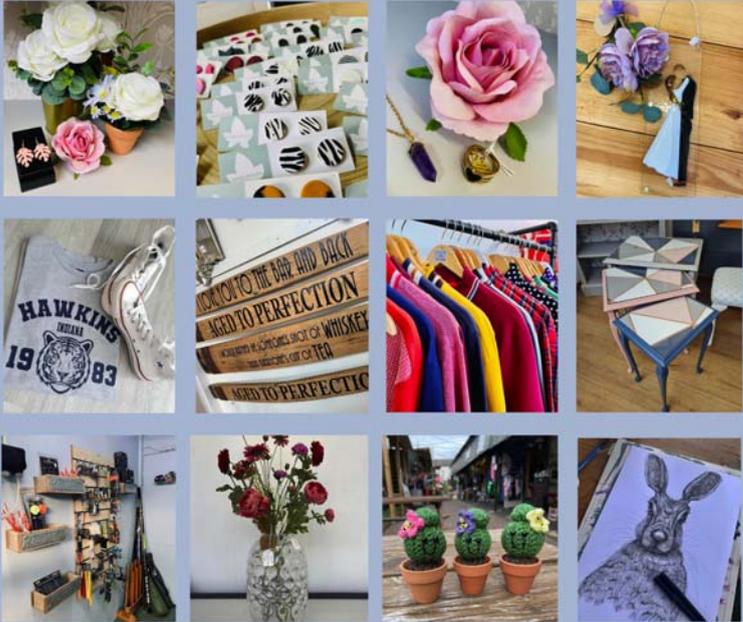
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the courtyard

The courtyard, behind Hyperion Auctions, Station Road, St Ives, PE27 5BH

30 FOR 30 CHALLENGE

Laura Bird of St Ives had her life saved by East Anglian Air Ambulance at the age of 18 after a life changing road traffic incident. Since her rehabilitation, she has become a fundraising ambassador for the charity.

Laura has made it her mission to raise as much money as possible for this incredible charity through a series of inspiring endurance challenges.

Throughout November 2022, Laura is running a half marathon (13.1 miles) every single day of the month. 30 half marathons, consecutively, for 30 days, in the same month she celebrates her 30th birthday!!

Other than 4 days in the month where the 30 for 30 challenge is going on tour, all of the runs will start and finish in St Ives town centre and Laura encourages any runner or cyclist to join her for support.

For all the information you need on this exciting event including route maps, timings of runs, how to donate, fancy dress days (!!) and how to get involved, please visit:

www.runbirdyrun.co.uk

We can't wait to bring the community of St Ives together for this brilliant fundraising adventure!



The next meeting is on Thursday October 20th, 2022 at 2pm to 4pm in St Ives Corn Exchange includes a biscuit and tea/coffee.

The Speaker is
**Emma Saunders
of Magpas Air Ambulance**

An emergency medical charity that provides pre-hospital emergency care, in the air or on land. The venue has been chosen to allow social distancing between attendees.

£2.00 Entry plus optional Raffle £1 per ticket.

Fenstanton Christmas Market
Saturday 12th November
2:00 - 4:30pm
at the Fenstanton Church Centre,
School Lane, Fenstanton PE28 9JR

FREE ENTRY

Shop local

- Lots of stalls for Christmas gift ideas
- Tombola
- Mince pies

For more info or to book a stall please email iveagh.designs@outlook.com

CUT OUT AND KEEP

Screen St Ives Community Cinema

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THE ROAD DANCE

7:30pm Thursday
20 October 2022

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1h 56m, Cert: 15



TOP GUN: MAVERICK

7:30pm Thursday
17 November 2022

Director: Joseph Kosinski
2h 10m, Cert: 12



THE PHANTOM OF THE OPEN

7:30pm Thursday
3 November 2022

Director: Craig Roberts
1h 46m, Cert: 12



THE OUTFIT

7:30pm Thursday
1 December 2022

Director: Joseph Kosinski
1h 45m, Cert: 15

Tickets £5: screenstives.org.uk or in the Corn Exchange. All screenings start at 7:30pm. Doors open at 6:30pm