

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

'A very well deserved Gold'

St Ives In Bloom have won their sixth Gold medal in the annual Anglia in Bloom awards, which took place at the Coneygear Centre in Huntingdon last week.

'Well done St Ives! A very well deserved Gold.'

This was the quote from the Anglia in Bloom judges, as they presented a Gold Award to the Committee of St Ives in Bloom. Congratulations must go to all the volunteers for their hard work in getting the town ready for the judging back in July.

That wasn't all as The Waits riverside flower bed also received an award for **'Best floral display by a local authority'**, and the Norris Museum's project with the Spring Common Academy and St Ives in Bloom won **'Best award for young people aged 12 to 18'**.

St Ives in Bloom (SIIB) first won gold in 2016 and apart from 2020, when the competition didn't take place, and 2021 when the competition did not include a visit by judges, they have received gold awards ever since. Although the award is welcome recognition for the work SIIB put in throughout the year the real benefit is just how good the town looks with the magnificent floral displays.



Above: Carole Parker, Chair of St Ives in Bloom, receives the Gold Award from Anglia in Bloom judge John Crawley.

Masterplan - accept it or lose it!?

Now called 'A Vision for St Ives' (which was the title of the Town Team's Plan in 2019!) the discredited Masterplan from HDC has resurfaced. It is available on HDC's website. *The Riverporter* hasn't had time to study the details yet, but it doesn't appear to have been radically altered.

What we have discovered, which may upset many residents, is that this will be the only major change and the 'authorities' are basically saying accept it or lose it. It will be possible to accept parts of the proposals but not to make more amendments to them. So, for instance, if the town rejects the pontoon on The Quay proposal then there will be no funding for that part of the town. Should the plan, as it exists, be rejected entirely then St Ives could have no funding at all.

At the moment there is no money available and *The Riverporter* has been told that funds (presumably via the Cambridge & Peterborough Combined Authority) will

only come for these proposals if they are accepted. One resident, who studied the original proposals, said when advised of this take it or leave it attitude *'So what's the bad news? It will be better to have nothing done than accept these proposals.'*

He went on to say *'I notice these new plans still propose that the old Barclays building could become a workspace café, which shows that they are still out of touch and have not taken into account that it is currently becoming flats.'*

At the moment there doesn't appear to be a deadline for comments on this 'Vision' but no doubt comments will soon come. See Page 3 for more on the 'Vision'.

The outdoor events really help show St Ives in a great light ...



So said one resident who congratulated the Town Team on the success of this year's Jazz & Blues Festival, considered to be the best ever. Above: crowds line The Quay to enjoy some of the quality music. Next year it will be the 10th year since it started and the Town Team is planning to make it even better. It will take place between 12th and 15th September 2024.

Saturday 14th October

The Illuminated Boat Parade

A magical evening for families to watch from The Quay and bridge.

Entertainment on the water from 6.30pm. with the parade of boats, decorated with a 'Musical' theme, begins at 7pm. A FREE event.



DIARY OF EVENTS

THERE IS STILL A LOT GOING ON

OCTOBER

Friday 6th - Chapel Arts concert with Danilo Vignola. Flamenco music played on a Ukulele by this passionate Italian. The Corn Exchange 7.30pm. Tickets £10 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents or from the Bar.

Saturday 7th - The Old Riverport Ukulele Festival. The Corn Exchange 9.30am. An all-day Festival with workshops and performances. SOLD OUT

Monday 9th - Wednesday 11th - Michaelmas Fair. In the town centre.

Saturday 14th - The Illuminated Boat Parade. See below.

Friday 27th - Chapel Arts concert with Lexie Green and Johnny 'Magic Boy' Wright. The Corn Exchange 7.30pm. Tickets £10 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents or from the Riverport Café Bar.

Saturday 28th - Celebrate Halloween at St Ives Corn Exchange Bars open at 7.15pm includes Halloween drinks offers! Tickets only £5.00!

NOVEMBER

Saturday 4th - Fireworks in Hemingford. London Rd, St Ives from 5pm.

Saturday 11th - Handel's Messiah. 7.30pm St Ives Free Church. This masterpiece is generally regarded as one of the finest examples of Handel's oratorios and is performed worldwide. St Ives Choral Society present it with full choir, four soloists and an orchestra of local professionals. Under their Musical Director Arwen Gilbert, this promises to be an evening not to be missed! Tickets available 1 October from www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-ives-choral-society

Sunday 12th - Remembrance Sunday Parade. Market Hill 10.30am.

Monday 13th - Snowman Festival Trail starts.

A chance for children (under 12 years) to win a prize by completing the Snowman Trail available at participating stores.

Saturday 18th - Christmas Lights Switch-on. Market Hill with The Mayor and Father Christmas

Friday 24th - Chapel Arts Concert with Kim and Lee. Eurovision winner Kimberley Rew (Katrina & The Waves) and Lee Cave-Berry. The Corn Exchange 7.30pm. Tickets £10 www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents.

Sunday 26th - On the Way to Christmas - an informal concert by Hemingford Ladies Choir Under the direction of Elaine Gunn, accompanied by Anna Aldous, Piano. 3pm St Margaret's Church, Hemingford Abbots with refreshments and a retiring collection in support of the Church.

DECEMBER

Saturday 2nd - Mayor of St Ives Charity Concert with the RAF Wyton Band. The Free Church 7.30pm.

Saturday 9th - ArtsFest. Art, crafts and gifts for Christmas. The Corn Exchange from 10am. FREE entry

Saturday 16th - Sunday 17th - Two-day Santa and Snowman Festival. Games and craft activities plus a FREE Santa's Grotto. The Corn Exchange from 10am.

Could you help a child to read?

Currently one in 4 primary school children in England fail to reach the expected standard of reading by the age of 11.

Bedford based company, Schoolreaders, are seeking volunteers to read in the primary schools in the St Ives area that have registered with us.

1 in 4 primary school children in England fail to reach the expected standard of reading by the age of 11. This leaves them unable to access their secondary education fully, which will have life long consequences.

What we do

We recruit, place and support volunteers to go to local primary schools and provide free one to one reading support for children, prioritising those most disadvantaged.

Our vision is that every child should learn to read well and there has never been a more important time for our work.

This is a really rewarding volunteering opportunity. If you wish to help us with this work please visit: Schoolreaders.org.



Schoolreaders
improving literacy • increasing life chances



Constabulary catch the cat thieves

At it's height, catalytic converters were being stolen at an average of twice a day at the end of 2022 and the start of 2023.

The sheer number of thefts and the violence being used to steal catalytic converters meant it quickly became a priority for Cambridgeshire Constabulary and a dedicated team were put in place to catch those responsible.

It was on 23 March that the luck of three thieves ran out.

Police took multiple 999 calls reporting thefts from the Ely area and officers were dispatched.

They caught up with their vehicle which refused to stop and when it did, four men got out, with one running at the officers brandishing a metal pole which he used to shatter the windscreen of the police car.

The police helicopter was deployed and the area flooded with officers. Danny Stone-Parker, 33, of Sunflower Street, Cambridge, was found hiding in a recycling bin on Strettham recreation ground.

Spencer Butler, 44, of Midland Road, Sandy, was found hiding in a wheelie bin on Short Road, Strettham and Joe Loveridge, 24, of Tottenhoe Road,

Dunstable, was found in the back garden of a home in Short Road. Police said 'They are dangerous individuals and it's lucky that no one was seriously injured.'

The trio were sentenced last week. One received an 18 month prison sentence while two others received suspended sentences.

The Neighbourhood Support Team, following the sentencing said 'We hope this sentence issued by the court will provide some satisfaction to those who have been a victim of these thefts.'

You may think it is a bit early to book a panto, but these shows are usually very popular!

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A TRADITIONAL FAMILY PANTOMIME

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DIRECTED BY NICK THOMPSON
MUSICAL DIRECTION BY MARK A J CHECKLEY

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St Ives & Music - Don't miss . . .

FRIDAY 6TH OCTOBER

Danilo Vignola
Flamenco music played on a Ukulele
by this passionate Italian

7.30pm in the Riverport Café Bar. Tickets: £10 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents or from the Bar.



Our Dog end disaster

Recently many premises in St Ives received a letter from Heidi Field, who is the Waste Minimisation Officer with Huntingdonshire District Council. Heidi has been working with St Ives Town Council on a growing but very noticeable problem with discarded cigarette ends around our town centre.

The problem has grown since the ban on indoor smoking as the butts are being carelessly discarded and causing an unpleasant mess. Not only that but the butts contains harmful chemicals including arsenic and lead and, as the letter points out, cigarette filters contain a plastic that does not biodegrade.

The council letter tells business owners and managers that it is the responsibility of the business to ensure that the land around their premises is kept clear of any litter caused as a result of their business activities. If they fail to do this the Council point out that they can enforce the order, which falls under the Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing act 2014 .

The Riverporter having read the letter went out to have a look around and it does appear that Heidi may well have a point . . . see a couple of our pictures.

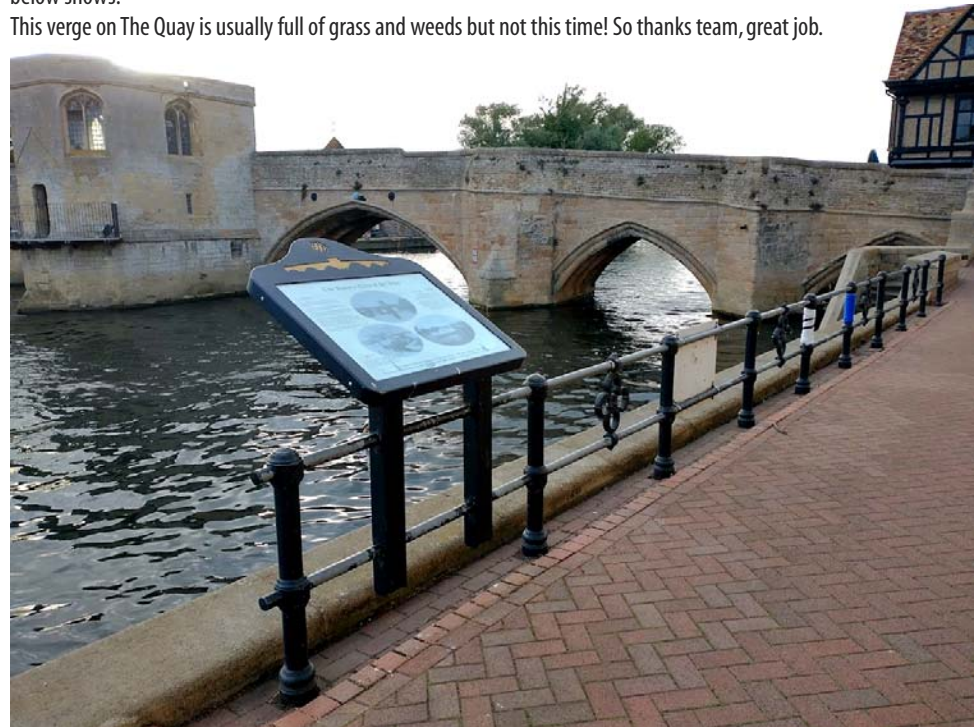


Great job guys!

Readers may have noticed a couple of comments in recent issues about the fact that our pavements, kerbs and verges were sprouting weeds and grass all over town, and St Ives was starting to look a little uncared for, especially upsetting when we see the amazing job that St Ives in Bloom do for our town.

It appears the issue starts with the decision by the County Council to no longer use chemicals to control weeds as part of environmental concerns. So nature was left to its own, however, last week, residents noticed a team of council operatives working hard all round town, manually clearing the weedy growth. And credit where its due a really great job was done! The problem with chemical weed killing is that the weeds may be destroyed but the dried up remains stay rooted into the crevices and never look tidy but the recent efforts have left our town looking great as the picture below shows.

This verge on The Quay is usually full of grass and weeds but not this time! So thanks team, great job.





Erik loves your letters.



having your say ...

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

OTHER NEWS

Christmas Lights Switch-on date set

Last week details of the St Ives Christmas Switch-on emerged and it is scheduled to happen on Saturday 18th November. The Mayor and Father Christmas will be switching on the lights, however, there is unlikely to be fireworks, as in previous years, due to the costs unless a sponsor can be found. The Christmas Lights Committee are seeking sponsorship to bolster the funds they said 'We have staging, insurances, the lights and the installation to pay for'.

The committee have £12,500, awarded by the Town Council, plus donations and at present these are modest, hence the appeal to businesses and the public.

Donations can be made via the Just Giving page at:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stiveschristmas2023?utm_term=2xnewyQrz

Plan seeks better consultation

A meeting last Wednesday in the Town Hall saw Councillors and members of the Draft Neighbourhood Plan Team and the Civic Society discuss the Neighbourhood Plan and arrangements for the consultation of the Plan.

Councillor Nic Wells chaired the meeting, which we understand decided on a 5 week consultation with the public. The acceptance of a Neighbourhood Plan, not to be confused with the District's Masterplan, takes a long time as following comments by residents the plan is amended by the District Council before it goes to an independent assessor where it can be amended again. Eventually the agreed plan becomes adopted following a referendum so there is still a long way to go. The Town Council will discuss the proposals agreed on Wednesday at their full council meeting in October, so consultation dates for the plan will not be known until after then. Sadly Nick Dibben, who has chaired the Neighbourhood Plan Team and been instrumental in writing it is leaving St Ives. Nick has recently retired and we understand will be moving to Lincolnshire, a major loss for the Plan Team.

The new Vision? Or is it the same?

This document like its predecessor, the Masterplan, is not exactly up-to-date and gaffs, such as turning the old Barclays building into a workspace shouts incompetence.

The Riverporter would like to hear readers thoughts on these proposals as at present



we are unaware of any proposals for consultation about them. Above: Artists impression of The Quay showing a pontoon that would likely prevent larger boats from passing under the bridge.

Procedure underway to replace Deputy Mayor

Following the resignation of Cllr Craig Smith two weeks ago the Town Council (TC) are in the process of finding a replacement councillor. The District Council manage this process which will include the TC advertising the vacancy. If within 14 days of the date of this notice a written request is made for an election, signed by 10 electors, then an election will be held for the post. If however this does not happen the Town Council may adopt a new member.

The Riverporter has spoken with Cllr Smith about his resignation and although he didn't want to say specifically why he had resigned, because of confidentiality. He did say, 'I have met some amazing councillors over the past few years and some of them I now class as close friends. St Ives is lucky to have them. It has been an honour sitting on the Town Council and to have served the people of St Ives in this way. At the start, I never expected that I would be accepted into local politics and, as you can imagine, I never even dreamed that I would be voted in as Deputy Mayor and for this I will always be grateful.'

This resignation, following the meeting held in private concerning the Burleigh Hill Centre (BHCC), does show that all is not well in the Council. Cllr Craig had been seen as someone who had the best interests of St Ives at heart and councillors have expressed sadness at his resignation. The minutes of September's meeting show that the process to audit the BHCC accounts, agreed at June's meeting, may have been flawed and perhaps this might have been the catalyst for Cllr Craig's actions.

We understand that that part of the meeting became very heated and it may be a while before we know exactly what the report on the running of the BHCC says. Meanwhile the Town Council is the sole trustee of the Burleigh Hill Charity, something that has happened without the knowledge of some councillors. The Town Clerk said that this had been done on the advice of the Charity Commission and he would come back with a detailed report on that issue. The Town Clerk was happy to report that the hirers [of the BHCC] are working with us. We are taking on new hirers daily, the cleaning contract has been dealt with and security completed with new doors and windows. On Wednesday the BHCC became a hub for St Ives Cares.

Dear Erik,

**Subject: Centre theatre Players
MAKE THIS A NIGHT TO REMEMBER**

As a result of their recent Charity Cabaret show 'MAKE THIS A NIGHT TO REMEMBER' the Centre Theatre Players are delighted to announce that they have been able to hand a cheque over to their nominated charity, BREAST CANCER NOW, to the value of £2,200.

On behalf of the Players, and indeed the charity, we would like to thank everyone who supported the show and help us raise such a fantastic amount of money for this very worthy and valuable charity.

Richard Chalkley

Hi Erik,

Subject: Covid vaccines

Wondering if other readers have been in touch over the fact that a town the size of St Ives doesn't seem to have any venues giving the latest booster.

Choices seem to be Somersham, Warboys, Chatteris and Doddington plus Cambridge.

If you don't drive or have access to transport it's a long walk for a pensioner

Regards **Michael**

Festival attracts visitors - FACT

New footfall figures show that the week of The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival attracted many more people than the previous week. The Saturday figure peaked at over 20,000. 5,000 more than on previous or subsequent Saturdays.

The Riverporter thought as part of the clean town initiative it may be an idea to combine two issues.

The new fag end boxes now appearing around town that pose a range of troubling questions could perhaps clear up the ongoing question as to what to do with car trap users???

Dear Erik, Ref: The Car Trap

Firstly I must enlighten some of your readers. The local (voluntary) road safety group have been trying to reduce the number of accidents. Anyone leaving the car park into Station Road will see a fairly large sign that directs people to turn right.

I'm afraid Mr White of Hemingford Grey is hopelessly out of date. After numerous problems with the rising bollards the Cambridge City Council now rely on ANPR to issue penalty notices to those who transgress.

That remains a possibility if Highways can be persuaded but as they won't reduce the speed limit on the B1040 where there have been several fatalities I am not hopeful.

All those who have written are urged to write to the Combined Authority who fund a police casualty reduction officer.

If we can get his support then the suggestion by Julie (The car trap be altered so cars can reverse out. RP 142) might be seriously considered.

However, I fear the trap is not wide enough.

Colin Saunderson

St Ives & District Road Safety Committee

Dear Erik, Ref: The Car Trap

The letter from JULIE in issue 142 is the most cost effective answer to this major problem, it would (1) still protect the white elephant (2) teach the driver a lesson but not actually write the car off (3) allow the car to be removed without disrupting the busway.

Easily done and 100% effective.

Chris Martin Fenstanton.

EXPLANATION

Here is what a Highways spokesperson explained that it has done, over the years, to discourage motorists from incorrectly turning into the route:

- Installed more road signs prohibiting entry to vehicles other than the guided buses
- Added red coloured surfacing to the road;
- Painted additional white lines around the junction and;
- Written 'GUIDED BUS ONLY' markings twice on Station Road.

'We would like to remind drivers to be aware of this and look out for the signage if they are driving around this location,' he said.



A Community Energy Workshop (for town and villages) is being held on

Saturday 14th October 10am and Noon at St Ives Free Church.

On Saturday **4th November**, between 10am and Noon in St Ives Methodist Church is a **Nature and Green Spaces in St Ives** - a participatory Climate Café, which where HDC will have speakers.



HYPERION

Entries Invited for Our Next
Antiques & Interiors Sale
on Saturday 14th October

Sold In Our Last Interiors Sale

George Best 1960s match worn Manchester United jersey
Sold £12,000



Edwardian 9ct Rose gold double watch
chain with T Bar 37g total weight
Sold £600

Vintage framed railway signal box points diagram
taken from Lakenheath (Suffolk) signal box on the
Breckland line
Sold £400



the-saleroom.com
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TWO LIVE BANDS

DYNAMITE CHICKEN

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2023

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THE FABELMANS

Thursday 5 October 2023 at 7:30pm Doors open 6:30pm. Tickets £7
Director: Steven Spielberg, 150m, Cert: 12

The Fabelmans is a coming-of-age drama directed by Steven Spielberg. The film is a semi- autobiographical story loosely based on Spielberg's adolescence and first years as a filmmaker. The plot is told through an original story of the fictional Sammy Fabelman, a young aspiring filmmaker who explores how the power of films can help him see the truth about his dysfunctional family and those around him.



BARBIE

Thursday 2 November 2023 at 7:30pm Doors open 6:30pm. Tickets £7
Director: Greta Gerwig, 114m, Cert: 12A

Barbie is an American fantasy comedy film directed by Greta Gerwig, from a screenplay she wrote with Noah Baumbach. Based on the Barbie fashion dolls by Mattel, it is the first live-action Barbie film after numerous computer-animated films and specials. The film stars Margot Robbie as Barbie and Ryan Gosling as Ken, and follows the pair on a journey of self-discovery following an existential crisis.

Tickets from screenstives.org.uk or in the Corn Exchange