

# The Riverporter

**A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION**

## Welcome to this very special edition . . .

**T**here are six pages in this special issue because pages 2 to 6 are *The Riverporter's* entry for YOUR ST IVES '68. This competition, to celebrate the Civic Society's 50th anniversary, closes on September 6th and is about how you imagine St Ives to be in 50 years time.

Fortunately August is a 'slow' time for news, as national and local politicians go on holiday - you've probably noticed the number of strange items on our tv and radio news programmes. So here is a cut-down version of current news and 5 pages of news for 24 August 2018.

We hope you will enjoy *The Riverporter's* version of the future which, as you will see, is equally surprising, amusing and frightening!

### Football Club Planning application not easy

Outline planning consent has been given by HDC for St Ives Town Football Club's application to build 30 homes on their Westwood Rd pitch.

Residents, unhappy with the approval, felt that nothing they could say would alter the decision and objections by local HDC Cllr Davies (also speaking for the absent Cllr Dickinson) failed to persuade the Committee to change its mind. St Ives Cllr Jason Ablewhite proposed approval.

St Ives Town Council (SITC) a consultee in the process, earlier approved the scheme with conditions. Some councillors wanted to refuse the application but most felt it wouldn't stop it as the land had been earmarked for housing many years ago in the local plan. SITC claimed it's earlier objections had halved the number of houses from the original plan.

#### **The main lesson for residents is to be aware of the Local Plan when it is formulated.**

A new one is under discussion NOW, so check it out. Once land has been allocated for housing it's almost impossible to object later on.

**FOOTNOTE:** HDC accepted the plan with less affordable housing as the Football Club said they wouldn't be able to afford to move if they can't sell the land for enough money. We think this is likely and could result in more houses and still no new football club as a result.

### Mayor completes a number of challenges

St Ives Mayor Cllr Tim Drye has already completed several challenges this year including: Walking and cycling the guided busway (2 x 22 miles), a 69 mile cycle ride during the Leighton Bromswold Bikefest, a 46 mile Pathfinder march in less than 20 hours and swimming across the river Ouse and back - a challenge given him by the St Ives Sea Scouts.



Tim has also walked Yorkshire's 3 peaks - a climb of over 1500m and 15 miles and his next challenges are the High Sheriff bicycle ride between Peterborough and Cambridge, and a 10km run during his visit to our German twin town Stadtallendorf.

Tim welcomes other organisations coming up with additional challenges that will help raise money for his charities which are; Holt Island pathway renovation, the Norris Museum school outreach programme, and the Hunts Volunteer Centre Driver Scheme. He is also hoping to help develop more local support for improved mental health, particularly for young men.

You can sponsor Tim at: [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stives-townmayor](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stives-townmayor). ps. no new sightings of the hat this week!



### A curious promotion!

Whilst sneaking a quick lunch at the Oliver Cromwell recently Erik noticed a curious advert on the back of the bar menu . . . Guvnor Jerry was questioned, and he said that he wanted to make it clear that Retro Food Night was not an attempt to sell off out of date food from Morrisons! Additionally, Erik was concerned that Quiz night starts on the 4th Sept but there's no mention of when it finishes! - if it goes on too long it could mess up Erik's holiday plans.

### Fire shows community spirit alive in St Ives



A fire engulfed a house yards from the Fire Station on Friday evening, which thankfully was soon spotted by neighbours who helped the 90 year-old owner out of the building.

Fire crews from St Ives, Huntingdon and Papworth attended and an ambulance was called which apparently came from Cromer!

The community rallied with offers of help which cheered the owner up no end and as local PCSO Angie Wilson said 'showed what a good community looks like in action' - it also renewed her faith in humanity.

### Dolphin makes changes

Following a failed hygiene inspection last June the Dolphin was told to instigate a daily pest control programme, which the management has confirmed has completely resolved all pest issues. Weekly EHO inspections continue for 3 months after which the hotel can reapply for a new rating but it will take a continued period of compliance before reaching the top grade 5.

The hotel has made several personnel changes including all new kitchen staff and is confident all is now well as *The Riverporter* has been invited to turn up unannounced to inspect the facilities which, of course, we will do.

A Best Western spokesperson said all hotels in the chain are individually owned and they have every confidence in the Dolphin's owners to rectify the problem.

From our Environmental Correspondent Heidi N. De Tries

## RIVER LITTER? UGH!



Hi Luvvies, I HATE river litter! How can people chuck their empty beer cans and bottles, take-away cartons and plastic bags in our beautiful river? It ruins my sessions on the sun deck of our cruiser Gin Palace.

Today though I heard of a wonderful effort by two young visitors to the town, Elenie (10) and her sister (Alice). It turns out they both care very much about the environment and they HATE river litter too. So much so that they nick their Grampa's fishing net when he is dozing and go fishing for rubbish in the river. The other day they spotted something bigger lying on the river bed. The net was too small and so Grampa offered his anchor. With them all pulling hard, up rose from the depths - not a supermarket trolley - but a fisherman's trolley! If you are reading this and want your trolley back - hard luck, it's gone to the dump! Three cheers for youngsters doing their bit for the river!

Heidi x

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## Rising sea levels bring a new opportunity for Historic St Ives

Above: The Quay showing the new water level.  
Below: The new view down Wellington Street.  
Photographs by Primrose Souter.

**O**ver 50 years ago the disgraced ex-president Donald Trump refused to sign up to the world climate change initiative and the resulting worldwide confusion has led to continuing rising sea levels.

The threat to low-lying countryside, especially here in the East England Fenlands, has been an on-going challenge with huge unsustainable cost to councils.

St Ives council have decided to take a different approach to the problem. Rather than continue to construct larger and larger water defences some of those defences are to be removed to allow the river to take over some of the town centre streets.

This astonishing idea will transform the riverside areas into a 'Bruges-style' environment. The streets between the river and Market Hill will be only accessible by boat and footbridge with some historic eateries such as the Oliver Cromwell and the Golden Lion

granted permission to construct their own landing docks.

Market Hill will also have a new pier with direct access to the Waitrose marina, which now boasts a direct route to the North Sea.

The Council is of course mindful of the change and cost that will fall on town residents and have agreed to extend the car scrappage scheme to include a 30% discount when trading in your car for a new electric boat. The design for the new St Ives Gondola has been submitted to planners for approval. The scheme is expected to take two years to complete and those residents affected in the early stages are urged to take up the sports centres offer of free swimming lessons on Wednesday evenings.



**Screen St Ives**  
 Following the discovery of fascinating old films produced by the Town Team 50 years ago Screen St Ives is proud to present U  
**THE GIANT SNOWMAN MEETS THE MERRY WIVES**  
 Friday 21st September in the Tony Burgess Room and on CinePad  
 Doors open at 7.30pm for all Screen St Ives shows and films start at 8pm. Refreshments are available before the screening. All tickets cost only £50, and are available online or in person at the Corn Exchange, St Ives.

**THE Chapel Arts Season 2068**  
 Singing keeps me Young  
 with St Ives own 68 year old Diva,  
 still looking and sounding fabulous.  
**Ffion Rebecca**  
 26th August 2068  
 6pm for 6.30pm  
 Places are limited - Tickets just £50 from  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives) or  
 The Corn Exchange. For details  
[www.theoldriverportstives.co.uk](http://www.theoldriverportstives.co.uk)  
 SPONSORED BY THE MORRISON 'FOREVER YOUNG' PLAN



# LIFT OFF FOR THE NEW SPACE PORT

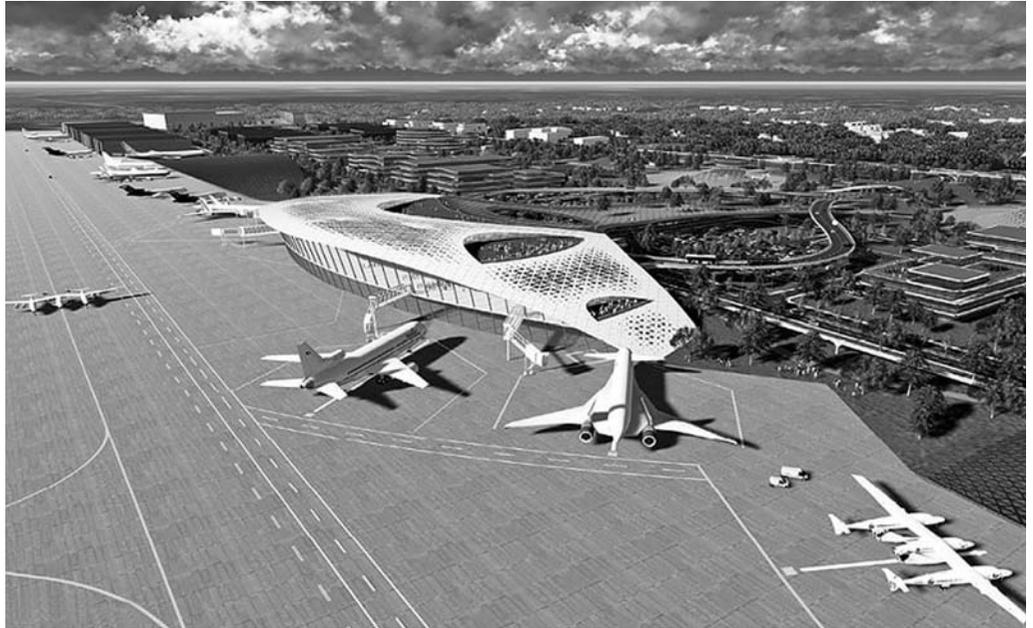
**L**ocal and County Councils have finally received the results of the feasibility study for the new Elon Musk Galactic Transport system and the decision is 'All systems go!'

The new space port will be situated on the old Park-and-Ride at St Ives utilising the new transport links to Cambridge and London via Bluntisham.

The new centre will be named 'The Sir Clive Sinclair Spaceport' and take 3 years to construct. Flights will commence in September 2071.

Residents have voiced concern at the sonic booms that will take place up to 12 times a day although a spokesman for Musk said that the new designs of the 'ships' would reduce the sound to nothing more than a whimper. However during major interplanetary launches residents will need to be evacuated for 24 hrs.

Operators SpaceX, Virgin Galactic and Mick George Offworld Skips Limited have said they will lay on free coach travel and packed lunches. St Ives residents will receive discounted fares with shopping day trips to Australia soon becoming the norm.



Artist impression of the new Sir Clive Sinclair Spaceport due to open in September 2071. Concern has been expressed by the Environment Agency that the large area of runway could adversely affect flooding but they weren't sure!

## The Holt Island Memorial

*Older residents may recall the mysterious disappearance of ex-Councillor Ian Jackson back in 2018, who individually had fought to preserve the wildlife and flora of Holt island for future generations.*

*Well now the great grandson of one of ex-Councillor Jackson's colleagues, Mr Potto Fuller, has raised the money for a memorial on the island to the magnificent work of Mr Jackson, whose disappearance led to the rumours that he still lives as a hermit on the island shunning modern life.*

*The memorial, described as in classical design, depicts Mr Jackson welcoming the seal colony on their arrival in 2020.*

**Give me your tired and huddled wildlife**

## The New Corn Exchange

**P**eople today will be interested in learning of all the changes proposed for our ancient Corn Exchange. Opened originally over 200 years ago as somewhere farmers could sell their crops, it became the social centre of our community during the 20th century when selling corn took place over the phone rather than in person.

The current Exchange remained the towns 'fun palace' until 25 years ago although it was almost lost to the community in the first few years of this century when scurrilous councillors wanted to sell it to the giant Wetherspoon Corporation.

Some say that had this gone ahead back in 2006 the drinking habits of St Ivesians would've been transformed earlier, but as we now know every other bar, restaurant, hotel and cafe is part of the Wetherspoon Corporation - but that is another story!

Anyway back to the CEX, as it is known these days, the Centre for Excellence - who would've thought back in 2010 when the building reopened as the town centre's main hall, where markets were held and people congregated for tea and biscuits and Screen St Ives started and Father Christmas and snowmen amused children, that this would become the world's first total welfare complex.

Gone is the giving of blood and activities

regularly carried on for many years and hello to blood letting. Yes the CEX opens its doors next year as the UK's first euthanasia clinic. No longer do those of us, who now live an average of 110 years, need to put up with the life of forgetfulness and mobility hover scooters.

**Whatever your health needs the CEX has the solution for you.**

Need a new hip? Then it's probably here. Can you afford a new brain? Then the CEX probably has the consultant for you. Fed up with total incontinence or just want to end it all? Then make an appointment today. Life is so long now (apparently 50 years ago it used to be too short) you will want to consider what to do as you reach your second century.

**The mind may be willing but the flesh certainly won't be.**

Get your CEX check up today and as long as you can afford it, the world is your Oyster. (Not sure what that phrase means but it sounds great).

The Old Corn Exchange.



The new CEX.



## Is the Holt to be the next Love Island?

Oh I do so love a shady nook down by the river, and I've just heard a whisper from those nice folk that look after the gorgeous nature reserve on Holt Island that it is in the running to become the venue for the new Love Island show in 2069.

Veteran game show host Tom Daly hosts the

show with the cast of hot young singles who will come looking for a summer of love and romance in St Ives. The winning couple will leave the island with £250,000.

One new initiative is that contestants will be chosen blind on the basis of a written application without being seen first.

# St Ives '2118

This year the Civic Society is celebrating its 100th year, not by looking back but by looking forward.

Your St Ives '2118 is a competition asking you to imagine what St Ives will look like in 50 years time. It is about using your imagination and thinking about the kind of St Ives we will have (or you would like us to have) in the future.

Your St Ives '2118 is free to enter, open to all and there are four ways to show how you imagine St Ives in 50 years time.

1. You may write about it, prose, poetry, fact, fiction, humour, horror

2. You may paint a picture, sketch, multi media, embroider, collage, quilt

3. You may make a model, 3D print, Lego, papier mache, recycled materials

4. You may make a video or hologram.

5. You may even appear in person and speak, act, sing, mime or just Tell The Future!

All entries will be displayed in the Free Church on the 7th and 8th September 2068 the winning entries will then be displayed at the Norris Museum.

**There will be a special prize awarded in 2118 to anyone whose predictions turn out to be true and is still alive!**

Details at: [www.stivescivic.org.uk](http://www.stivescivic.org.uk)

# Another Point of View

In this popular series, where local people can give their opinion on topics of the day, we hear from ex Mayor and retiring leader of the county's Combined Authority, Phil Pope about the new opportunities afforded by the Commonwealth.

Many years ago, not long after I entered the political world, the mood in the country was definitely one of rebellion. The country had split in two with a referendum over our European connections.

For those who can remember that far back the chaos went on for several years and at one time, when the break took place, Britain seemed to lose its place in the list of world powers.

But as the old saying goes - time is a great healer - and as we all know now, it wasn't long before the rest of the powerful nations also had their problems.

France and Germany had bitter rows as the EU gradually disintegrated, when the Italian, Greek and then Spanish economies went into meltdown and the European dream collapsed.

Russia, which seemed once so strong allied itself with the USA and North Korea against the Chinese and Iranian threat, which ultimately led to a complete breakdown in world trade.

Eventually during the great depression of the 30's, isolation became the new normal, which was followed by conflict in Asia and the Middle East throughout the forties.

Unlike a hundred years earlier Britain remained relatively free of these conflicts, largely to our inability to influence the other countries and having insufficient armed forces to do anything other than protect our own borders.



Finally during the 50's Britain was able to re-engage with its Commonwealth allies. And so today we are on the cusp of something special and there is a lot of debate about which route we should take.

It has been a long time in the making but is it possible that the Brexiteers were right all along? Perhaps we are better off for going it alone and reconnecting with our commonwealth cousins now that the British Commonwealth appears to be so popular.

Should we admit the Italians, Spanish and Greeks? And what about the Japanese? I can see the case for and against but on the whole there is, in my opinion, an overriding factor which pulls me towards saying . . . Yes.

It would mean our trading community will stretch to over 60 nations, making it as big as the other trading blocks of URUSIKEA and CHIRAN.

Furthermore with France and Germany now looking for new trading connections it would be possible to let them join on our terms - a comforting thought - and it would also ensure we control all the very best wines in the world!

# TOWN COUNCIL MATTERS

Following the failure of the Town Council some 15 years ago, when nobody was prepared to attend meetings wearing fur-lined heavy robes for around three hours every month, a new system for electing representatives has now been agreed.

The system of conscription, started in 2030, where ratepayers are selected by computer to stand for a year as a councillor has proven to be problematic.

It was considered that by the time people had become au-fait with the system their year was nearly up, and like the original election system, not a lot was achieved.

This new system relies on a combination of carrot and stick, which it is hoped will give a more stable and productive council.

Firstly 17 people are picked at random by the **TWERPS** computer program (**Town Wellbeing Electronic Random People Selector**) from the list of taxpayers. These 17 people are appointed to run the Town for five years with the incentive of pay equal to their current earnings.

Tests have shown that selecting people randomly (such as by the toss of a coin) is likely to produce at least as good a range of people, of varying skills and opinions, as the old 'voted by the electorate' method which had been in use for over 100 years.

Some experts have proven since the disastrous 'May years' back in 2017/18, that random selection of politicians is actually better as it prevents political parties from forming before elections and making promises that they invariably break. One wonders how the public could possibly have accepted the referendum result that ended in a total meltdown in 2020.



*A Happy Councillor of days gone by, when Hawking and flat hats were in!*

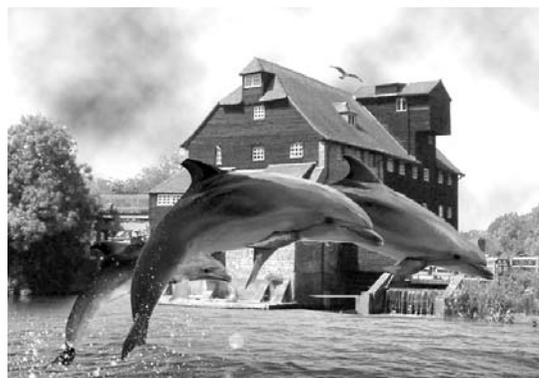
# St Ives Electric Riverboat Cruises

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Whether you wish to sit back and relax or take the helm we have the cruise for you ...

*See the Dolphins by the Mill*

*Skipper your own Electric Gondola*



Hail our new water taxi service around the 'canals' of St Ives in The Old Riverport

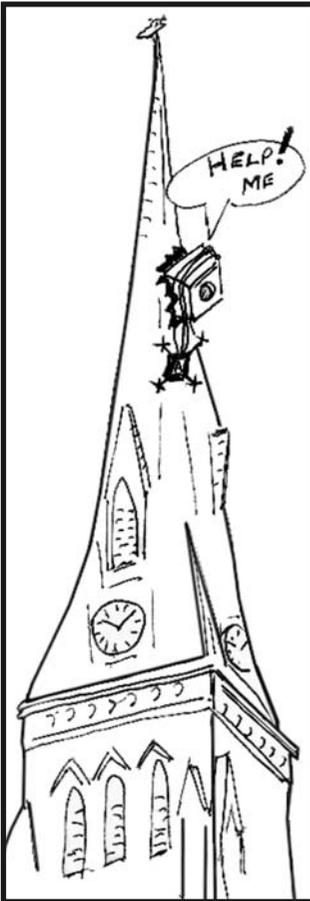
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having your say ...



## Clone of Erik PAWS FOR THOUGHT

Get it off your chest, email  
*Clone of Erik* at:  
[editor@theriverporter.uk](mailto:editor@theriverporter.uk)



Dear Clone of Erik,

*Riverporter* readers may be pleased to hear that the Amazon (St Ives) Distribution Centre finally sees the point! (See picture left).

For years Amazon has been warned that their delivery drones are flying too close to the Free Church spire but these warnings fell on deaf ears. Since their Drone Delivery Centre opened on the meadow 30 years ago there have been several aviation incidents and near misses.

The latest such incident saw a Hotpoint washing machine lodged 100 feet up in the spire and emergency services are refusing to rescue the item. This has alarmed residents, mainly because the washing machine's artificial intelligence controls are crying and pleading for help.

*'I've found it very difficult to get to sleep at night as all I can hear is HELP ME in a Steven Hawking kind of voice over and over again!!'* said one resident.

Your fellow news hound **Betty** (the Shitsou).

### Breaking News

After a long hard fought battle the **Pidley Mountain Rescue Team** has reluctantly agreed to change its name to **The Pidley Lifeboat Rescue Team** after several years of only rescuing toy bears from drowning.

## How many sides to an Octagon?

Dear Editor,

At last after fifty-four years the Octagon will be used again. When an application for a bar licence for the Octagon, which used to be near the Bus Station, went to Hunts District Council (HDC) in 2014, many feared the worst.

The proposal to alter the building, open a bar and promote live music horrified residents who formed the Save the Octagon group and built a well-reasoned case for using the building for community benefit.

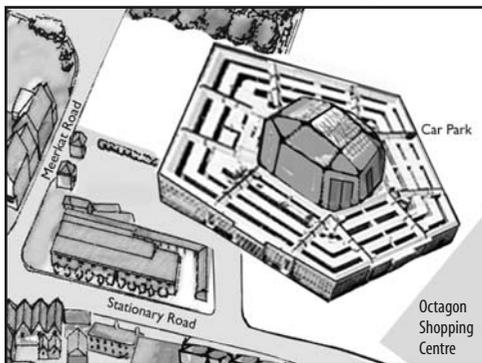
Sadly HDC had other ideas and after spending £50,000 of tax payers money (a huge sum in those days) for re-cladding and re-roofing it they attempted to rent it out commercially, which seemed to work as a year later in June 2017 it was under offer. However it remained under offer for some considerable time and was eventually let to a pizza chain, as it was deemed St Ives didn't have enough takeaways.

### Where now for this historically important building?

I am delighted to report that, at last, the building's future seems secure as the new Fire Chief and Police & Crime Commissioner (FCP&CC), Sonof Etihwelba has decided to make this his new Emergency Services Centre. Problems had arisen at the previous FCP&CC centre, which had been built on the Weald back in the twenties. Although 'state-of-the-art' then, the building was no longer fit for purpose and the Octagon gives the FCP&CC a chance to catch up with technology. Of course this will mean re-modelling the building and the sketch above gives a clue to the future appearance of this iconic structure. The whole area is to be developed, including renaming the shopping centre as The Octagon Centre.

Name withheld.

Sadly this has affected Screen St Ives plans - see article on page 6.



## Get it off Your Chest

Rants Corner

Following the demise of the Facebook empire, after ex US President Mark Zuckerberg was impeached for interfering with elections in Russia and North Korea, using the 'old internet' has lost favour with the younger generations. There is a fierce debate raging over the lack of opportunity now for people to get *'their message to the world'* as was possible during the 20s and 30s.

In an attempt to rectify this, *The Riverporter* offers a fortnightly column for residents to **Get it off Your Chest**. In this first article Councillor Annabelle Souter wonders ...

### What ever happened to the Good Old Days?

In 2025 I was fortunate to have been elected to St Ives Town Council. I was very young, just eighteen and I recall it had been a time of social upheaval both locally and nationally following the 'Brexit Years'. The internet had peaked with Facebook, YouTube, WhatsApp, WeChat and Instagram and we didn't need to see anyone in person to communicate. Somehow we all knew our place and we didn't have the pressures that youngsters face today of having to meet people.

This was a much more innocent time and it was a period that changed the lives of many people. The numbers of unwanted pregnancies fell and some of the disastrous lifestyles of our grandparents changed for the better. For example gradually drug addiction amongst the young fell as did the consumption of alcohol and tobacco which had reached its peak in 2004.

This was considered to be the result of youngsters spending more time isolated in their rooms away from the potentially harmful interaction with each other and especially the older generation. Somehow I worry now that the plans to reduce internet availability even more, to just two hours a day, will further exacerbate the potential for conflict as aimless youngsters may resort to stabbing each other.



## Some things never change

**Music on The Waits** is to continue, thanks to a donation from The Jones Boaryard and Electric Riverboat Company who have designed and built new pontoons as part of their **'Keep Britain Afloat'** campaign.

Right: The same old revellers, still rocking after 50 years!



# Amore

for that touch of Romance Venice Style



Arriving by our own Gondola, you will instantly feel the 'Magic' of a by-gone age as you are welcomed into our sumptuous restaurant with unparalleled views across the water, to the bridge and beyond.

4 The Quay, The Old Riverport, St Ives Telephone 01480 700204

## 54th Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival

Organisers of The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival are staggered that they are now holding their 54th event. Begun in 2015 to help promote the town, its success has been amazing. Considering many popular and enormous music festivals, such as Glastowbury and BeaSt-lval have long since been forced to end, due to changes in drug laws, it is surprising that The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival has survived.

Martha Rowe, daughter of ex-councillor Dan, who

took over running the Festival from her father in 2045, said 'The fact that we have always changed the music styles to suit popular taste has been the key.

Dad introduced Heavy Metal back in the 30s and now we've returned to the original format.' She continued 'Having never encouraged a drug culture we were not affected when most drugs were legalised 15 years ago'.



# THWARTED!

Plans to build the worlds first 4-dimensional interactive cinema complex, where the audience can be a member of the cast by wearing special goggles that project them onto the holographic stage, may have to be shelved after the Fire Chief and Police & Crime Commissioner (FCP&C Commissioner) took control of the Octagon (see article on page 3).

The plans for the for Hologram Projection Theatre, which was to be made out of recycled plastic coffee cups, depended on being able to redevelop the Octagon. Screen St Ives, which began in 2011 with a screening of Cinema Paradiso, is disappointed that they are unable to realise their 'World's First' ambition. A spokesperson for Screen St Ives, Roberta Zanconato, great grand-daughter of Screens founder Rob Zanconato, said 'This is just typical of the approach the FCP&C Commissioner which means that once again the Octagon will not be enjoyed by the community'.

One interesting historical issue is that the Octagon was used a century ago as the auction room for the once important cattle market. Today's vegan society cannot believe the amount of meat we used to consume. Our young people may find it hard to believe that we could feed sufficient cattle to slaughter so that everyone could eat meat. It is sad that St Ives built its wealth on the back of such a disgusting trade in animal flesh.

It's almost as bad as in the 18th and 19th centuries when the slave trade created so many rich families - whose wealth still exists today.

As you are aware a special dispensation has to be sought for those people who want to eat meat and they must only consume animals that have died naturally. With a world population now exceeding 10.5 billion, up by 3 billion in the last 50 years, it makes complete sense for us to grow crops to feed ourselves rather than cattle.

It is this policy that has ensured that the vast majority of the 10.5 billion people eat well and it is probably one of the reasons why life expectancy has continued to soar over the past few decades.

We are always pleased to support community groups by including details of their activities. Businesses may advertise for details - email: [editor@theriverporter.uk](mailto:editor@theriverporter.uk)

ADVERTORIAL

## Making the most of our surroundings

Jasmine Ellis, granddaughter of founder Mike Ellis says Its never been a better time to invest in St Ives



Estate agency has evolved over the past decade and our area has been transformed since the policy of an unmanaged environment has been in place.

For many years the mantra for home purchasing has been LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION which continues to be even more relevant today.

Our region is fortunate to have housing that suits just about every style and pocket, from waterfront cabins to desert condominiums.

The new eco friendly homes being constructed, range from Swedish-style and traditional to Fijian beach homes, using supplies of local reed now being grown again over 100 years since it's heyday.

On the higher ground along the Somersham Heath Road, the micro-climate allows for a Californian lifestyle.



View from a Swedish-designed ranch house on the Heath with Mount Pidley in the distance.

Here you will find lovely vistas over the heath towards the famous Ouse Valley wetlands. For those people who like sun most of the year round and do not mind cacti this is the place for you.

Construction of lovely waterfront properties (see right), created some fifty years ago with the flooding of the old gravel pits, has allowed many more people to buy a home with a landing stage for their electric boats and a view.

Where many regions have suffered from climate change with either too much sun or too much water, St Ives has embraced these changes.

Within a five-mile radius of the Free Church it is possible to experience and enjoy four different climate zones from temperate to extreme heat.

We simply have the best of all worlds!

To see how we are doing things differently at Ellis Winters please contact us on 01354 701000 or 01354 694900.



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Sons & Daughters

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The Riverporter is published by Ron Westrip and John Souter. email: [editor@theriverporter.uk](mailto:editor@theriverporter.uk) [www.theriverporter.uk](http://www.theriverporter.uk)  
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