

# The Riverporter

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

## A difficult year for gardeners but show is still a success

**F**or the eighth year running, the 1st of September saw the St Ives Flower, Craft and Produce Show held in the Corn Exchange. Open to everyone in the town, the Show provides an event for people to show off their best produce, flowers, crafts, baking and much more.



Organisers of the event expressed their thanks to Alan Ward and Iain Martin from Rotary for opening the show, Margaret King from St Ives Town Council for presenting the prizes, as well as the sponsorship by businesses in the town.

Richard Weightman, member of the Show organising team said 'Although it was a difficult year for growers of vegetables and flowers due to extreme hot weather in July and August, highlights at the Show

included a great range of tomatoes in the veg section, home-made ceramics in the craft section, and a range of high quality cakes and bread in the baking section. This year there was a 'People's choice' award for the first time, for best in the arts and craft sections, chosen by visitors to the Show.'

Winners of the main awards, included Joan King as winner of the Flower Arranging section and Sheila Flude as overall winner. Sheila also

won the RHS Banksian medal for best combined score in vegetables, fruit and cut flowers. Gina Dunningcliff won the People's Choice with her oil on canvas landscape painting.

Other winners included Edward Hall (Children's), Jane Reynolds (Photography), Issy Magee (Arts and Craft), Louise O'Brien (Home brewing and wine), Hayley Weightman (Baking), Louise O'Brien (Preserves), Tony Reynolds (Flowers) and Sheila Flude (Vegetables).

ST IVES TOWN TEAM PRESENTS THE

## Chapel Arts Season

Reflections on Nature, with composer  
**Jenni Pinnock**

*Jenni's music has been described as 'refreshing', 'imaginative' and 'tantalizingly beautiful in smoothness and soul'. Quirky time signatures, soaring melodies and moments of quiet stillness can all be found within her music which has been performed in the UK and around the world. Alongside composing, she performs with local ensembles and teaches piano and woodwind.*



**Friday 12th October 7.30pm for 8pm**

Tickets £10 from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/events/stives](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/events/stives) or The Corn Exchange  
The evening starts with complimentary refreshments courtesy of Waitrose  
For details [www.theoldriverportstives.co.uk](http://www.theoldriverportstives.co.uk)

## Hit and Run a bit of a mystery

A couple of issues ago we reported a BMW mounting a lamppost near Sleppe Hall and last Saturday the same bit of road witnessed a hit and run accident. There is some mystery around the incident which is still being investigated by Cambridgeshire Police but it is known that the car, a white C1 Citroen, was taken away by the Police for forensic tests. Part of the mystery is about whether this was a deliberate 'hit and run' or just an accident.

The Police have issued us with this statement. 'On Saturday (1 September) at 8.05pm police were called to reports of a road traffic collision on Ramsey Road, St Ives involving a white Citroen C1 and a pedestrian. The Citroen then left the scene and a man in his 20s was taken to hospital with serious, but not life threatening, injuries. Two men in their teens and a man in his 20s have been arrested in connection to the incident and bailed to Thorpe Wood police station.' The Police are asking anyone with information about the incident to contact them on 101 or anonymously on Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

From our Rugby Correspondent Ian Dobson

## St Ives named national Rugby Club of the Year

Citing 'A spectacular season for a friendly club with a strong tradition of volunteering', the National Rugby Awards judging panel, supported by Pitchero, named St Ives 'Rugby Club of the Year 2018' at this year's annual ceremony.

Held at Twickenham on Wednesday 29th August, well over 500 rugby aficionados from all corners of the nation gathered to learn who had won various awards, including Men's Team of the Year, in which St Ives was also a finalist.

Presenting the award the judges commented, 'St Ives takes pride in being a friendly club and constantly works hard to improve the overall member and visitor experience.'

The award comes after a triumphant season for the Club. The 1st XV won

their league finishing with 100 points in the process and look forward to competing in East Midlands (South) Division 2.

Collecting the award, Club President Andy Frear (centre left at Twickenham) was quick to praise the contribution of all Club members. 'We have great leadership from our Chairman Mark Smy. He'd agree that it's the host of hard working volunteers who make the Club what it is. This award is for all of them.'

The Club hopes the award will help continue to increase local participation in the sport. The senior section has been preparing for the new season for some months and mini and junior sessions continue every Sunday at the Somersham Road ground from 10am.



Some keenly contested rugby will be on view at the Somersham Road ground this season, not least because Huntingdon Stags, who were relegated, are now in the same league. The season opener is this Saturday at home against Coalville and the local derby games against the Stags are on Saturday, 15th September at Huntingdon and on Saturday, 5th January at home.

# THE MONTH OF MISTS AND MELLOW FRUITFULNESS

September is a great month, especially here in St Ives, as mists begin to roll in across the meadow but the days are often warm and sunny. It's the start of the new school year, always exciting and of course it's when The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival is on.

Now in it's fourth year it gets bigger and better with age.

Organised by the Town Team it brings in quite a lot of visitors over the 4 days, some come by boat and many stay locally on campsites as well as in some of our hotels. It is possible to see some of all the acts if you are swift on your feet, however there is quite a wide range of music and most people will choose to see a few bands each day.

This year there are 27 FREE concerts, a masterclass for budding musicians and, of course, the chance to learn to play the harmonica with the brilliant Steve Lockwood.

There are so many excellent bands playing and it is difficult to pick out the highlights. We are printing the whole programme so you can plan your four days of great music. One of the new items this year is a jam session for anyone to join in. It will be held in the Ace Suit of the Corn Exchange and we expect to have some equipment available so those of you who would love to come and jam can do so.

The session will take place from 4 to 6pm on Saturday 22 September – oh, and by the way, there is a bar as well.



Another new venture for the Festival is a Jazz & Blues Masterclass, which is being held in the Bridge Chapel on Saturday 22 September from midday to 2pm.

The brilliant Chris Newman (guitar) and Myke Clifford (Sax, flute and clarinet) will help you improve your skills.

Places are £15 per person for the Masterclass or the Harmonica Workshop which is being held at 11am on Sunday 23 September also in the Chapel. You will need to book as places are limited.

Places for both can be booked at: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives)

## The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival Timetable

THURSDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER			
Oliver Cromwell	The Gravy Train Trio	7.30-9.30pm	Jazz, Funk, Soul
Di Rita's	Martin Kemp & John Cherry	7.30-9.30pm	Swing Jazz standards
Nelson's Head	Barefoot Doctors	8.30-10.30pm	Electric Blues
Taproom	Stone Cold Stumble	9.00-11.30pm	Blues and Roots
FRIDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER			
Floods Tavern	Dickie De Vere & The Dorchester Mavericks	7-9pm	Tunes of the 20s & 30s
St Ives Golf Club	Ffion Rebecca and The Goods	7.30-9.30pm	Classic & Smooth Jazz
Golden Lion	Dove & Boweevil	8-10pm	Stonking Blues
Haywain	The Silverbacks Blues Band	8.30-10.30pm	Rhythm & Blues
Royal Oak	Benny Guitar Smith	9-11pm	Blues & Rock
SATURDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER			
Market Hill	Cambridge Jazz Youth Band	10 am-Noon	Small Band Jazz
Bridge Chapel	Riverport Easy	Noon-2pm	Easy Jazz
The Quay	Chris Newman & Myke Clifford	Noon-2pm	Blues Masterclass
Oliver Cromwell	St Neots Big Band	2-4pm	Big Band Jazz
Corn Exchange	Whirlygig	4-6pm	Celtic Blues
Floods Tavern	JAM SESSION everyone welcome	4-6pm	Jazz & Blues Jam
Golden Lion	Sure-Can Playboys	5-7pm	Sax, Jazz & Blues
River Terrace Café	Mojo Preachers	7-9pm	Heartfelt Blues
Ivy Leaf Club	Keith Pearson Trio	7.30-9.30pm	Country, Folk & Blues
Slepe Hall	Cath Coombs & The Awesome Soul Collective	8.30-11pm	Funky Soul
	The Jamie Roe Band	9.30-11.30pm	Modern & funky Blues
SUNDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER			
Bridge Chapel	Steve Lockwood	11 am-1pm	Harmonica Workshop
Ivy Leaf Club	Stella Hensley & Chris Newman Trio	12.30-2.30pm	Blues
Slepe Hall	Django's Tiger	1-3pm	Gypsy Jazz
The Quay	Savoy Jazz Men	2-4pm	Trad Jazz
The Duchess	Steve Lockwood and Tom Colborn	3-5pm	Delta Blues
Nelson's Head	Split Whiskers	4-6pm	Chicago Blues
Axe & Compass	The Jazztones	4-6pm	Popular Modern Jazz
White Hart	EZY3	5.30-7.30pm	Rocking Blues
Amore	Peter Shepherd Duo	7-9.30pm	Jazz standards
The Lounge	The Feelgood Band	8.30-10.30pm	Canvey Island R & B

## Heritage Open Weekend

### PLACES OPEN

**A** Holt Island Nature Reserve, opposite the Waits  
Entry by Thicket Path behind the Parish Church, this island has a significant history of cultivation of willow plantations for harvesting of willow wands for the local basket making factory.  
Open Fri, Sat & Sun 10 am to 4 pm. Basket weaving Sunday 16th. Family butterfly event

**B** The Parish Church of All Saints  
This 15th Century Church, one of the "1000 Best Parish Churches", with a Comper Screen & photos of the WWII aircraft crash in 1918.  
Open Friday 9am - 1pm, Saturday 10am - 3pm, Sunday 9am - 5pm, cream teas available from 3pm

**C** The Methodist Church The Waits  
Built in 1904, close to where John Wesley preached in 1774.  
Open Friday 10 am - 4 pm, Saturday 10 am - 4 pm, Sunday 12 noon - 4 pm. Exhibitors: Children and youth in Methodist

**D** The Norris Museum: the Broadway  
Exhibitions: Fluttering Through Time. A family butterfly event together with Methodist Church and Holt Island Reserve  
Open Fri & Sat 10 am - 4 pm Sun 1 pm - 4 pm

**E** Muslim Prayer and Education Centre, The Broadway  
Previously the North Hunts Constitutional Club which was built in 1891 on the site of the old Unicom Inn.  
Open Saturday & Sunday, 10 am - 4 pm

**F** The Bridge Chapel  
This early 15th Century Chapel, with its fascinating past, is open.  
Open Friday, Saturday & Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm

**G** The Masonic Lodge, Wellington Street/ The Quay  
The history of the building & of Freemasonry.  
Open Friday, Saturday & Sunday 10.00 am - 4 pm.

**H** The Corn Exchange, The Pavement  
Gallery of historic photographs in the ACE Suite and a display of news items from the British Newspaper Archive.  
Open Saturday 10 am - 2 pm, Sunday 10 am - 2 pm

**I** The Free Church, Market Hill  
This "Non-Conformist Cathedral", built in 1864, its interior was reconstructed in 1980.  
Open Friday & Saturday 10 am - 4 pm, Sunday 1.30 pm - 4 pm

**J** The Town Council Chambers, Market Hill  
This 1850 Victorian House is now home to the Town Council; up the Grand Staircase to the first floor Council Chamber to see the Civic Regalia.  
Open Fri, Sat, 10 am - 4 pm.

**K** Fatanz Medina Mosque, 22 Needingworth Road  
Open Sat & Sun 10 am - 12 noon, 2.30 pm - 4 pm

**L** Church of the Sacred Heart, Needingworth Road  
Pugin's "Little Gem"  
Open Fri 12.30 - 4 pm, Sat 10.30 - 2pm, Sun 12.30 - 4 pm

## 15th & 16th September

Organized by the Civic Society, twelve impressive locations in St Ives will be open at various times between Friday 14th and Sunday 16th September (see left).

## HODs at the Corn Exchange

The Corn Exchange will open on each of the two days from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

On Saturday 15th there is a Cinnabar Fairs market in the Charter Hall and the Gallery upstairs we will have a display showing 'early' articles of Corn Exchange interest from the British Newspaper Archive.



This is Amy who is 8 and who has a very rare form of cancer - Ewing's Sarcoma.

Morrison's will be hosting a fundraising event on Saturday 8th September from 10 am to raise £1,000 to make Amy's wish come true of having a little Pug dog.

## Civic Society Your St Ives '68

This weekend the Civic Society of St Ives will be exhibiting the entries in their competition about 'What you think St Ives will look like in 2068'. Entry is free and the exhibition is open from 12 noon to 4 pm on Friday 7th and 10 am to 4 pm on Saturday 8th. The winning entries will be exhibited at the Norris Museum from Monday 10th to Saturday 22nd September.



## Bedfordshire Cambridgeshire Northamptonshire

Our Environmental Correspondent Heidi sent us this.

## The Wildlife Trust

The autumn begins on Wednesday 12th September with a talk about 'Otters in Cambridgeshire' by Ruth Hawksley - BCN's Water for Wildlife Officer.

The talk begins at 7.30pm Brampton Memorial Centre, Thrapston Road, Brampton, PE28 4TB. Admission: £2.50. Children Free Of Charge.

Also of interest may be ...

## The Great Ouse Valley Trust

A new body which is in the process of being formed. It aims to promote and raise funding and awareness of the Great Ouse Valley from St Neots to Earith.

It begins with a morning of expert talks and an exhibition on the landscape, archaeological, cultural and wildlife value of the Great Ouse Valley, being held at QE School, Godmanchester from 10.00am to 1.30 pm on Saturday 22nd September 2018.

Pat Doody will give a talk on the Wildlife of the Great Ouse and the event is open to all with coffee and lunch provided. If you would like to join in the day's activities, please contact [graham.campbell1@gmail.com](mailto:graham.campbell1@gmail.com) who can provide more details.

In the afternoon, at 2pm George Cottam and Pat will lead an optional walk, skirting the Wildlife Trust Godmanchester Nature Reserve, to highlight some of the features of the River Great Ouse Valley.



## Charity Dance abah t'at

Mayor Tim Drye is holding a Charity Ball or as he calls it a Cap Dance (naturally). Having had his beloved flat hat returned Cllr Drye wishes to see who can have the 'Fairest Hat of them All'. So get out your best hat and get on down to St Ives Corn Exchange at 7pm on Sat 27 October. With dancing to the excellent Barefoot Doctors it's bound to be a fund (and hair?) raising evening for his charities which are Holt Island Nature Reserve, Norris Museum History Outreach Work, Huntingdon Volunteer Centre and Young Men's Mental Health Awareness. Tickets are from the Town Hall or Corn Exchange at £27.50 per person which includes buffet.

## Screen St Ives

Doors open at 7.30pm and films start at 8pm. Refreshments are available before the screening. All tickets cost only £5, and are available online or in person at the Corn Exchange, St Ives.



## Screen 1: Fri 21st Sept (12A) The Wages of Fear

Director: Henri-Georges Clouzot, Fr/It 1953, 2h 22m  
Four desperate men, penniless and stranded in South America, sign up for a dangerous mission to drive two truckloads of nitroglycerin to a remote oilfield 300 miles down a hazardous road. Real tension from the master of the French thriller.



The usual residents of Hemingford Meadow had some unexpected visitors on 19 August as they witnessed over 50 slimmers taking part in the 'Walk all over Cancer with Slimming World' campaign. Proving that you can have fun and lose weight, the enthusiastic walkers completed a 6.2 mile (over 15,000 steps each!) circuit from Houghton to St Ives, returning to the 3 Jolly Butchers in Houghton for a well earned drink and lunch! Having lost over 150 stone between them, the group are proof that getting active doesn't have to be joining the gym or running marathons. [www.slimmingworld.co.uk](http://www.slimmingworld.co.uk)

having your say ...

# The Riverporter



## Dear Erik PAWS FOR THOUGHT

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

## Quayside fun

For our intrepid Erik the St Ives Quayside brings all sorts of fun, this week saw an eager crew from the local fitness group 'On a Mission Fitness' storm the Quay with military precision.

Following barked out orders from their leader the crew threw down their heavy logs and were required to jump into the river and wade 50 yards before dragging themselves out picking up their heavy weights and running off back towards their base at Hill Rise Park. Apparently, this group do this a couple of times a week Erik loved every moment but slept well shortly after.



## Monday Lisa



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## Mind Body Spirit



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### DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

## The future's not ours to see?

**The future of the Octagon may not be decided for some time, despite a considerable sum of taxpayer's money being spent on it.**

Following up on the article in issue 14 of The Riverporter sent to us by one of our readers, it seems that the building is no longer under offer but available to rent. We asked our local District Councillors, John Davies and Angie Dickinson what was happening and both told us they didn't know.

So we spoke with HDC's agents, Barker Storey Matthews, who told us that there had been a lot of interest in the building but they were disappointed with HDC's slow response.

It is well known that the Octagon has no water supply and the electricians need upgrading, before it can be used as either a cafe or brewery or shop, which are just some of the uses that have been suggested. We were also told that HDC has been looking into the costs of this work and it is somewhere in the region of £60,000. We contacted Councillor Graham Bull, Leader of the District Council, to find out why the Council was dragging its heels and what was happening with the building.

Although aware of some of the interest shown in the building Cllr Bull said 'You may know that St Ives has been identified for a master planning exercise which is to begin shortly. My own feeling is that the long term future of the Octagon should be decided after the completion of that work. In the meantime the Octagon continues to be used by our market staff.'

When pressed on the costs and asked when the taxpayers might see a return on their investment (£50k already spent plus a further £60 for electricity and water), Cllr Bull declined to say more about the Octagon. So despite the promises made by councillors Davies and Dickinson in 2016, that this historic building had been saved for the town, we seem to be no further on.

A 'Master Plan' was first discussed around 15 years ago but was shelved, over disagreements about the scheme, by HDC in 2009 and the money used elsewhere. This new plan is likely to take months or years to complete so we may not know the future of the Octagon for some time.

## Councillors told - use call centre

St Ives District Cllr John Davies told *The Riverporter* that District Councillors were being encouraged to use the Call Centre rather than contact HDC officers direct. Cllr Davies suggested that with recent staff reductions, and possibly more in the pipeline, there were too few experienced officers available to deal with the workload and he was concerned that he might not have the level of support he used to have. We asked Council Leader Cllr Bull about this and his reply was that Cllr Davies had misunderstood the situation and councillors had just as much access to officers as before. Further enquiries of other councillors expressed concern about HDC's ability to deal with issues due to declining staff levels.

## Jerry takes the biscuit!



Now I have to admit I do love popping down to the Oliver Cromwell (and several other establishments) however, it has been noticed that not everywhere enjoys my smooth and debonair company, so I thought it may be fun to list those places that I know are pleased to see us dogs.

For example, my favourite pubs include The Oliver Cromwell, The White Hart, The Golden Lion, The Ferryboat, The Pike and Eel, Floods and the Taproom. Oh and by the way Oanas café serves a superb bacon baguette and La Muse always has nibbles and water outside. So, this lunchtime I dropped into the 'Ollie' to present a special jar of dog biscuits to Jerry for all my four-legged mates to enjoy when they drop by.

If you know any town establishment that allows a well-behaved fella like me to pop in let me know and I'll give them a plug (and a perhaps a biscuit!) **ERIK**

## REASONS TO BE SHUT PART 11



Why's that?

It went downhill some time ago now

It's when they started only selling spirits!



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**Tuesday** Burleigh Hill Community Centre,  
Constable Road, St Ives  
9.30 am  
Contact Kathie on 07772 868472

**Tuesday** The United Reformed Church,  
Chequer Street, Fenstanton  
5.30 pm & 7.30 pm  
Contact Kathie on 07772 868472

**Thursday** Crossways Centre,  
Ramsey Road, St Ives  
9.30 am, 5.30 pm & 7.30 pm  
Contact Diane on 01480 464296

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## Why Renting Can Be Amazing

Mike Ellis of Ellis Winters suggests renting can be a sensible solution sometimes



Renting doesn't have to mean you are throwing away money in the same way that buying a home isn't always the right decision at certain times in your life.

Here are 7 reasons why we think renting could be the better option for you.

- 1. No maintenance costs or repair bills.** Your landlord is usually responsible for all maintenance and repair costs, ensuring you don't have the financial responsibility to get these things fixed.
- 2. No large down-payment.** The move in costs for a tenant are much lower than having to find a deposit to buy a house.
- 3. There's a fixed rent amount.** Rent amounts are fixed for the term of the lease agreement making it easier to budget your money so you know exactly how much you need to pay.

**4. You can keep things flexible.**

When you buy, you are tied down to living in that location, whereas if you're renting you have the flexibility to move much more quickly should your life change unexpectedly or you want to try a new area.

**5. Invest money on your own terms.**

Choosing not to buy a home, at least for the moment, opens up other possibilities for saving and investing so you can choose exactly where your hard-earned money is going.

**6. Decreasing property value.**

Property values go up and down over the years depending on the area you live in and while this may affect homeowners in a big way, it affects renters substantially less so - if at all.

**7. Insurance is cheaper.** Renter's insurance is significantly

cheaper than the insurance home owners have to pay.

So there you have it - we're sure you have your own opinion about whether renting or buying is the right option for you, but hopefully we may have shown you a few reasons why renting could be advantageous.

**If you would like more information about renting please call one of our property experts on 01354 701000 or 01354 694900.**



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