

The Riverporter

COVERING THE NEWS FOR ST IVES AND AROUND

Issue 171: 8 November 2024

SAVE THE PLANET - READ AND PASS ON



A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

'Incredible' event highlights police demand!

A gas explosion, a hoax stabbing, a fire in a prison, and dangerous driving, were just some of the calls received by Police during a 'Postathon' event. Between 4pm and 9pm on Friday 25 October, call handlers received 183 calls, ranging from serious collisions to missing Amazon deliveries.

Cambs Police Force took to social media to share a short summary of all the calls during the five-hour event to highlight the volume and variety of incidents police are faced with on an average Friday evening. The 'Postathon' coincided with national Control Room Week, an annual event designed to showcase the work of the control room. Of 183 calls received, 23 were silent, 9 were reports of domestic abuse, 12 were violent incidents, 6 were regarding missing people and 11 were road related. Social media users shared their thoughts with one saying, 'these updates are an amazing insight into life in the control room.'

Superintendent Nick Church, Head of Demand, said: 'This is the fifth time we have done this for Control Room Week and every year it is no less eye-opening for the public to see just how busy our phone lines are.'

'The incredible demand we face is why we encourage online reporting in non-urgent situations, as it is not always possible to have an operator on the other end of the phone if it's not deemed to be an emergency.'

During the Postathon, a man called 999 because his Amazon parcel had arrived empty, two people reported that their Facebook page had been hacked, and a man called to report that someone had put children's toys in his bin.

Police also received a call of a reported stabbing, which later turned out to be a hoax. A man was consequently arrested on suspicion of wasting police time. The public are reminded they should only use 999 in emergencies. For non-urgent matters call 101. This ensures call handlers will always be available to arrange help for those who need it most. If you want to read the updates from the Postathon, go to the Cambridgeshire Police website. Police are also recruiting call handlers and dispatchers. To get in touch or to find out more click the 'join us' page of their website at: www.cambs.police.uk

A HALLOWEEN... 'BICYCACKLE'



Just three friends out for their annual Halloween 'Bicycackle', as they call it. They go to great lengths to have a cackling good time and *The Riverporter* caught up with them arriving on the Quayside as they stopped for a coffee. Great to see them getting into the spirit of Halloween. So it's not just for kids!

Heart of St Ives, Muriel Moore has died

Muriel, who was awarded - The Heart of St Ives Award by Mayor Phil Pope in May 2018, typified the welcoming St Ives spirit, according to the citation. There was no doubt she was known and loved by locals and visitors from far and wide. (See picture right and RP9)



Muriel and her husband Bill lived over the well-known tobacconist and confectionery shop in the Broadway. Muriel's father, Ted, took over the shop in 1930 and on his retirement in 1969 Muriel and her mother ran the business until she too retired.

Bill, born in Tipperary, served in the RAF at Wyton as Traffic Controller and met Muriel over a cup of tea when she visited Wyton on Sports Day. They married in 1951. The picture above, taken by George Dellar for the New Millennium book, shows Muriel and Bill in 2000 when they celebrated the shop's 70th year in the family. Bill died in 2003 and soon after Muriel had to close the shop but she stayed living there, regularly knitting and doing her jigsaw puzzles whilst chatting to everybody that went past the always-open front door. Muriel featured in the last issue of *The Riverporter* when she attended the opening of the Michaelmas Fair to receive the thanks of the Fairground organisers for her support over the years, just two weeks before her death (see right).

Muriel died on 28th October aged 92 and her funeral service will take place at All Saints Church, St Ives, on Monday 25th November at 12pm followed by a private family committal. Family flowers only, but donations welcome to the Rotary Club of St Ives.



ANOTHER INCREDIBLE EVENT

As we were preparing this edition, the news came through that the whole world has been waiting for, namely who would win the election to be President of the United States. We mustn't worry because Donald has said he is going to fix everything.

DIARY OF EVENTS

If you wish to inform us of your events please email: editor@theriverporter.uk

NOVEMBER

- Sunday 10th** - Remembrance Parade.
- Saturday 16th** - Snowman Festival 24 begins. Collect your Snowman Trail Map from La Muse, Ellis Winters and Janet Church Interiors for a chance to win a £50 Townrow Voucher. For children under 12 years old.
- Saturday 16th** - Christmas Lights Switch-On
- Saturday 16th** - St Ives Choral Society 50th Anniversary Gala Concert. Free Church, St Ives 7.30pm Tickets available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-ives-choral-society
- Saturday 23rd** - ArtsFEST - St Ives Corn Exchange 10 am to 4 pm.
- Thursday 28th** - The Haigh Trust Draw during the Darby and Joan Club Christmas lunch at the Corn Exchange, at 3.30pm.
- Friday 29th** - FREE Lunchtime concert Phoenix Players of St Ives 1.10pm at the Free Church. Mozart, Meyebeer and Coleridge-Taylor.
- Friday 29th** - Chapel Arts concert with Chris Newman & Humfry Finkel Corn Ex/ 7.30pm. Tickets £10 w www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents.
- Saturday 30th** - Craft Fair. Saints Crafters at St Ives Corn Exchange 9:30-3:30-FREE ENTRY.

DECEMBER

- Sunday 1st** - Sound Bath, Corn Exchange bookwhen.com/soulcentresound
- Wednesday 4th** - Engage Talk - An Introduction to Leatherwork with Paul Smith - 2pm, St Ives Library
- Saturday 7th** - Craft Fair. Saints Crafters, Free Church 9:30am-FREE ENTRY.
- Saturday 7th** - 'On with the Show' St Ives Community Choir concert, Free Church at 7.30pm. Tickets at the door, £6 adult and £3 children.
- Saturday 14th** - Santa Arrives at the Quay by boat
- Saturday 14th/Sunday 15th** - Santas Snow FESt St Ives Corn Exchange.

JANUARY 2025

- Saturday 18th** - COSI Scottish Themed Winter Concert 7pm at the Free Church. Tickets £10, under 16s free, on the door or from www.ticketsource.co.uk/chamber-orchestra-of-st-ives.

Read on-line at www.theriverporter.uk or see our Facebook page. Email: editor@theriverporter.uk

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Holt Island Volunteers praised by 'In Bloom' Judges

Holt Island's volunteers were praised by the judges when they visited as part of the town's winning entry into this year's Anglia and Britain in Bloom competitions.

They reported, 'Holt Island clearly has a dedicated and knowledgeable community that maintain and manage the area and are planning for the future with great vision.' They also said, 'We were extremely impressed with the location, and the knowledge of the volunteers at the Holt Island Nature Reserve. This must be one of the best examples of conservation we have seen for some time.'

This is well-deserved recognition for the Island's many volunteers, especially because it has been a tough year. The clean-up operation after a flood is a big undertaking, and there have been quite a few of those! With the regular working parties to maintain the Island, organised by Huntingdonshire District Council, bird-ringing, wildlife monitoring, Family Fun Days and group visits, it adds up to a massive 300+ hours a month of combined volunteering.



You can donate to support the Island, or to get involved, via its website <https://www.holtisland.org>

The judges summed it up: 'Holt Island is a wildlife haven in the centre of St Ives, for everybody to use. Whether you want to help the team, learn, or just observe the Flora and Fauna, it caters for everybody.'

Weather permitting, the Island opens again in April. The 85 species of birds and 15 species of mammals (including four species of bats) recorded this year look forward to seeing you!

Find out more about this amazing place in the town from the website above.



Volunteers tackle many tasks from clearing up after floods to laying the new Fibregrid.

The Island also has a major fundraising campaign to replace the wooden boardwalk with Fibregrid. It lasts 40 years rather than 10 and is much easier to clean.

Friday 29th November Chris Newman & Humfry Finkel



Enjoy an evening of improvised ragtime music from these exceptional 'duelling' guitarists. Join them on a musical journey in the tradition of thumb-picking, boom chicking, fingerstyle guitar with a mix of classics and originals. Expect solid bass lines, fat chords and even a little harmony.

Doors open at 7pm. Concert starts at 7.30pm.

Tickets £10 on the door or from www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents



Somersham success

Somersham Tang Soo Do club won 16 medals at the 42nd National Championship in Watford on Saturday 19th October 2024. Nine members represented the club and won 9 Gold, 5 Silver and 2 Bronze medals, quite an achievement for a small club! The club is run by Master Colin Mann 5th Dan and Mr Roger Gwynn 3rd Dan, who are really proud of the club's achievements for our region.

To join Somersham Tang Soo Do contact: tsdmastermann@gmail.com or 07906 450176

A Déjà Vu moment

In May 2020 The Riverporter published this cartoon, following claims by Trump that disinfectant might cure Covid. Today the message stays the same as Donald has said he can fix everything quickly, including wars and the economy, but probably not global warming!

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ARTSFEST 2024



An Exhibition of
Art and Photography
in St Ives Corn Exchange
Saturday 23rd November
10am - 4pm
Find that special gift



The Riverporter

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



Erik getting prepared to go live on Riverporter Radio - coming soon.



having your say ...

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

OTHER NEWS

Salvation Army needs volunteers

The Salvation Army charity shop in St Ives is seeking volunteers. If you could spare some time, as much or as little as you can, please visit the store for more details.



BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

The Centre Theatre Players are busy in rehearsal for their forthcoming production, the traditional pantomime 'Beauty and the Beast' which they are presenting in the Burgess Hall of One Leisure, St Ives on January 8th - 12th, eight performances in total.

Regarded as a Panto Tale as old as time, this particular script has been written especially for the Players by Matthew Wilson and Amy Barker who will also be responsible for directing the show. The contents include some great characters, fabulous plots, catchy songs, and of course plenty of audience participation.

The Players have been providing the town and surrounding district with seasonal entertainment for the past 50 years and have gained a fine reputation for their standard of performance, winning several awards. Tickets for the show can be purchased on line from www.ticketsource.co.uk/burgesshall or from the One Leisure reception. Some performances are already sold out so please book early to avoid disappointment.

St Ives residents have expressed alarm

Residents are concerned that the CC Highway's plan to build a new road linking the A14 at Spittals with Wyton Airfield will make congestion much worse. Consultation on the scheme closes on November 27. Have your say at: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/A141-StIves.

A separate consultation document issued by Huntingdonshire DC describes Wyton Airfield as one of their assessed 'land availability' sites for housing development. The Ministry appears to have indicated to HDC that it is ready to convert much of the site into housing. Since the Election the new Government has also indicated there will be a Ministry of Defence review which will include an appraisal of their land holdings. Hence, it appears, the Cambridgeshire CC plan for the new bypass to Wyton Airfield, linking the site to the A14 and easing congestion around Huntingdon. However, St Ives residents point to the direct continuance of the route, along Sawtry Way, into St Audrey Lane and on to the A1123 - a notorious congestion hotspot. Residents themselves have surveyed HGVs passing their homes over a full week, 24 hours each day. They counted on average one HGV travelling along this route every 52 seconds between the hours of 05:30AM and 10:30AM daily and every 63 seconds between the hours of 10:30AM and 4PM daily. The survey also showed that, during that week, 18% of HGVs were local operators; a further 6% could not be identified as either local or national/international operators. The conclusion was that up to 76% of the HGVs travelling through St Ives originated their journeys from much further away.

Funnelling more traffic from Spittals on to these roads, as an alternative to using the A14 would worsen congestion - not make an 'improvement', as the CC scheme suggests. In their first webinar on the Huntingdon and St Ives Improvement Scheme, a Cambridgeshire CC representative said modelling showed the impact on St Ives of the new road would be 'neutral'.

The bottle shop has been forced to close

The 40ft converted shipping container in Harrison Way was launched in 2021 and the owner Matthew Kelly said: 'We're gutted to have to be making this decision but the costs just keep going up and up and its not viable for us to stay open. We won the biggest industry accolades in the UK, being crowned independent Beer and Cider retailer of the year and Food and Drink Start Up of the year in 2023, so having to shut down feels like a real loss for the town and wider region.'

They will be selling down their stock on Fridays and Saturdays but only for the next few weeks. Mr Kelly confirmed that The Snug, a separate business will not be impacted by the Filling Station closure and remains open. Matthew looks forward to a busy Christmas trading period.

Fawly the signwriter is at it again

Our intrepid roadsign reader, Mick, has spotted even more errors on his travels in St Ives. Last Friday he sent the picture below left, 'This time a slight improvement - 2 errors in 7 words!'



However two days later he wrote, 'This is getting too easy, spotted Sunday 3/11/24.'

Three errors this time.



Dear Erik,

The following is a note, sent to me by a 90+ year old, fairly active widow neighbour.

'A thought came to me last night in bed!! Why have the Council not put a seat/s on that nice new paving?'

'Blow me, while walking along there this morning, a very nice lady stopped me and asked the very same thing.'

'... Walked through a sea of wet slippery leaves to the surgery. Stopped by another nice lady, moaning about them, like me! Same, going to Waitrose past Hyperion. I was so afraid of slipping on them!'

'When we had our shop in London, we, as well as all shopkeepers, always cleared and swept our pavements. For one thing, we didn't want all the rubbish in our shops!!!'

I think the message about Housekeeping at ALL levels has been made by this lady with experiences of an eventful life.

Philip Noble

Dear Philip please advise your neighbour that seats are due to be installed in the Broadway. ED.

Dear Erik,

There was good turnout of St Ivians for the Cambs CC Highways' consultation at the Corn Exchange this week.

I was told the biggest concern raised to date was the impact on St Ives of their proposed Huntingdon bypass ending at Wyton Airfield. Like me, others had questioned the sense of funnelling through traffic, in particular HGVs, from Spittals to the airfield, then on along Sawtry Way, along the A1123 and St Audrey Lane.

Their modelling to date suggests that the impact will be 'neutral' given the resultant numbers of drivers who would take to buses to get to Huntingdon following other proposed changes.

Hmm. Wonder how many HGV drivers will use buses instead.

Apparently, new modelling on its way may produce other answers! And they haven't discounted extending the bypass around St Ives if enough people want it!!

Get in there and comment. Now's your chance: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/A141-StIves Peter

Whisky Café, formally the Robin Hood, opens at last

The Riverporter is delighted to announce that the Whisky Café will open at 11am this Sunday, 10th November.

The Robin Hood closed in 2012 and from March 2018 The Riverporter asked why it didn't reopen? (See reasons to be shut below. This cartoon appeared in RP17 in September 2018 - another case of Déjà Vu?) Due to a hidden ancient roof and lengthy planning issues, the restoration has been long and costly but it seems the result will be a very smart and welcome addition to the town. Speaking with the



owners it will be a quality restaurant and bar, however Erik will not be so happy as dogs will not be allowed in.



Left: The Garden Room.

Right: Some of the spirits stocked in the bar.



REASONS TO BE SHUT PART 11



It went downhill some time ago now

It's when they started only selling spirits!

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Ren: The Girl with the Mark

Thursday 28 November 2024 at 7:30pm

Doors open 6:30pm. Tickets £7

Director: Kate Madison et al.

Duration: 114mins, Cert: 12

This screening will include an introduction followed by a Q&A session by members of the crew.

Synopsis: Made in St Ives and Caxton by volunteers, Ren: The Girl with the Mark is a fantasy-adventure web series with 14 international awards. Ren is a young woman whose life changes forever when she is Marked by an ancient spirit and becomes a feared Nu'Mahri. Forced to go on the run with a rogue named Hunter and pursued by the Kah'Nath army, she must discover the true meaning of the Mark she bears.

The Holdovers

The Holdovers

Thursday 5 December 2024 at 7:30pm

Doors open 6:30pm. Tickets £7

Director: Alexander Payne,

Duration: 133m, Cert: 15



Synopsis: A Christmas comedy-drama film directed by Alexander Payne and written by David Hemingson. Set in late 1970 and early 1971, the film stars Paul Giamatti as a strict classics teacher at a New England boarding school who is forced to chaperone a handful of students with nowhere to go on the Christmas break. Da'Vine Joy Randolph portrays the school cafeteria manager, and Dominic Sessa plays one of the students who stays on campus.

Ticket at screenstives.org.uk or in the Corn Exchange

Late night shopping at The Courtyard!

An eclectic mix of traders and pods, situated between St Ives Bus Station and Hyperion Antiques on Station Road.



Join us at The Courtyard on Saturday 16th November, alongside the St Ives Christmas Lights switch-on! Our late night Christmas shopping event has everything you need for unique gifts made by local artisans.

Join us between 5 - 8pm and enjoy festive treats and hot chocolates whilst you browse!

Support your community this festive season, our traders would love to see you!

Crafts, Plants, Candles, Art, Fashion, Baby items, Glass furniture, Toys, and more perfect Christmas gifts!

FREE ENTRY FOR ALL

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