

# The Riverporter

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

## Blooming Marvellous Again!

St Ives was awarded GOLD for the third year running at the Anglia in Bloom awards and the pretty garden at the Swan and Angel won the 'Best Restaurant' category in the whole of the Anglia region.



Further success included Gerald Brunning's allotment on Hill Rise being nominated for the 'Grow Your Own Award' and Holt Island being nominated for 'Best Conservation Project'. The judges praised this year's projects at the town bus station and the park and ride and they also enjoyed their trip on the river and their visits to Eastfield School.

Our wonderful St Ives in Bloom Team (SIIB) work tirelessly to make our town really attractive and have deservedly been awarded for it but the judges did comment on the poor state of the street furniture and the amount of rubbish in the streets, a subject we have highlighted in the paper before. It would be sad if SIIB failed to win Gold because our District Council had failed in their duty.

If you would like to join the friendly In Bloom team of volunteers this autumn, please contact: siibinfo@gmail.com

## 'Absolutely bleeding hopeless' says damning report

Research commissioned by the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) pulls no punches and says that the British policing structure is bonkers.

Claims include that Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) are 'not that bright' and make 'perverse decisions'. It also found police officers may be increasingly reluctant to lead forces across England and Wales because of a perceived 'hostile environment' created by PCCs, government cuts and rising crime. One retired chief constable described the PCC who decided his force's budget as 'totally politically-driven and not bright'.

Another told how they allocated more

officers to an area where their PCC's political supporters were based, and even a person who served as a PCC had a dim view of their colleagues, saying: 'You must not assume that being eccentric and having lousy judgment are prerequisites for the job, even though some colleagues exhibit these characteristics in spades.'

'There are six or seven really good PCCs transforming the policing landscape, perhaps up to a dozen who have opened up the system and about 22 who are absolutely bleeding hopeless.'

The research was commissioned by the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) to investigate why the number of officers

applying to lead forces has dropped. One retired chief constable said 'I have worked too long to place my personal reputation on the line and place it at risk of being thrown under a bus for political expediency.'

The report contained isolated examples of chief constables who had good relationships with their PCCs, but they acknowledged their situations were 'lucky'.

It raised concerns over four female chief constables who left their posts early because of conflict with male PCCs who were retired police officers, including one who was described as a 'vindictive, misogynistic bully'.

The Town Team welcomes all the visitors to our 4th Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival and hope you will enjoy St Ives and the great music.

For details of all the concerts go to: [www.theoldriverportstives.co.uk](http://www.theoldriverportstives.co.uk)

The Festival is an important event for the town as it attracts visitors who support our businesses with their spending. It costs around £7,500 to put on, most of which is paid for by the venues, by fund raising and sponsorship. You can support the Festival by buying our T-shirts and and, if shopping at Waitrose, with the green token collection.



## Crown Street pavement to be repaired

Cambs CC's Highway Projects & Road Safety Team will be replacing the slabs along the North side of Crown Street (see plan) with a material called Imprint, stamped to mimic paving slabs and resilient to being overrun by vehicles.



The work will be done at night as the hot material needs to cool and it would be difficult to maintain access to shops during the day. Diversions will be in place along Merryland with the bollards in Crown Street removed to allow through vehicles. The work will take up to 8 nights to complete, starting on September 24th commencing at 8pm and finishing at 4am each morning.

This is a test run to see if it works. However it doesn't deal with poor parking or vehicles driving on the pavements and may even exacerbate it. Also good news is the completion of the road surfacing work in the town centre especially along East Street. Hopefully the pavements can be done soon.

From our Rugby Correspondent Ian Dobson

## Bulls slaughter Stags

Newly promoted St Ives Bulls were emphatic 57-5 winners away at Huntingdon Stags.

The first derby clash between these clubs in many years, the match was watched by a large and vocal crowd, packed along both touchlines.

The scoreline belies the toughness of the encounter, but St Ives scored eight scintillating tries to one. A hat-trick came from talismanic captain Ollie Bartlett, two of which were long-range tries to open and finish St Ives' scoring.

This was a very fine all-round team triumph, mirroring the previous Saturday's 55-6 success in the season opener at home to Coalville from Leicestershire.

N.B. Coalville finished third in this league last season.

An exciting and highly promising start to the season. Up The Ives!

Next Saturday St Ives are away to Loughborough in the Cup. The following Saturday is a league fixture at 3pm against Northants side Long Buckby.

Below - High flying Bulls leave the Stags behind.



Town centre visitors were entertained on Sunday 7th September as a film crew set about shooting an advert for Lloyds Chemists. Lots of technicians with very expensive equipment and many 'extras' took all day to do the shoot, mainly because a new camera had to be flown in! Look out for the ad to appear on our screens. Apparently the action will be combined with previously shot aerial film and CGI'd to make St Ives look wonderful - we hope!

To contact The Riverporter email: [editor@theriverporter.uk](mailto:editor@theriverporter.uk)



# MINDFULNESS

at

**THE NORRIS MUSEUM, ST IVES**  
Mondays (Monthly - 10.30-11.30 am)

**TIME FOR HEALTH, ST IVES**  
Wednesdays (Weekly - 6.45-8 pm)  
Saturdays (Monthly - 10.30-11.30 am)

For more info. please ring Dee on 07901 774660  
Or email: [dee.loakes8@gmail.com](mailto:dee.loakes8@gmail.com)

*Stress Management Trainer*

## Fancy learning the Harmonica or improving your Jazz & Blues skills?

We still have places available for the **Jazz & Blues Masterclass this Saturday at noon and the Harmonica Workshop on Sunday at 11 am. Both are being held in the Chapel and places are £15 per person and can be booked at: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives)**

## Heritage Weekend

Last weekend saw many town locations open to visitors. Holt Island had around 400 visitors and the Corn Exchange around 50. What is interesting is the places that visitors come from. A fifth of visitors at the Corn Exchange came from abroad and over a quarter were from outside St Ives. Visitors, mostly families, left some lovely comments at Holt Island such as: *'the town has a lovely community feel'* - *'will be coming back'* - *'a little gem'* - *'I can see lot of hard work has been put in'*.

From our Environmental Correspondent Heidi.

## I love a bit of exotica - Don't we all?

Well darlings I wasn't expecting to see this lovely creature at the farmers' Market, creating quite a stir among the gazebos. I knew you be interested and so I made a few enquiries. Her name is Mango and she is a Double Yellow-shouldered Amazonian Parrot owned by a Mrs Brown from Chesterton, Cambridge. She arrived in style on a beautiful narrow boat named Stourbridge and loves coming to St Ives. Well, of course, we love a bit of glamour. She's 20 years old and although quite capable of flying, prefers Mrs Brown's shoulder from where she can survey her surroundings during shopping trips.



Come again Mango!

## Less Plastic

Waitrose have announced that by March 2019, they will remove all 5p single use plastic carrier bags from their stores and will replace loose fruit and vegetable bags with a home compostable alternative saving 134 million bags each year, which equates to a saving of 500 tonnes of plastic.

This is on top of removing takeaway coffee cups and pledging not to sell any own-label food in black plastic which they announced earlier in the year. Well done Waitrose. Heidi x

*The scene on The Quay on Sunday 9th September, as the first Flea on the Quay attracted large numbers of people who enjoyed some sunshine and bargain hunting.*

# Three into one works for GPs

**A** new medical practice looks set to offer patients much more as three practices merge. Northcote House (with a branch in Fenstanton), Orchard Surgery and Parkhall Surgery have come together as the Riverport Medical Practice.

All three practices were starting to struggle with various issues including logistics, retirements and problems in recruiting new GPs, so some months ago Northcote House Practice Manager, Jenny Parker and Dr. Boukersi called a meeting for all local practices to discuss the way forward as the NHS itself is encouraging practices to work collaboratively or merge to ensure that they remain viable. Representatives of NHS England and the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group gave presentations to ensure that all involved understood the implications of merging.

From these initial meetings our 3 practices decided to join together and pool our resources to continue to provide excellent family medical services to the community.

The merger itself is scheduled to happen on 1 October and already we have attracted a new salaried GP to our team together with an Advance Nurse Practitioner and a Senior Practice Nurse. This will now give us a wider clinical team that our patients can consult.

The new group practice, **Riverport Medical Practice**, will have a list size of approximately 12,500 patients and we feel that this makes us much more resilient.

## A city without a river!

That is how one young resident imagines St Ives in 2068. There are plenty of other interesting images of our future, ranging from the horror of Hemingford Meadow lost to roads and pylons and sunbathing on the dry river bed, to the pleasure of still being able to walk along the Great Ouse.

The competition ran for over a year to enable local schools to incorporate it in their curriculum. Students, as young as 5, created bridges and older students entered in all four categories, written, 2 dimensional, 3 dimensional and video. Adults limited their imagination to written and 2 dimensional entries. All the entries in Your St Ives '68 are now on display in the Norris Museum Community Room until 22nd September.

In the Adult section the winning entry in the Written category was *The Riverporter* with its 24th August 2068 edition and Commended was the totally different but equally entertaining entry by Jennifer Coville.



*Jo Baldry inspects the entries.*

The winner in the 2 Dimensional category was Niki Gott and as with the written entries, an almost opposite vision of St Ives in 2068 by Peter Baker was commended by the judges.

For the children who created entries, Chair of the Civic Society of St Ives, David Stewart and Jane Amaral will visit schools and make presentations at one of their Assemblies.

The Society thanked everyone who entered and whose efforts were appreciated. It will be interesting to see if any of the imagined changes challenge the Civic Society of St Ives in their next 50 years, although, like many of us, they may not be around to see it.

## 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 2: Thurs 4 Oct Beast

15

Dir: Michael Pearce, 2017, UK, 107 min, cert 15

Beast is a remarkable debut from British director Michael Pearce. It's a complex tale of mystery, crime, lust and escape in idyllic Jersey and stars Johnny Flynn and Jessie Buckley, both already top-notch actors. Beast is a terrific example of what's so exciting about new British cinema.



having your say ...

# The Riverporter

COUNCIL NEWS



## Dear Erik PAWS FOR THOUGHT

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

### This is what £50,000 buys you!

According to one of our readers who sent this picture to Erik of the inside of the Octagon.



### Police issued the following to horse owners in the area

'Over recent weeks, we have received reports of horses escaping from fields in the St Ives area and, on a number of these occasions, they have unfortunately made it onto a major route, putting the animals' welfare and that of passing motorists at risk. (Extract from the weekly neighbour hood watch email Sept 18th)

### Feeling illuminated



Sadly this years Illuminated boat parade had to be postponed due to the number of river events this year, but that wasn't going to keep this boat down. ...

Local boat 'Amber Louise' and her crew Ann and John Pierre and daughter Savanna were determined to have their fun so 'Amber Louise' turned up in full illuminated regalia on the Quayside ready for their picnic and night out much to the delight of the riverside residents. Well done crew, Erik loved it!



## FRAUD!

This is a true account from one our readers. Be on your guard.

I shop at Boots – lovely shop. One day, into my Inbox popped an invitation to complete a Customer Satisfaction Survey, in return for a 'reward'. What's not to like? I had a few minutes, I could do with a new toothbrush, so I downloaded.

I should have been more attentive. It didn't look like a Boots communication. And it wasn't. But I ploughed on, selected a cream (don't ask) from a list of 'rewards', agreed to pay carriage (should have stopped there).

A few days later a courier package arrived from Cyprus from a company called Beauty & Truth based in Nevada, USA, with the cream and an eye 'uplifter' (don't remember selecting that, don't even know what it is). Oh well, I've got lucky? I used the cream and passed on the eye stuff to my wife (haven't seen a change yet).

Two weeks later I'm checking my bank statement. Two courier charges and a big one for around £80. Wow!

### Three snippets, sniffed out by Erik

- Firstly New Look will be closing in October, which is a concern for our High Street.
- Last Wednesday saw the opening of Jack's in Chatteris, Tesco's answer to Aldi and Lidl. Named after Tesco's founder Jack Cohen who's mantra was 'pile it high and sell it cheap'. It seems that's the plan once again.
- 19,355 drivers were fined over a one-year period in the A14 roadworks, generating income of around £2million per year.

Get on to Beauty & Truth. They say I ordered these products on trial and if not returned within 14 days considered bought - see small print. Damnation. Got on to bank to block any more payments. Got on to Boots to tell them their name is being used fraudulently and reported it to [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk). I now have a crime number, a hole in my account, and a very red face for which the cream is useless.

### DON'T LET IT HAPPEN TO YOU!

Name withheld due to embarrassment.

## Council fund Volunteer Centre

After a break for August, St Ives Town Council resumed its monthly meetings by agreeing to support the Huntingdonshire Volunteer Centre with a grant of £12,000 per annum over the next four years.

The St Ives Office of the Volunteer Centre is very busy and provides some really important services to the community. The grant will allow them to plan over a longer term and a memorandum of understanding will be signed by the Town Council and Huntingdonshire Volunteer Centre.

The Huntingdonshire Volunteer Centre is always on the look-out for volunteers (see back page) and we hope to feature more details of their work in a future issue of The Riverporter.

Also on the agenda - a report on the visit to our twin town, Stadtallendorf, by the Town Clerk, The Mayor and the Deputy Mayor, who is keen to form more links between the towns. The Council also agreed to help fund any shortfall of the Tommy Silhouette Project where soldier silhouettes will be appearing at three locations in the town including on the Chapel Bridge.

One of the main discussions concentrated on the (lack) of a bus service to Morrisons. £240,000 was allocated to supply bus services when planning consent was given and the plans put forward by the County Council are to run five round trips a day, Monday to Friday between 9.55am and 2pm from the bus station. Councillors said this was very disappointing.

### We say it's not just disappointing but a disgrace

Given that the store has been open for some months and that such a huge sum of money is available it is disgraceful that there is no bus service yet. The restricted hours of the service do nothing to help Morrison's staff get to work or allow anyone from further afield to access it. On top of that there is no provision for Saturdays or Sundays.

### What a missed opportunity

Here is an opportunity to help redress some of the lost bus services in our area and put in a well planned programme of public transport that might encourage more people to use it and help reduce the numbers of cars on our clogged roads. Services that don't provide the routes and times that people want are frankly not worth supplying at all. One needs to ask what is the County Council doing with all that money if they're not supplying a decent bus service?

### County Council matters

Councillor Fuller reported that the County Council have now agreed who will be on the steering group of the St Ives Area Network. Readers may recall that back in February Cllr Fuller announced a £1m scheme to look at 'congestion busting'. It seems quite a lot of money just to look at things (no work is included in this scheme) but having taken 7 months to decide who is on the committee perhaps we can understand why it will cost so much!

### The Riverporter apologises for misleading readers

Reporting on District Council matters Cllr Fuller told the Town Council that he wanted to correct some of the misinformation reported in the press about the Master Plan (he must mean *The Riverporter* as we were the only publication to cover the story).

Apparently we reported that '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, it turns out, this was not strictly true as it wasn't called a Master Plan then. It was in fact called 'The Town Centre improvement Scheme' and to be even more accurate it was meant to be in three phases covering Market Hill, Bridge Street and The Broadway. Only the Bridge Street part was done and the other two areas were abandoned when the money was taken away.

According to Cllr Fuller a 'Master Plan' is a much more comprehensive scheme, more than just some street works, and he also wanted to correct the impression that the 'Master Plan' has yet to get underway as he informed the Council that it was already completed in St Neots.

**The Riverporter wishes to apologise for misleading its readers over this matter and will endeavor to get our facts straight in future.**

When asked if there was a start date for the St Ives 'Master Plan', Cllr Fuller declined to say.

### FINALLY

It is with sadness we announce the death of ex Mace Bearer John Smoothy who died last Monday and has been awarded the Freedom of the Town posthumously.

## REASONS TO BE SHUT PART 12

Getting up-to-date information can be quite tricky sometimes.

Visitors arriving at the Waits may be confused by the details of events long since over in one of the notice boards as the lock has broken.

Apparently it is considered a low priority to fix it.



## Evening of Mediumship with Nikki Kitt



St Ives Corn Exchange

Friday 26th  
October

Tickets £12.00

7.30pm

### Would you like to help others?

Would you like to help others and impart your knowledge and experience, learn new skills and make new friends but most of all have fun? The St Ives Volunteer Centre (part of Huntingdonshire Volunteer Centre) is here to help find the right volunteer role for you. Call us about offering your time in your local area. You can do anything from a couple of hours and all ages can volunteer.

We run a Community Car Scheme. All run by volunteers this scheme takes anyone who needs to make essential journeys e.g. medical appointments, shopping etc. where no suitable public transport exists and for individuals with mobility issues. Users pay the drivers 40 pence per mile or £2 minimum to cover driver expenses. We are always looking for volunteer drivers to help with this busy project, if this could be you ...

please contact Natalie on 01480 301462  
Mon-Thurs 12.30-3pm



## The St Ives Old Riverport Flea on the Quay

Collectables • Crafts • Antiques  
Curious items • Objet d'art

### Sunday Morning

from 10am to 1pm on The Quay

Due to the success of the inaugural market we intend to hold the Flea on the Quay every fortnight while the weather remains dry this year and to run from April to October in 2019



Crowds attend the first Flea on the Quay.

ADVERTORIAL

## Choosing the right tenant

Mike Ellis of Ellis Winters explains how they take care to choose tenants



**ellis  
winters  
&co**

Finding the perfect tenant is the holy grail for landlords - the perennial fear of non-payment of rent or walking in at the end of a tenancy to find a scene of complete chaos inhibits many people from taking the step to becoming a property investor, but they needn't worry.

Put your business head on and keep your eye on the returns and let the professionals take care of the rest.

The vetting process for tenants starts from that very first phone call into our office - how polite were they, whether they are renting at the moment, what they are looking for and how quickly can they move, whether they have pets or are receiving benefits etc.

We ask lots of questions to ensure we know as much about the applicant as possible - the last thing we need is hassle from a tenant, because that usually translates into hassle for our clients, the landlords.

When we show potential tenants around our available properties we are again assessing how good a prospect we think they will be for our landlords.

After many years' experience of renting and with over 700 managed rental properties locally, we have a sixth sense when it comes to knowing when something doesn't feel right.

The applicant then completes referencing forms showing their income, previous addresses and their credit history, which we discuss with the landlord who decides whether to proceed or not.

Once the landlord has chosen an applicant, further in-depth checks on their financial situation, employment and credit score are carried out by an external company which typically takes 3-4 days. As long as the references come back with a clean bill of health, a move in date is then discussed.

Of course we can never be 100% certain that everything will run smoothly and as a back-up we suggest that the landlord is further protected with the right buildings insurance and even rent and legal cover should the tenant not pay the rent, which usually costs less than they think.

If you would like to become one of our landlords, please call us on 01480 388 888 - we have an excellent introductory offer to let us prove to you how good we are.



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