

# The Riverporter

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

## ST IVES REMEMBERS

**N**ext weekend the town will be celebrating the end of World War 1. Exactly 100 years ago the 'war to end all wars' came to a close and 37 million people had been killed or wounded. A golden age of prosperity had been brutally uprooted, leading to the bloodiest century in human history.

With this in mind, and because I'd been involved in the events to celebrate Jeffrey Day and wanted to know more about the impact the war had on St Ives, I decided to visit the exhibition at the Norris museum: **1918-2018 Huntingdonshire Remembers** on until 22 December.

It is now 15 months since the Norris Museum re-opened after major refurbishment which updated the displays and added a community room. Attendance figures have been impressive, as have been many visitors comments.

One comment, also repeated about other museums, is the feeling that the current drive to appeal to children often results in exhibits which are very touchy-feely, tend to make lots of noise and over simplify the subject.

### Looking good

Presentation and displays look good, with modern printing techniques that seamlessly mix pictures and words. There is divided opinion about the current good practice, which suggests keeping the words to a minimum, not just for visual effect but because most people's attention span is short, we are told.

Another area created in the new development is a space where four exhibitions will be held over the year. At first glance this exhibition looks good and the displays are tastefully laid out. It featured several local people's stories, including that of Jeffrey and his brothers, Ivor who also died, and George who later became Town Clerk.

Being the Museum of Huntingdonshire it featured people from further afield including, oddly, some from Bedfordshire and there were a few interesting artifacts,

including medals and a copy of Poems and Rhymes a, book of Jeffrey's poems published posthumously in 1919.

### Lacking depth

However the exhibition lacked depth. The information on display had been distilled down to mainly headlines and the real story of the war seemed absent. Oddly the drive to attract younger people probably wouldn't result in enlightening them about the enormous effect that this war had on society, and Huntingdonshire in particular.

There was little to excite youngsters, who are unlikely to be interested in old medals but may be interested in trench warfare or the dangers faced by pilots who didn't have a parachute and shot at each other with rifles whilst 1,000 feet in the air and traveling at speed in a plane made of balsa wood, paper and canvas.

The exhibition didn't grip me and I doubt whether it would grip a 10 year-old. I feel it was a missed opportunity to let youngsters understand the significance of the conflict and how ordinary people from this area were affected. Surely an exhibition about this subject should be doing that at least.

The section of children's messages, organised by the British Legion, and the Remembrance Books, organised by the Civic Society, were more interesting.

### Questions raised

I was left wondering why the exhibition was so lacklustre? Was it the result of a lack of time, or lack of resource or is it because lottery funding demands a certain style of presentation these days? **Ed**



The 1918-2018 Huntingdonshire Remembers exhibition at The Norris Museum.

## Timetable of events 11 November

6am	Battle's Over Piper: Sleep in peace ... – Market Hill
10.30am	Remembrance Day Service and Parade - Market Hill
12.-4pm	Huntingdonshire Remembers exhibition at the Norris Museum.
12pm	Battle's Over Live Music and Entertainment – Floods Tavern
2-3pm	Methodist Church – Launch of the Miles Jeffery Day book with poetry readings and films old and new.
2.30pm	Battle's Over Tea Dance – Corn Exchange (Tickets £5 all proceeds to the British Legion) available from the Corn Exchange
	Bouncy Castle and Puppet Show – Burleigh Hill Community Ctre
	Space for Quiet Reflection – Parish Church
5.30pm	A Service for Peace – Parish Church
	Songs from both World Wars – Chapel on the Bridge
6.55pm	Battle's Over - The Last Post – Parish Church
7pm	Beacon Lighting – All Saints Church
7.05pm	Bells ringing out for peace'
7.30pm	Huntingdon Big Band Concert – Free Church

MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

In researching this article I found it difficult to get data about the Museum. The Friends of the Norris had an AGM recently but their report doesn't appear to be available to the general public and The Town Council, who are the sole trustee of the Norris hold their meetings in private and do not issue any minutes. This seems at odds with how a public body should work, especially as St Ives Town Council spends thousands of pounds of our taxes each and every year on the Norris. Of course the meetings will discuss salaries etc. which should be in private, but we have no idea about any of the conversations that the 9 councillors and Friends Committee members discuss each quarter.

Below: one of Irene Valero-Sanchez's fabulous pictures which are now being used to promote St Ives on the Visit Cambs website - the main tourist website in Cambridgeshire. Early morning mist, which looks even better in colour.



# 2,000 purple crocuses mark worldwide campaign



St Ives in Bloom and the Rotary Club of St Ives, working together, have cleared an area of the verge by Waitrose on Station Road and planted it with purple crocuses to raise awareness for the Rotary Club's campaign to finally eradicate polio worldwide.

St Ives in Bloom has been gradually improving the area, and then on the morning of Tuesday 23rd October an enthusiastic group of volunteers from the Rotary Club (right) arrived with boxes containing 2,000 purple crocuses!

The purple crocus flower has become the symbol of the Rotary Club's 'End Polio Now' campaign. When a child receives their life saving polio drops on mass polio immunisation days in many countries their

little finger is painted with a purple dye so it is clear they have received their vaccine.

The worldwide campaign has been extremely successful, but everyone is at risk from this dreadful disease until it is completely wiped out. To finish the job over 2 billion doses of oral polio vaccine have to be administered each and every year in over 60 countries until the world is finally certified polio free.



## Waitrose support St Ives again

Simon Gartside, Manager of St Ives Waitrose (centre), last week handed over a cheque for £261 to Sheila Stones, Chair of St Ives Town Team, and Chris Lewis, who help organise The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival. The money from the green token collection has helped the Town Team to fund this increasingly popular event.

## Don't Forget The Boxing Day Hobby Horse Hunt

Enjoyed for the first time last year by a dozen families, the Hunt is back on Boxing Day. With prizes for the best costume and winning team get making your hobby horse - or hire or buy one from [townteam@theoldriverportstives.co.uk](mailto:townteam@theoldriverportstives.co.uk).

Below: Sandra Souter with some of the horses she has made.



## Did you see Vidimus?



Between Wednesday 17 and Sunday 21 October every evening our beautiful Chapel was illuminated as never before. Part of the Town Team's Chapel Arts Season, the installation by Holly Genevieve, titled Vidimus, enthralled those that saw it. Plans are now afoot to illuminate the Chapel over the Christmas period with a suitably festive array of images. We will let you know if and when it will be on.



**ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION**  
**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2018**  
**at the Free Church, St Ives**  
**10am-5pm: Free Entry**  
**Come along to see some fantastic photographs and vote for your favourite.**

## A really good cause at Christmastime

Research in 2006, demonstrated that nearly 40,000 children living in the Geita, Northern Tanzania, were orphaned and vulnerable. These children were struggling to survive without access to food, shelter, health and education.

Mary Makaranga, an amazing lady who has worked for over 30 years with these children, had a dream to open a centre for such children where, in a safe and loving

environment, they could begin to acquire life skills, have access to health care and an education. In 2010 George and Dee Smerdon, from St Ives went to Geita for 3 months working on different projects. George, a retired GP, to work with Mary, the coordinator of the local newly formed Palliative care team, and Dee, to teach in a local primary school. During the three months they spent there, they witnessed Mary's

dedication. Sallie and Karl Hage visited George and Dee and were also touched by Mary's dream and they all offered to help Mary. On their return to the UK they began formalising that support by starting the Friends of Malezi Charity. Among the many ways the Friends have helped is by raising funds at the yearly Malezi Christmas Quiz. It's fun and a great cause so why not book your place.

## Your top-drawer venue



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@stivescornex



## Save The Date

### Malezi Christmas Quiz

Thursday 6th December 2018  
 at The Ferryboat Inn, Holywell, PE27 4TGL  
 7pm for a 7.45pm start

Tickets: £16.00 per person  
 (includes dinner-Menu TBC)

*Tickets go on sale soon so get your team ready!*

All profits go to Friends of Malezi

[www.friendsofmalezi.org](http://www.friendsofmalezi.org)



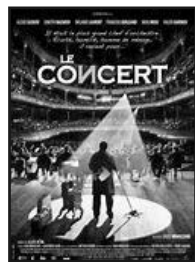
## Screen St Ives

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.

**Friday 16th November**

**Le Concert Screen 1**

15



Director: Radu Mihaileanu France | Italy | Romania | Belgium 2009  
1h 59m

Thirty years earlier, the renowned conductor of the Bolshoi Orchestra was fired for hiring Jewish musicians and is reduced to working as a cleaner at the Bolshoi. Now he hatches a plan to get his musicians back together in Paris for one triumphant concert. Funny, touching and hopeful, Le Concert will win your heart.

## ST IVES TOWN PRIZE POETRY COMPETITION 2019

Prizes for the 2 winners - Senior £100 - Junior (under 16) £25

The winner of Senior section will be invited to become

**The 1st POET LAUREATE of St Ives**

Write a poem about anything that inspires you. Entries close - Mon 31st Dec 2018

Submit your poems by email to: [stivespoetry@hotmail.com](mailto:stivespoetry@hotmail.com) or in writing to St Ives Electric Riverboat Company, 5 The Quay, The Old Riverport, St Ives, Cambridgeshire PE27 5AR

All poems will be displayed on a rotation basis for public reading at selected venues around St Ives after judging.

The Judging Panel, formed from town dignitaries and members of local poetry groups, will announce the results on Thursday 28th February 2019. The poems will be selected anonymously.

Entry forms with rules, Laureate guidelines, etc, available from The Library, Corn Exchange or from [stivespoetry@hotmail.com](mailto:stivespoetry@hotmail.com)

Promoted by: The Bridge Poets Group, St Ives.

# PONDERS FREE TRAVEL EVENING

## Are you thinking of booking your 2019 holiday, or perhaps even further ahead?

At Ponders we understand that you may have lots of questions in mind regarding your holiday, so wouldn't it be nice to have a team of travel experts all in one place ready to answer your questions in a relaxed environment, alongside Prosecco and Platters to add to that holiday feel.

We have invited leading travel experts from different areas of the holiday industry to come along and join Ponders award winning team at the exquisite location of

Di Rita's Italian Restaurant.

They will be there to answer all your questions and give you an insight into destinations perhaps you hadn't considered, travel tips, knowledge on where is best to stay, how to know if a holiday type is right for you and so much more.

With exclusive holiday offers, a prize draw and of course delicious prosecco and platters from the fabulous Di Rita's available on the night also.

**WHEN: Thursday 15th November 2018. 4.30 – 7pm**

**WHERE: Di Rita's Italian Restaurant, 21 Bridge Street**

Register for your Free Ticket at [www.ponderstravel.co.uk](http://www.ponderstravel.co.uk)

[sales@ponderstravel.co.uk](mailto:sales@ponderstravel.co.uk)  
Tel: 01954 232802

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# BREXIT & THE HOUSING MARKET

Mike Ellis of Ellis Winters says if you are looking to move, move!



For the last two years Brexit has probably been the most commonly used word in the English language and by now most people are fed up with it.

Certainly most of us have no idea exactly how Brexit is going to impact us on a daily basis. We are asked almost every day how property prices will be affected and the answer is, 'we'll have to wait and see'.

For those selling and buying at the same time, Brexit will have no effect whatsoever. If you are selling and going in to rented accommodation, the gamble is that prices may come down a little in which case, when you come to buy again, you may make a little money, but there is certainly no guarantee of that.

The market in this area over the last year has risen by 4%, according to the recent house price index, so that gamble about going into rented accommodation is a close call.

For many people Brexit isn't even a consideration. If you have a job relocation, moving closer to family or moving for financial reasons, your property is worth what you can achieve for it at the time you come to sell.

There have been many media scare stories about prices crashing, but we've heard that before and they didn't materialise and if the news stories over the last few days are anything to go

by, a deal on Brexit is 95% there so why should prices be affected so dramatically? Our advice then would be to carry on as normal, trust your own decision making and if you are looking to move, move!

If you would like a valuation on what your property is worth currently, please call us for straight forward and impartial advice.

For more information, please call our team on 01480 388888



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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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