

# The Riverporter

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

## A DAY TO REMEMBER

Last Sunday thousands of people come to St Ives to witness the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One. This scene was repeated around the world, as millions paid their respects to those who fought in 'the war to end all wars'.

Indeed the world seemed to be as one for this short time, and as our pictures show this anniversary struck a chord with almost everyone.

The day in St Ives started early for a handful of people who witnessed Piper, Abby Kerr, from Wyton, playing *The Battles O'er* at 6am, by the War Memorial. Something being repeated throughout the country.

At 10.30 am thousands of people filled Market Hill as the service of remembrance was held. Representatives of most of the areas scouts, guides and cadet groups joined the ranks of ex and current servicemen and bandsmen who paraded before the Mayor and .....

Various other events took place in the afternoon, including a tea dance in the Corn Exchange, which raised over £300 for the Royal British Legion. The Town Team celebrated the

life of St Ivesian, Jeffrey Day, in the Methodist Church with films and poetry readings.

At 5.30pm the Parish Church held a *Service for Peace* and in the Bridge Chapel the Town Team's *Songs of the World Wars*, saw a full house singing the well-known songs of the period.

At 6.55pm a bugler played the last post, which was followed by the lighting of a beacon on the Parish Church roof. The Church bells then rang out, as they did 100 years ago when the war ended, and the day's events came to a close with the well attended Huntingdonshire Big Band Concert in the Free Church.

Commenting afterwards Tim Drye, the Town Mayor, thanked all those who organised and participated in the variety of events that were both solemn and celebratory.

What a day...



Your top-drawer venue



ENTERTAINMENT COMMUNITY AND FAMILIES

Gigs • The Arts • Films • Community Clubs • Dance • Fitness Balls • Parties • Wedding Receptions

PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR BUSINESSES

Training Workshops • Private HR Meetings • Exhibitions Conferences • Public Consultations • Awards Events • Staff Parties

The facilities include a large function HALL with a sprung hardwood, full-area dance floor and balcony. The smaller ACE SUITE and FLEXI-ROOMS offer more intimate space for concerts, parties and receptions.

Fully air-conditioned high-spec facilities with disability lifts and WiFi throughout, for up to 450 people.

Three fully licensed bars, a commercial kitchen and servery with extensive public parking close by.

Contact us today on 01480 496955 or email: [bookings@thecornexchange.org.uk](mailto:bookings@thecornexchange.org.uk)

Bookings Office open weekdays 10 am - 2 pm

[www.thecornexchange.org.uk](http://www.thecornexchange.org.uk)



@stivescornex



POETRY FOLK NIGHT

Tues 20th November 2018

7.30pm until 9.30pm

S. I. CORN EXCHANGE Burgess Room

Join Us - £5 Entry - Refreshments

\*Christmas Poetry Book Launch

\*A Christmas Story !

\*Open mic. for budding poets

\*Get inspired for the new

Poetry competition for Town Laureate

\*Close review of WW1 War Poetry

\*This is the new book cover



A New Youth Club For St Ives and Distriot Have you heard about 'KICK Roots'?

It's always good news when new ventures and facilities open for young people so it's great to receive the following information from our neighbourhood policing report ...

St Ives PCSOs recently had a meeting with a group of local organisations planning to start a new Youth Club in the area.

'KICK Roots' will be a new youth club for young people aged 11-14 years and the aim is to provide a positive and safe place for youngsters of St Ives and surrounding areas to access. It will be a weekly, term time, club that will be

a valuable resource for the support and health and well-being of our young people. Young people will be able to meet new people, socialise, play sports and games, play and listen to music and learn new skills such as cooking, making music, photography, film making etc.

We will be inviting people to come and speak and run workshops with the young people on a monthly basis about the things that they are interested in, as well as inviting professionals to run sessions around health and wellbeing, positive relationships and online safety.

We will be offering the young people

a chance to work towards an Arts Award, which is a nationally recognised qualification, motivating them to achieve and be rewarded and recognised for their achievements.

The KICK Roots youth club project has the potential to have a considerable impact on the local community by reducing the levels of anti-social behaviour in the area and help vulnerable young people feel confident enough to realise their worth and fulfill their potential in all aspects of their lives.

The Riverporter will bring more details as soon as we receive them.

The Snow people are on the way!



Not long now! ...

Hundreds of happy snow people have been spotted on their way to St Ives.

Sandy Souter, pictured left with Susan Westrip and some of the snowmen, and her happy band of helpers have been assisting our chilly annual visitors to find their way into town and it won't be long now before they set up their new

homes all over St Ives.

In fact our newshound Erik caught sight of our giant snowman checking out his seasonal home on Holt Island so lets hope they all make it in time to kick off our Snowman Festival Day on the 25th November.

A FIRST FOR OUR DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY



On Saturday 10 November at the Burgess Hall the marvellous Huntingdonshire Concert Band gave a concert of Music from Movies & Musicals, with the proceeds kindly donated to the St Ives Dementia Friendly Community. The Dementia Steering Group, chaired by Ian Jackson, promoted the event and the hall was packed to overflowing. Ian said, 'The evening was a triumph. I can't thank HCB enough for supporting us - every member of the band is already a Dementia Friend. I would also like to acknowledge the overwhelming support from local businesses and shops for the array of prizes and the generosity of the audience who bought raffle tickets, raising £465!'

Associated groups such as Alzheimer's Society, Memory Lane Singing Cafe, Love to Move and Crafts at the Corn Exchange were represented. We also received valuable support from Care UK Field Lodge who assisted with publicity costs. The aim of everyone connected in this way is to ensure that people with dementia in our town are able to carry on their lives as fruitfully as possible - in fact, to live well with dementia.

St Ives is the first community in Cambridgeshire to be recognised by the Alzheimer's Society as 'Working to become Dementia Friendly'. The Steering Group organises free Dementia Friends sessions on a regular basis and at all times of day. They are casual, informative and help us better understand the condition. Please contact Ian Jackson on 01480 385999 or email [ianjackson@ntlworld.com](mailto:ianjackson@ntlworld.com) to find out more and book a place.

A Poet Laureate for St Ives? Well yes!

The laureate is the voice of a townspeople, freely writing poems for the interest and amusement of the whole town.

Below is a poem from Ian Dobson. Do you have one to give?

In will come that heavy blast  
Of poetic inspiration,  
That fuels the passions,  
Rewards our Toil,  
Punishes our Torpor  
And fills up our Souls,  
Here,  
In Slep by the Ouse.

Like a Supermagnet  
It will draw to us  
From far and wide  
Admirers of the Poetic Arts,  
And Of Lyrical Verse  
At its very best  
To Slep by the Ouse.

Dare we dream  
Of a re-flowering  
Of the lambic Pentameter?  
Ovid and Virgil,  
Shakespeare  
Reborn  
In Slep by the Ouse?

A GREAT CHRISTMAS PRESENT

The Town Team have published a 72 page hard-back book about Huntingdonshire's First World War Poet & Flying Ace, Flight Cmdr Miles Jeffrey Game Day, DSC, RNAS.

The book includes his poems, letters and correspondence with his family and close friend Hilton Young and fascinating pictures and details of the early years of aviation.

If you wish to buy a copy you can get them from the Corn Exchange at the Snowman Festival Craft Day on the 25 November or at ArtsFest, also in the Corn Exchange on 1st and 2nd December.

Alternatively you can email: [townteam@theoldriverportstives.co.uk](mailto:townteam@theoldriverportstives.co.uk)

The books are £15. A film of the Celebratory Evening, held on 10 March is also available on DVD at a cost of £5.



Saints Crafters

Are Holding A Special Christmas Craft Fair At the Corn Exchange, St Ives on Saturday 24th November 2018.

Come and buy your Christmas Gifts early. Have a cup of Tea, a cake or mince pie at the cafe run by Hunts Society for the Blind.

Free Entry

9-30am to 3-30pm

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)



### Have you seen our town on TV?

Visitors back in September may recall seeing a film crew working in the centre with a director barking out his instructions and acting extras milling around The Pavement (see *The Riverporter* issue 18). They were filming the new TV advert for Lloyds chemist and the ad is appearing on our TV's now. Keep an eye out it's lovely to see our town appearing on national TV, or you can see the advert at:

[youtube.com/watch?v=UI5oLlgfjHg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UI5oLlgfjHg)

*Rumours that mice and rats came out to dance through the night in the Corn Exchange following the ~~Mayors Ball~~, sorry Hat Dance, may be true.*

*Mayor Tim Drye couldn't find the off switch of the mirror ball before he locked the building up!*

## MOUNTAIN WAREHOUSE

Whilst sniffing out the news around town ERIK learned that the work on the new Mountain Warehouse store that is replacing 'New Look' is now well under way and the shopfitting team told him that the provisional date for opening is 27th November so it looks like we'll all be able to get our new walking boots in time for Christmas!... The good news of course is that it's not another empty shop!



## Waits hit again

Police were called at 12.58 am on 11th November when a Ford Mondeo crashed into railings on The Waits. There were no reported injuries - the railings definitely came off worse.

Several accidents have occurred in this area recently, often at night, as drivers fail to negotiate the sharp bend. It was a police van on the previous occasion, although their excuse was that they were chasing criminals.

Following our article about the **Huntingdonshire Remembers** exhibition in the Norris Museum we received this letter.

Dear Friend,

As the recently appointed honorary secretary of the Huntingdonshire Local History Society, I read with interest your concern about the lack of information from the museum and others associated with the Museum, and maybe other voluntary groups associated with St Ives. Until three years ago details of our programme incorporating our newsletter were circulated twice a year to members and to a few other people who had expressed an interest in our affairs; compilation and distribution depending on volunteers. When that person withdrew their help the publication was reduced to just the programme of lectures and outings. I hope to change that and am in the process of compiling a newsletter that I hope to publish in December.

Regarding the museum, assembling displays is never easy; one has to consider resources available, the imagination of staff and volunteers and the availability of time. It is never easy to balance things as I know from experience. Often the problem is 'who is the target audience?', what is the message one wants to get across? Sometimes there are no clear answers - attracting young people to matters 'historical' is difficult; it's a question I ask myself about our historical society. We do our best but acknowledge that, maybe, we could do better.

Yours sincerely, Michael Dudley

**ED** Thank you Michael for your thoughtful response. The Riverporter is keen to help organisations like yours to reach the public, so please send us your news. Any criticism we made was designed to be constructive. The Norris is a wonderful facility, loved by many and we want everything in St Ives to be the best it can be.

## POLICE MATTERS

### WATCH OUT FOR THE FAKERS!

Speaking with several local retailers and restaurateurs in town this week Erik learned that our town has been hit with a number of fake £20 notes. On-line police messages are warning that there are a considerable number of these in circulation in our area and we need to be careful when receiving these notes from any source. Anyone being suspicious of any notes are advised to take them into their bank and check. One local Bridge Street trader informed us that he had taken three of these on only one day in the past week. But it seems fake money is not our only concern in town these past weeks. We appear to have visitors in town thieving from shops in a rather confrontational way and a considerable number of purse snatchings. As we now start our run up to Christmas this is an important period for our town centre, so we urge shoppers to be on the lookout for these crooks.



**STOP PRESS!** Even as we prepare this latest edition we are informed by the local police that PCSOs detained a person suspected of stealing from shops on The Pavement on Tuesday morning. Items in the suspect's bag were identified as having been taken from more than one retailer. Investigations are continuing.

## TOWN COUNCIL NEWS

### The Bridge magazine to remain

In our last issue we highlighted the questions that the Town Council wanted answering. On Wednesday the following decisions were made, based on replies to those questions.

The Council looked at several proposals, including delivering just one copy of The Bridge a year to residents. However councillors stated that they felt that The Bridge is well received and that it was important to ensure that each household receives information about the Council's work. They recognised that delivery costs were high and will be seeking alternative quotes for this.

**The Bridge** - following 13 responses it was proposed that a sum of £18,500 is included in the Estimates and deliveries continue for the time being. Each edition will be available on the new website and via Facebook and the content should focus on the Town Council, the services it provides and initiatives it is investigating with other groups and organisations.

**Customer Contact Centre & Tourist Information Point** - 6 responses mostly wanted facility so it is proposed to provide more information at the Town Hall and Norris Museum.

**Warner's Park Pavilion** - there were about 5 comments and consideration is to be given to refurbish the building to include public toilets and cafe facilities. Two or three councillors are to form a working party, inviting the members of the community who expressed an interest in the project to meet and discuss the way forward.

**Twinning** - following an offer from a native German speaker who settled in St Ives in 2016 to provide help in nourishing the relationship with Stadtallendorf a sum of £1,000 is included in the Estimate for 2019/20 and an action plan put in place with The Bridge, the website and Facebook page used to promote twinning and to inform people that grants are available from United Charities to support twinning activities.

It was proposed that decisions about the **Mausoleum** (1 response) and the **Neighbourhood Plan** (no responses) remain with the Amenities and Planning Committees respectively.

**BUS SURVEY** - It was reported that the bus survey had received over 1,000 responses which are now being analysed. *(Shows just how important bus services still are ED)*

### Is the Combined Authority another expensive layer of bureaucracy?

Having had doubts about another layer of government, with the election of a Cambs Mayor, it seems our fears may have been justified. James Palmer, the Mayor, said that the public is not 'even slightly interested' in the fact that he sanctioned a payout of £94,500 and a confidentiality agreement to former Chief Exec. Martin Whiteley who mysteriously resigned.

## REASONS TO BE SHUT PART 16

As Chairman of St Ives Town Initiative I am delighted that, together with the Civic Society, we have looked at the options to preserve the Octagon and bring it back into wider use.

Yes, we are now in discussions to find a sustainable outcome that isn't going to cost the taxpayer hundreds of thousands of pounds. So we are going to use it to store bins as it's only cost £50,000 to do a paint job on it so far!

### DISTRICT COUNCILLORS SAVE THE OCTAGON

Ward Councillors Angie Dickinson and John Davies reviewing plans for the Octagon.

*Taken from a poster displayed outside St Ives Town Hall, prior to the elections in 2016.*



# Snowman Festival

## Snowman Trail - Starts 24th November

Collect the Snowman stickers from participating stores for your chance to win an £200 Townrow Voucher

VOUCHER CAN BE USED FOR ANY ITEMS INCLUDING TOYS

## Snowman Festival Day & Christmas Gift Fair

FREE Children's Craft Activities

10.30am Sunday 25th November in St Ives Corn Exchange

and afterwards watch the Christmas Lights switch-on

**GIFTS • STALLS • CAROLS • CHRISTMAS CHEER**

*Switch on to Christmas in The Corn Exchange ...*



## MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Saturday 1 December** - Santa and Snowman arrival - The Quay followed by Santa's Grotto for the three weekends before Christmas in The Corn Exchange from noon

**Saturday 1 & Sunday 2 December** - ARTSFEST - The Corn Exchange 10am to 4pm

**Friday 7 December** - Mayor's Charity Christmas Concert - The Free Church 7.30pm

**Wednesday 26 December** - St Ives Boxing Day Hobby Horse Hunt - Market Hill midday

**Wednesday 9 to Sunday 13 January** - Snow White & The Seven Dwarfs Panto - Burgess Hall

# The world of Travel is coming to Over High Street

Ponders Travel is opening a new Travel Agency on the 7th January 2019.

Opening hours

Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 5.30pm

Saturday, 9.30am - 4.00pm

Pop in and see our brand new shop at The Gallery, 25 High Street, Over

**SPECIAL OFFERS**

**TAILOR MADE HOLIDAYS**

**35 YEARS' EXPERIENCE**

Contact us today for more information

**PONDERS**  
The truly independent cruise & travel company

01954 232802 | sales@ponderstravel.co.uk  
| www.ponderstravel.co.uk

ADVERTORIAL

## 22 DAYS TO SELL YOUR PROPERTY!

Mike Ellis of Ellis Winters says it needn't take so long to move.



Over the last ten years, despite the advances in technology, the transaction time from agreeing a sale and instructing a solicitor to moving into a new home has actually increased.

On average it now takes between 10 -14 weeks to for a sale to complete.

**Crazy!**

We have been pushing for a better/simpler solution and have been encouraging owners to get ready at an earlier stage rather than waiting for a sale to be agreed before instructing a solicitor.

It is possible to get the legal paperwork signed and forms completed as soon as a property goes on the market so that once an offer

has been accepted, the seller's solicitor can immediately send out a draft contract, thus saving a considerable amount of time.

We use conveyancers that work in the same way as we do, who understand that great customer service is expected and who provide regular updates and advice.

One of our recent transactions has taken just 22 days, from instructing the solicitor to exchange of contracts!

**That's better!**

We did have a motivated seller and buyer and there was only one property in the chain,

but this shows that it can be done.

We can't promise that all our transactions will sail through as quickly, but with the right people working for you we can promise that the process will be a lot easier.

For more information, please call our team on 01480 388888



**ellis winters &co**

Ellis Winters (St Ives) Ltd 15-17 White Hart Court, St Ives, Cambridgeshire PE27 5EA Tel: 01480 388 888 | Email: info@elliswinters.co.uk | www.elliswinters.co.uk

**The Riverporter**

is published by Ron Westrip and John Souter. email: editor@theriverporter.uk www.theriverporter.uk

The publishers reserve the right to determine the content of the publication. © copyright reserved