

# The Riverporter

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

## And the next Mayor is . . .

**St Ives Town Council has unanimously agreed that Councillor Dan Rowe will become Mayor and that Councillor Jonathan Pallant will be Deputy Mayor in May.**

Working to the normal civic calendar the Town Council, at last Wednesday's Council meeting, selected the Councillors who it is proposed will become the Mayor and Deputy Mayor during the 2019/2020 civic year, which will start after Mayor making on 8th May. Of course their positions will not be confirmed until the May ceremony, however it would be unusual for a Mayor elect not to take up the post.

Dan, (pictured right) is a graduate engineer working in Huntingdon, still in his twenties and will be one of the youngest Mayors in the country. He continues the trend for young St Ives Mayors, being a similar age to Councillor Phil Pope when he became Mayor in 2017. Deputy Mayor Jonathan Pallant is a software engineer, father and inveterate tinkerer and according to his profile is a keen cyclist who has



worked to help bring community groups together, with events like the Community Fair.

## Everyone keep CALM

Visitors to town recently may have noticed posters and leaflets being handed around looking for support to launch St Ives as the UK's first Mental Health Town.

The project is called CALM and stands for the Campaign Against Living Miserably. The aim of making St Ives a CALM town is to allow people from different community groups to get involved and raise awareness of the importance of mental health.

Rev Finch of St Ives Methodist Church said one of his motives for raising awareness of mental health issues came following the deaths of two men from the town who committed suicide last year.



Reverend Finch (pictured below), took on a 300-mile cycling challenge last year that saw him travel from London to Paris in order to raise money for CALM. Now, he is joining forces with the people of St Ives in an effort to make the town the first ever CALM town.

He says 'the vision is to shape a community where nobody needs to struggle with mental health on their own, and that there is always someone to listen or a place to go.'

Joining Rev. Finch in the project is Mayor Cllr Tim Drye, and the previous Mayor Cllr Phil Pope, as well as other groups in the town.

Events will be held across the year, and the team are hoping to get schools, employers, and community groups from around the town to get involved to raise awareness for the cause.

## BULLS ON TOP AGAIN . . .



## Diary of events 2019

*Below are some of the events taking place in St Ives during the first half of the year. Please note it is not a comprehensive list and may be altered as more information becomes known and confirmed. See a fuller list at [www.theoldriverportstives.co.uk](http://www.theoldriverportstives.co.uk)*

### MARCH

Saturday 2nd - Town Meeting and Community Fair - Corn Exchange  
 Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th - World Village Market - Sheepmarket  
 Sunday 31st - First Flea On The Quay of 2019

From March to November - Chapel Arts Season - Bridge Chapel

### APRIL

Thurs 11th to Sat 13th - Wind in the Willows - Burgess Hall

### MAY

Wednesday 8th - Mayor Making - The Corn Exchange  
 Friday 31st - Federico Pecchia, guitar - Chapel Arts - Bridge Chapel

### JUNE

Sunday 2nd - Day of Dance - Morris Dancing around St Ives  
 Sunday 16th - Civic Sunday - The Parish Church  
 Sunday 23rd - Picnic in The Park - Warners Park  
 Saturday 29th - Armed Forces Day - Market Hill

### JULY

All Sundays in July - Music on The Waits - The Waits  
 Fri 5th - Daniela Rossi, classical guitar - Chapel Arts - Bridge Chapel  
 Saturday 13th - COSI Concert - Free Church  
 Sat 13th & Sun 14th - St Ives Carnival & Musical Festival - Hill Rise  
 Saturday 29th & Sunday 30th - Craft Beer Festival - Sheepmarket

### AUGUST

All Sundays in August - Music on The Waits - The Waits  
 Sunday 4th - Ruth Holden, Harp - Chapel Arts - Bridge Chapel  
 Fri 23rd - Robin Walker, Harpsichord - Chapel Arts - Bridge Chapel

### SEPTEMBER

Saturday 7th - Illuminated Boat Parade - at dusk on the river  
 Thur 19th to Sun 22nd - The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival

## Breaking News

*The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival features Blues legend John Verity who found national fame in the 1970s with Argent. John will be headlining the Saturday programme and once again the Festival will feature a number of new bands this September (19th to 22nd).*



*As storm Erik battered the UK last Saturday, St Ives Second XV blew local rivals St Neots away with a 59-7 win. The previous week the First XV had lost a bruising encounter away to Market Harborough who leap-frogged the bulls to take second place in the Midlands 2 East (South) league. This Saturday the Bulls hope to get back onto a winning run as they host near bottom of the table Oakham.*

## Massive Support for Dementia Friendly Community

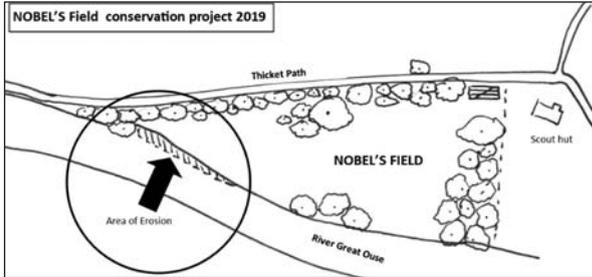
Last year's sell-out concert Music from Movies & Musicals in St Ives by the amazing Huntingdonshire Concert Band resulted in a huge cheque from the band presented to the Dementia Friendly Community group recently. A staggering £1,636 was raised by HCB on the night to which the group added £465 from the raffle!

Chair of the group, Ian Jackson, said, 'The evening was a triumph and I am so grateful to the band, the audience, the raffle sponsors and my volunteer Dementia Friends for making it possible. This money will help us expand our activities within our Dementia Friendly Community.'

Pictured from l-r, Cathy McClintock for the band presents the cheque to Ian Jackson and group members Shirley Chapman, Pat Keane and Roger Kuch. (Photograph Will Reeves)



## Fundraising for Nobel's Field conservation project



Local St Ives residents will be very familiar with Nobel's Field as a popular leisure and local beauty spot, popular with picnickers, dog walkers and boaters as well as a great venue for occasional town events and the annual rowing regatta.

However, few visitors would perhaps have noticed that the field is getting smaller! In recent years the effect of rising waters has started to take its toll on the river bank at

this point along the river, and very slowly water has receded an area of bank up to 14 feet in width at one point and over a length of approximately 40 metres. The Nobel's field trust that look after this town amenity has said that estimates for the repair and reconstruction of the bank are in the region of £40,000. A spokesman for the trust has announced that they are launching an appeal for funds and are actively seeking grants and support so that work can be started as soon as possible. If you would like to support the fund raising for Nobel's Field please let us know here at *The Riverporter* and we will pass on the information.

## Speedwatch Re-launch

Speedwatch St Ives was successfully relaunched this month with the first session on St Audreys Lane. In the session which lasted 1.5 hrs the team clocked 640 cars of which 17 exceeded 35 mph in the 30 mph zone. They will now receive an advisory letter from the Police. There are currently 5 volunteers, but they are looking for more people to join them. So if you are interested, or if you have any questions, please email: [speedwatch@cambs.pnn.police](mailto:speedwatch@cambs.pnn.police)

## Musical Director of St Ives Choral Society, Alison Daniels, has been appointed as first female Lay Clerk to Ely Cathedral.

Alison, who lives in Cambridge, is a freelance singer and teacher who regularly works with BBC Religious broadcasting, singing on BBC Radio 4. Alison (right) will be directing the Society performing Haydn's masterpiece and perhaps best-known work - *The Creation* - at the Performing Arts Centre, Hinchingbrooke on 16 March. Tickets available from [ticketsource.co.uk/date/600162](http://ticketsource.co.uk/date/600162) and from the Fair Trade Shop in the Free Church, St Ives.



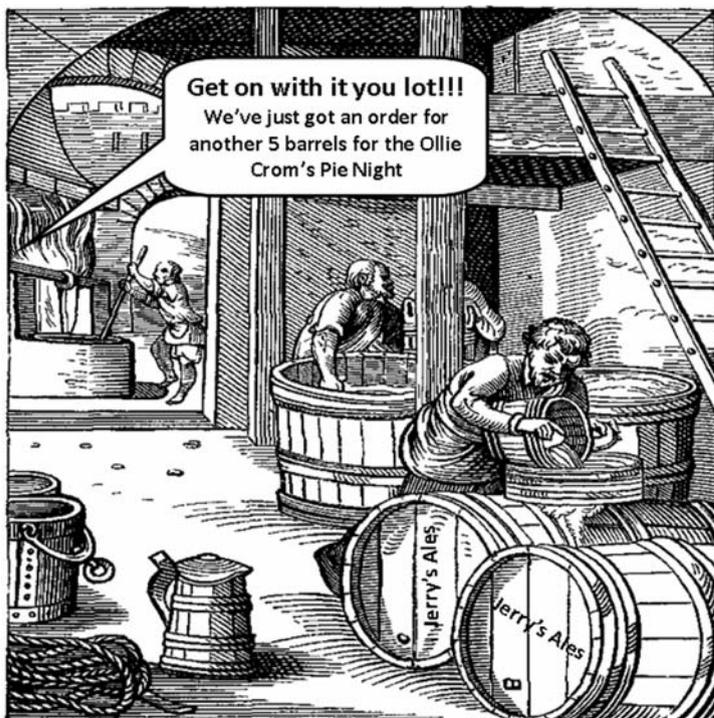
## Route Beer!

Local historians and archaeologists working on the new road route network have discovered evidence of ancient beer making in our area potentially dating back as far as 400 BC. Experts found 'tell-tale signs of an Iron Age brew' during work to the new A14 between Cambridge and Huntingdon.

Archaeobotanist Lara Gonzalez said it was 'incredibly exciting to identify remains of this significance'. Highways England said the find was uncovered in fragments of charred residue from the beer-making process. Ms Gonzalez added:

'I knew when I looked at these tiny fragments under the microscope that I had something special.

Another archaeologist said: 'It's a well-known fact that ancient populations used the beer-making process to purify water and create a safe source of hydration, but this is potentially the earliest physical evidence of that process taking place in the UK.' The huge road project has already uncovered the Ice Age remains of a woolly mammoth which could be at least 150,000 years old and large amounts of evidence of the ancient lives of our Cambridgeshire ancestors.



## 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.

Thursday 7th Mar 2019

### THE PARTY



Director: Sally Potter UK 2017 1h 11m

In Sally Potter's own words, *The Party* is a 'comedy wrapped around a tragedy'. Janet's friends gather to celebrate her promotion but it all goes horribly wrong.

Darkly funny, and with many twists and turns, the stellar cast of today's most accomplished actors make this a film you won't forget.

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Friday 15th Mar 2019

### THREE BILLBOARDS OUTSIDE EBBING, MISSOURI

Director: Martin McDonagh UK | USA 2017 1h 55m

Frances McDormand deservedly won multiple accolades during last awards season for her fearless portrayal of a woman who seeks justice for her wronged daughter, even though the whole town is against her. Quirky, darkly comic, sharp and controversial.



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## Our amazing town venue

Visitors to future events and film shows at the Corn Exchange will be amazed at the improvement to sound quality.

This week has seen the installation of specially designed acoustic panels that absorb the echo and empty room sounds that have previously been a problem.

Corn exchange directors said the improvement is wonderful and they are now looking forward to holding the next music and film events.

The panels have been paid for by a grant received from Grantscape under the community fund supported by the Mick George company. Corn Exchange chairman Ian Dobson said, 'We are very grateful to Mick George and Grantscape for their support. This project represents a major step forward in the facilities offered by the Corn exchange and the quality of the events our amazing venue can offer.'



## REASONS TO BE SHUT? PART 21



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)

Dear Erik,

Did you see there was a planning application for Eric's Fish and Chip shop at Unit 4 Harrison's Way? Is this anything to do with you? I didn't know that dogs liked fish! Apparently it is for a restaurant serving alcohol open 7 days a week from midday to 11pm. Love the paper by the way. **Freida Mer**  
Dear Freida, thanks for letting me know. I'll no doubt give it a try if it opens. Rumours I like a bit of Cod are unfounded though! **Erik**

Dear Erik,

Could you include details of the following event in *The Riverporter* please.  
**Beetle Drive and buffet tea at St Ives Methodist Church on Sunday 24 February at 3.00pm. Fun for all ages! Adults £6, under 11s free. For more information phone 01480 350270.**  
Very many thanks - we really enjoy the paper!  
Rev Heather Walker.

## One more for the list!

A white MTS Logistics lorry was spotted with a damaged front end after yet another incident on the Longstanton stretch of the guided busway in the evening of Feb 7th. A spokesman for Cambridgeshire Police who were called said: 'We were called by Cambs CC to an HGV stuck on the guided busway. No one was injured. Lorries are not supposed to be driving on the guided busway but often end up on it by mistake.'



A local resident said 'It surely can't be that every one of these busway incidents are down to the signage, it's about time the council did something more constructive to dissuade drivers from attempting to turn into the busway entrance'. One suggestion was that a large area of the road surface at the entrance approach be painted in red and white stripes and letters saying 'No Entry'.



Dear Erik, When are the Town Council or Police going to do something about this abandoned car which has been parked illegally outside the Norris Museum since before Christmas? Just another example of the authorities not taking responsibility for the upkeep of St Ives! **Gordon**

Dear Gordon, I remember seeing a Police Aware notice on the car when it first appeared. **Erik**

## Messing about on the river

Early morning 12th Feb saw a team from the environment agency start dredging the river just off The Quay near the bridge (see below). Throughout last summer larger cruisers and narrow boats regularly hit the river bed by sailing too close to the marker buoys.

While the main navigation is 2.5 - 3 metres deep, the depth behind the markers can be a little as 1 metre and in mid-summer perhaps less. Passers by were enthralled to watch the mechanical digger mysteriously float as it redistributed the sandy shale.



## Local artist pens a new illustrated children's book

Denny Gaudin our St Ives artist that painted the mural in Free Church Passage has applied her talents to writing a children's book. The book titled 'The Dragons Umbrage and Humph' is the tale of three schoolfriends and their hilarious adventures seemingly with two dragons named Umbrage and Humph.

The book is beautifully illustrated by Denny in her own style and is aimed at children between 4-8 years old and is available in various outlets around town. Denny is hoping that sales will help her to donate profits to good causes around town and she will be holding a book signing on the Quay when the Sunday Flea market begins again on March 31st.

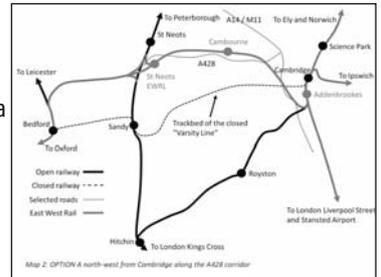
## COUNCIL & OTHER NEWS

### Cambridgeshire could be getting new railway stations

Possible routes for a new train line have been announced. The Cambridge to Oxford rail line could see new stations at St Neots, Cambourne or Bassingbourn. The new line will create a direct connection between Bedford and Cambridge, something not seen since the 1960s. Revealing 5 route options the East West Railway Company wants the public to have their say.

#### What are the options?

Three of the five options offered show a southern route through South Cambridgeshire via Bassingbourn. Two take a northern route via Cambourne. East West Rail Company's chief executive Simon Blanchflower said: 'Bedford, Cambridge and communities in between need the right kind of infra-structure to support them. We're hoping that residents will give us feedback on these route options to help us understand the priorities of the people this line will serve.'



#### Why should we in St Ives be interested?

Once complete the east-west rail link will form a key section of a new £7 billion infrastructure network between Oxford, Milton Keynes and Cambridge, dubbed the 'brain-belt' arc. It's claimed the plans will 'boost the region's economy by £160 billion a year'. Anyone who has tried to buy or rent property in Cambridge will be very aware that house prices are among the highest in the country and yet here in St Ives property values are modest by comparison. While St Ives forms a very attractive satellite town to Cambridge, changes to road and train links nearby will make our town a much more attractive location for Cambridge commuters putting further pressure on housing requirements. Perhaps this is a question for our town meeting on the 2nd March!

#### Have your say on the Neighbourhood plan

During the recent St Ives Town Council meeting Councillor Nick Dibben made a direct appeal to *The Riverporter* to publish that the Town Council would like more members of the public to come forward to assist with the preparation of the St Ives neighbourhood plan. **Anyone interested should drop their details into the town hall addressed to Cllr Dibben.**

#### St Ives Poet laureate competition

Chris Morgan said that there were 17 entries in the adult's section and 3 entries in the junior section. They have been carefully judged (anonymously) by 4 esteemed local and regional poets. 20 amazing poems were received.

Chris invited councillors to attend the announcement of the winners on the 19th February, 7.30 'til 9.30pm at the Poetry Folk evening in the Tony Burgess room at St Ives Corn Exchange.

## STATION ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Have you noticed the improvements to the verge along Station Road, from Harrison Way to the back of Waitrose? A team of volunteers from the Rotary Club and St Ives in Bloom, with assistance from Waitrose, have been working to cut back the shrubs and ivy that were growing right over the pavement, and to replant the area with bulbs and other flowers.

It was cold work on the first Saturday of February - but a large team of dedicated volunteers turned up and managed to make a real difference to the overgrown shrubs - before they had to go back home to thaw out! Meanwhile other volunteers went on a litter pick around the whole bus station area. Back in October the Rotary Club had planted 2000 purple crocuses to publicise their work to eradicate polio worldwide, and their hopeful shoots are now coming up through the ground, along with the daffodils planted the previous year by St Ives in Bloom. A great example of working together!

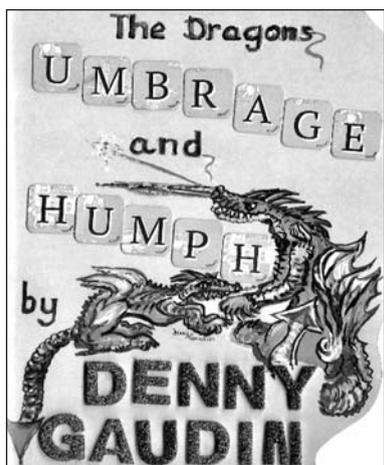


Some of the workers: members of the Rotary Club, St Ives in Bloom volunteers and Waitrose staff.

**Volunteers will again be working in Station Road on Tuesday 5th March from 10.30am. Why not come along and help? If you prefer a Saturday, St Ives in Bloom are at the Park and Ride on 2nd March from 10am. Have a look at our website or facebook page, or email [siibinfo@gmail.com](mailto:siibinfo@gmail.com) for more details.**



New dogwood put in front of the cleared shrubs to enhance the view from Harrison Way.



## NEW DROP-IN SESSION AT THE LIBRARY

We are so lucky to still have our Library. It provides a wonderful service to our community for every age group and now it is trialling adult **READ A LITTLE ALOUD** sessions. Every month the group gathers and takes it in turn to read and listen to stories, poems and extracts from literature. It is free, informal and tremendously relaxing. Discussion is encouraged. Sessions are on the third Tuesday of each month from 2 until 3 pm (with refreshments) and are themed: on 19 February it is *Romance* followed by *Shakespeare* on 19 March. Do drop in for the ultimate chill out and chat - and those with dementia plus their carers are particularly welcomed.

## Screen St Ives Goes BIG



Fans of Screen St Ives will be delighted that in future they can enjoy watching the latest movies in detail. The 6.5 metre wide screen will certainly mean you shouldn't need to wear glasses to enjoy the film and just to reassure patrons you won't need a hard hat either. Strange that the screen was installed by the Village People though!

## ALL NEW £5 LUNCH @ bests

### WARM OPEN CIABATTA SANDWICH

**STEAK HAVE IT YOUR WAY**

- Hot and Fiery Horseradish
- Roasted Vine Tomatoes
- Blue Cheese
- Warm Red Onion Chutney

### BESTS DELI

Pastrami, Swiss Cheese and Dill Pickles

### PORK BAO

Pork Belly, Hoisin Sauce, Spring Onion and De Seeded Cucumber

### GRILLED BALSAMIC CHICKEN

Red Onion, Garlic Mayo, Lettuce, Tomato and Smoked Bacon

### Spicy Meatballs and Mozzarella

### OVEN BAKED JACKET POTATOES

Plain With Butter

Cheese and Beans

Tuna Mayo and Sweetcorn

Homemade Chilli Con Carnie

### SALAD PLATTERS

Chicken Caesar Salad

Honey Roast Ham and Mature Cheddar Ploughman's

Waldorf Salad

Goats Cheese and Tomato

**Bests Coffee Shop**

7 Kings Hedges, St Ives PE27 3XS Tel: 01480 462422



ADVERTORIAL

## TENANT FEE BAN ANNOUNCED

Mike Ellis of Ellis Winters explains the impact on landlords and agents



The tenant fee ban, which was first announced more than two years ago, has finally passed through Government with a commencement date of 1st June this year. Obviously this will have a massive impact on landlords and agents.

From that date, tenants will no longer be charged fees for going into a property including reference fees, drawing up leases, extending leases, inventories etc.

### What's in the Bill?

Here are the key points contained in the Bill.

1. A Ban on All Tenant Fees  
Landlords/agents will no longer be allowed to charge tenants for anything except: rent, the tenancy deposit and a holding deposit (see below). This means you/we will no longer be allowed to ask tenants to cover the cost of referencing, check-ins, inventories or admin fees. Currently these fees supplement the fees we charge to landlords and enable us to keep our fees to a minimum.
2. Some 'Defaults' Are Exempt  
You/we will still be able to charge for some things once the tenancy is set up, like fees

to replace lost keys and fines for late rent payment. These will need to be included in the tenancy agreement and previous rules about fair clauses will still apply.

3. Limits on Tenancy Deposits  
Tenancy deposits are to be limited to a maximum of five weeks rent.
4. Limits on Holding Deposits  
Any holding deposit is also limited to 'one weeks rent'. The holding deposit must either be paid back to the tenant, be put towards the first rental payment or used in the tenancy deposit. There are a few exceptions:-  
The tenant withdraws  
The tenant doesn't take all reasonable steps to enter the tenancy  
The tenant fails a right to rent check  
The tenant provides misleading information which materially affects their suitability to rent the property

### Penalties for charging tenant fees:

Landlord/agents who charge illegal fees will face the following fines:-

The first offence would be a civil offence, with a fine of £5,000.

If the offence is repeated within five years, there would be either a criminal offence or a fine of £30,000.

There are plans to help tenants recoup any illegal fees they paid from the landlord/agent. Local Trading Standards organisations will enforce the ban.

We will keep you up to date with news as and when we receive any information but in the meantime if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

**For more information,  
please call our team on  
01480 388888**



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