

The Riverporter

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Town Mayor speaks out against racism

St Ives hit the national headlines for the wrong reason last week when racist, anti-immigration stickers were found stuck to doors, lampposts pedestrian crossings and even near schools. This week the Mayor, Tim Drye, issued this statement condemning the action.



'This year, as Town Mayor, I have had many delightful experiences and broadened my understanding and appreciation of the many contributions to the community life of St Ives.

I have also enjoyed the many ways that St Ives has been publicised further afield and built its reputation, so it was with great sadness and shame that I came across another altogether more disturbing story from our town publicised in the national press. These notices expressed vile attitudes towards some of our friends and neighbours that I refuse to repeat. I am deeply concerned these have been found and associated with our life in St Ives. I accept that there are a significant number of people within the

community that face struggles, hardship and injustice that can lead to frustration and anger. However, I utterly refute the notion that people from different locations, cultures and perspectives are the cause of these difficulties and their removal would do anything other than diminish our thriving social life together.

With this in mind, I visited the Prayer and Education Centre in The Broadway on Sunday Feb 24th and will attend Friday prayers at the Needingworth Road Mosque, Friday March 1st.

(See photo above: *the Mayor at the Prayer and Education Centre in The Broadway with Juned Ahmed, Chairman; M A Hussain, Secretary; Mokshud Rahman, ex Chairman and Abdul Hal, ex Chairman.*)

I have arranged this to demonstrate

our unreserved support for those communities and give thanks for their dedication and contribution to life within our town. I am confident that the overwhelming population of the town will join me and together we will challenge these seeds of hatred wherever they emerge.'

St Ives new Police Sergeant, Alice Draper, said 'Police are working on a strategy to address this issue and identify any offenders. Reports from members of the public will assist us in gathering intelligence.'

Incidents can be reported directly to Cambridgeshire Police at www.cambs.police.uk/report or via the 101 service.

Councillor Dr Tim Drye
TOWN MAYOR OF ST IVES

Dont miss the chance to have your say at the Town meeting this Saturday 2nd March in the Corn Exchange which will take place at 6pm following the Commuity Fair which opens at 3pm

Updated Diary of events 2019

We've updated the Diary following an email from Dave Ash letting us know about St Ives Regatta in June.

Please note the change of date for Federico Pecchia's concert.

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

APRIL

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

MAY

Wednesday 8th - Mayor Making - The Corn Exchange

JUNE

Sunday 2nd - Day of Dance - Morris Dancing around St Ives
Saturday 8th - Federico Pecchia - Chapel Arts - Bridge Chapel
Sunday 16th - Civic Sunday - The Parish Church
Saturday 22nd - St Ives Regatta - Nobles Field
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
Thursday 19th to Sun 22nd - The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival
Friday 27th - Accoustics Anonymous - Chapel Arts - Bridge Chapel

If you or your organisation are organising an event in St Ives please let us know by emailing:

editor@theriverporter.uk

What a fabulous sight



The Royal Air Force is retiring its aging Tornado aircraft following many years of fantastic service to our country. The Tornado first saw service in 1979 and was used extensively in the first gulf war in 1991.

As part of the retirement celebrations three aircraft have been following a flypast route over the country to each of the areas that have given such great support over the years.

St Ives was given the honour of being one of those areas and the three jets made a magnificent picture as they flew over the town.

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.

15

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.



15

The BBC is coming to St Ives!

The Riverporter has learned that the BBC is to hold an issue of 'Gardeners Question time' as a live event staged at the St Ives Corn Exchange. The event is taking place on Wednesday 1st May 2019 between 14 - 21hrs.



The event has been invited to the town by the Hill Rise Allotment Association, who are hosting and organising the event. So we need to start thinking of all our gardening questions????

Mysterious appearance!



Late evening last Sunday saw the mysterious appearance of items of clothing wrapped around benches and railings along the St Ives Quayside. We have not been able to get a quote from those responsible for the appearances, but it is believed it's all part of a campaign to keep homeless people warm during the cold weather.



There was certainly some good quality items that included coats, hats and scarves. Residents have noticed that items do mysteriously disappear overnight.

Each of the items has a label saying 'I'm not lost - Please take me if you need to keep warm'.

The St Ives Book Jam is coming

The Book Jam is a local event held to encourage literacy and imagination in children.

The day will include free workshops for children to work with published authors and illustrators, author signing sessions and appearances by book characters during the day.

The event is planned for the 8th June at St Ives Corn Exchange and other local venues in town.



St Ives Poet Laureate announced

The competition for the St Ives poet Laureate for 2019 concluded last week following a marvellous evening in the Corn exchange.

Each of the top scoring poems had been assessed by a group of judges and were recited to a room packed with an appreciative audience.

The winner was Patrick Macdonald, from Godmanchester (right receiving his prize from Chris Morgan of St Ives Electric Riverboat Company) with his poem title 'Although You're Gone'. Patrick immediately asked the organiser to donate the prize of £100 to The MS Society.

The Runner up, who won a poetry book prize was Steve Buttercase of St Ives with his poem 'Anniversary of Diagnosis' and in third place was Penny Leigh Brown from Fenstanton with 'Twitter Bots'.

The winner in the Junior Section was Isaak Band from St Ives for his poem entitled 'School Jungle'.

All the entries of the competition will be on display in the St Ives library from 1st March.



Although You're Gone

Although you're gone
I still see you
I can hear your laughter as I descend the stairs
Glimpse your smile as a stranger turns towards me
And you still come to me
in my dreams
More achingly alive than anything in the waking world
I still feel the shiver of your touch
when your sister holds my hand
Still smell you as I bend down
to lift the clothes from the laundry basket
And yet
you're not here
And whilst I roam the earth like a ghost growing
Paler and fading
You
Embalmed in the honeyed amber of death
Stay forever young
and have become immortal.

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A UK First in plastic recycling

Regular readers of *The Riverporter* will know we like to promote the habit of recycling with our regular articles particularly from our Environmental Correspondent Heidi N. D'Tries, who is currently taking her winter rest. We are delighted therefore to report the following from Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC).

As part of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Partnership (RECAP), HDC has been working with local firm, Charkpak Ltd, who re-manufacture new products from recycled plastic, reducing the amount of plastic going to landfill. This visionary initiative has been 18 months in the making, and brings together a number of partners which includes Cambridgeshire local authorities, Amey (who sort the recycling) and Jayplas (who super-clean and re-process the plastic) ready to be reused.

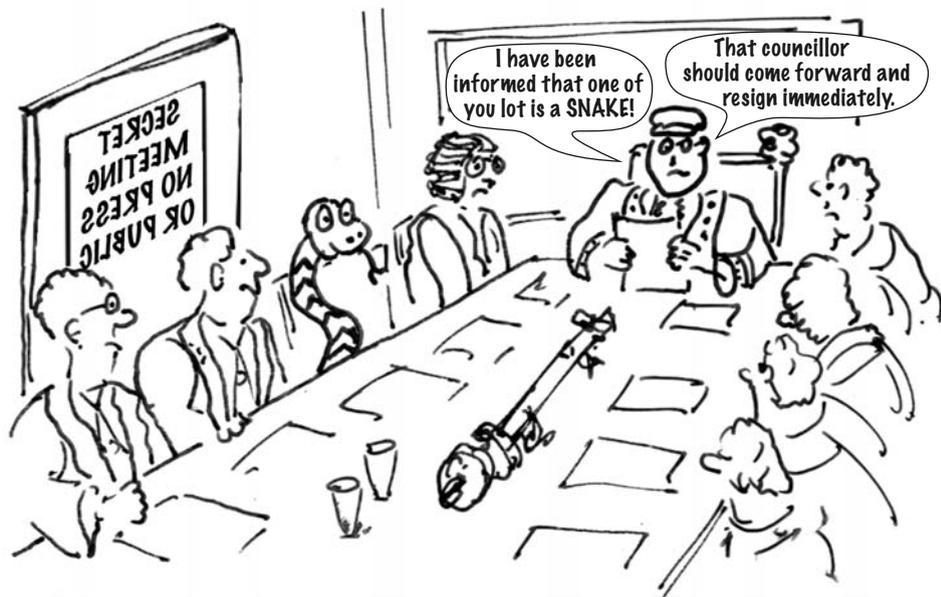


Sky News filming waste collection in Huntingdonshire.

How we can improve our recycling ...

Huntingdonshire residents are already great recyclers diverting over 55% of waste from landfill and this initiative will allow more plastics to be recycled, so the next step is to improve the quality of materials that are collected for recycling. Residents can do this by ensuring no food is left in any plastic container, simply give the containers a wash, and place your recyclables into your bin loose. As for plastic bottles, give them a rinse, then squash and replace the lid before placing into the blue bin for recycling.

ST IVES TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBER



having your say ...

The Riverporter



Dear Erik PAWS FOR THOUGHT

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

No Nobel prize

Dear Eric,
I am afraid that you are unlikely to be nominated for a Nobel prize if your spelling of local beauty spots is anything to go by! (see article in issue 28 about Nobels Field-ARRGH!) Perhaps you should make amends by investigating the eyesore on the other side of the Thicket path which is in limbo from being a well loved golf course several years ago to the 'Country Park' promised by HDC. Yours nobly, Robin

Dear Robin,
Thanks for pointing out that Nobels Field should be spelt Nobles Field, within minutes of The Riverporter going on-line! Obviously you're a keen reader. By the way my name is spelt Erik! Regarding the Country Park - the word is that HDC have no money for it and are dragging their heels in the hope they'll find a 'Magic Money Tree' among the overgrown bushes. Erik

Dear Erik,
I see the Turkish restaurant sign from Bridge Street has reappeared in the Broadway in the Rumbles Fish Bar window. Is this another reason to be shut?? Keep up the good work. Regards P Davidson

Dear Erik,
La Cuccina, in Station Rd has closed down. We had booked a family lunch for Saturday! Colin.

Stagecoach Service
Due to road closures for the Cambridge Half Marathon on Sunday 3 March, some bus services will be diverted from their usual routes
Services affected: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 13, X5 and City Sightseeing Tour.

Leah's 'good cause'

Whilst Cromwell Probus Club is not a fund-raising charity, its Presidents (and members) feel that they should support the fine work being done on behalf of the community by the good causes and charities in our area. This year, the Club President, Chris Leah's 'good cause' was the East Anglian Air Ambulance (EAAA) for which the Club members raised £550 over 12 lunches at Slepe Hall. Below: Club President, Chris Leah, presenting the cheque to Tammy Swiderski of EAAA.



Hunts RSPB Local Group March talk at St Ives Free Church



Welney through the Seasons

Wednesday 27 March @ 7.30pm

Tony Winchester talks about his experiences as a volunteer for the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust since March 2013. Based at Welney, he is known for his winter swan feed commentary, but can also be seen around the reserve engaging with visitors, checking cattle or painting signs.

This talk will include a brief history of both the WWT and the Welney Centre, an explanation of the Ouse Washes and a study of some of the wildlife seen at Welney throughout the year. Everyone is welcome, non-members pay £4. Becoming a member of the local group offers excellent value for regular attendees.

The talk includes an intermission with tea and coffee available.
Any questions? Call Martyn on 01487 710456



Volunteer Centre Moves

The St Ives Volunteer Centre and Community Car Scheme have moved to St Ives Town Hall. After 26 happy years at the Free Church we have outgrown our single desk and moved into a front ground floor office at the Town Hall. Disabled access to the Town Hall is via a call button on the front wall. Our phone number has remained the same 01480 301462.

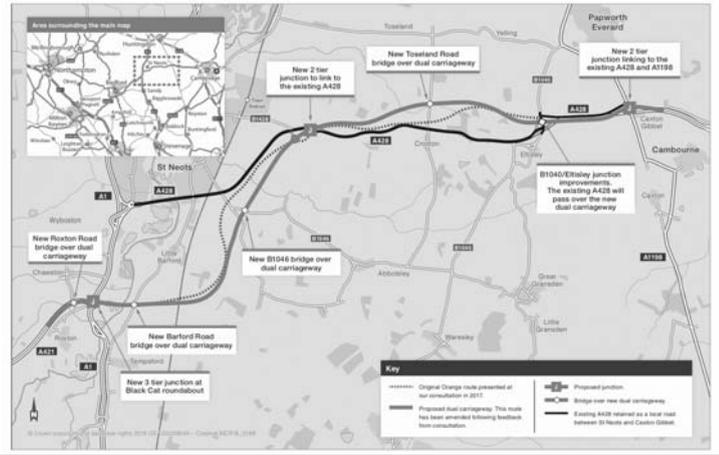
We are very grateful to the Free Church for being such wonderful landlords and will continue to help organise Christmas Dinner at the Free Church. If you would like to volunteer or need the assistance of the car scheme please pop in and see us Mon-Thurs 12.30 - 3pm or call on 01480 301462.

COUNCIL NEWS

New road will help route to the south

Finally after many years with little investment in our road and rail network in Huntingdonshire it seems we will soon be spoiled for choice. The A14 works are due to be finished by the end of next year and now Highways England has declared its preferred route of a new 10 mile carriageway between the Black Cat roundabout on the A1 and Caxton Gibbet.

The preferred route: Orange



Coming alongside the current East West Rail consultation, that will link Cambridge to Oxford, which we reported in our last issue, travel options south from St Ives will be transformed. The scheme has been welcomed by Huntingdonshire District Council and Councillor Ryan Fuller said 'critically, it will begin to reduce constraints to both local and wider cross country journeys, and give much greater certainty about the ability to move around within our District efficiently and effectively.'

St Ives Town Council - a nest of Vipers?

At February's St Ives Town Council meeting the Mayor Cllr Tim Drye decided to suspend the public meeting to go into 'part two' (a secret meeting of councillors with the press and public removed from the chamber) before doing the business on the agenda. There was no indication on the agenda as to what might be discussed in secret, however *The Riverporter* understands that it was because the Mayor raised concerns that one of the councillors had spoken to the press about a confidential matter concerning the CCTV cameras. During the meeting the Mayor stated that whoever that councillor was, he considered them a snake and they should come forward and resign immediately. No one did own up by the way. Apart from the obvious humorous aspect of the 'incident' (see cartoon p2) it raises one or two issues, namely that the Mayor should have checked his facts before accusing fellow councillors of giving away confidential information and that according to the Nolan principles of behaviour - all councillors should show respect for one another. We are at a loss to understand why old information about the CCTV system was confidential in the first place. Of course *The Riverporter* seems to be the 'press' in question having run a small article in issue 26 about the CCTV cameras being out of action for half of November. We had contacted the CCTV control room at HDC to find out why the cameras, which our taxes help pay for, weren't working and the fact that *The Riverporter* knew about this confidential matter seems to have upset some people. We assume that one of our District councillors must have been informed that we contacted the CCTV control centre and they raised the issue with the Mayor and Town Clerk for it to become a hot topic worthy of a House of Cards episode. Just for the record we can confirm that *The Riverporter* never spoke to a Town Councillor about this matter.

Huntingdonshire District Councillors approve budget for 2018/19

On Wednesday, councillors approved a 2.6% council tax increase, keeping tax levels in at one of the lowest in the country, making the average Band D bill around £1,855.38.

Another Far Flung Riverporter



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 Carne

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



Mayor Palmer stars in Rotten Borough

Combined Authority Mayor James Palmer has once again featured in Private Eye's Rotten Boroughs due to his support for a charity that isn't a charity after all.

Palmer's summer ball raised money for a company he described as a charity that helps emergency workers who might suffer from post traumatic stress. It turns out that PTSD999 Ltd, is not a charity after all but a company run by Simon Lee a former chairman of Cambridge Conservatives.

A Cambs Times investigation discovered more worrying facts about it. In 2017 the National Lottery paid The Blue Hero Foundation Limited, known as PTSD999, £10,000, followed by another £46,000 last summer. However none of those payments are listed in the company's accounts and six months later the company was compulsory struck off from Companies House. No reason for the strike off is given and the National Lottery has begun an investigation into how this happened.

Support for PTSD999 has even engulfed Police & Crime Commissioner, Jason Ablewhite, who listed himself as a patron on his declaration of interests (see below).

Non Statutory Disclosable Interests (note – these are not Disclosable pecuniary interests) – please provide details of any other interest you wish to declare but which are not disclosable pecuniary interests. Examples are set out in the guidance note attached to the end of this document.

You	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patron (unremunerated role): PTSD999 Charity
In addition I am:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor: St Ives, Huntingdonshire District Council (for which I am paid an allowance in accordance with Huntingdonshire District Council's Members' Allowances Scheme) • Board Member of the Local Government Association, The Fire Management Committee • Board Member of the Local Government Association, The Fire Commission • Treasurer of St Ives Cricket Club • Chair of Police National Commercial Board • Member of the National Fire Commission
Your Civil Partner, spouse or partner you live with	None
Name: Jason Ablewhite	Signature: [Signature] Date: 9-10-18

Mr Ablewhite has since denied being a patron; his office blaming the entry on a 'clerical error', (possibly confused by the 999 in the title?).

Mr Ablewhite is not the only prominent figure to ask for his name to be removed from the PTSD999 Ltd website. Its 'president' Lord Balfe of Dulwich, a former MEP, said he was surprised to hear he was its president. Speaking to the Cambs Times he said 'I thought I was just a patron, I have not heard anything from them for at least a year.'

Conservative Mayor Palmer seems to court controversy having already been accused of staffing the Authority with East Cambs colleagues and failing to keep to his election promises of running the Authority for £850,000 and running up costs of over £7 million. It's not all bad news though as a new staffing budget has now been agreed at £4.8 million, a saving of £1.5 million and rumours that Mayor Palmer is supporting a new railway station at Soham (his home town) will please some. Mind you the people of Wisbech, who have long wanted a railway reinstated, will be miffed.

ADVERTORIAL

NEW SERVICE: MORTGAGE ADVICE

Mike Ellis of Ellis Winters introduces Kerry McQuade of Heartland Mortgage Services



We're really pleased to announce that we are working with Kerry McQuade (pictured below right) of Heartland Mortgage Services to provide our in-house mortgage service.

Mike said, 'People often ask about the costs of moving and getting a mortgage, which can sometimes seem confusing, but now Kerry is on board she's here to make it easier to understand and help get the best available deal. She's able to compare hundreds of different mortgage products from across the market, to find the right mortgage based on your needs and circumstances.'

Heartland Mortgage Services was founded by Kerry McQuade from a desire to provide a stress-free, impartial home buying service for individuals, couples and families.

'I'm passionate about making sure that you find and secure your dream home, but also, regardless of what should happen to your health or circumstances, you are able to remain there no matter what life throws at you', said Kerry.

Over the last 12 years Kerry has worked in senior positions in both banking and estate agency, including becoming an award-winning mortgage broker – this positions her uniquely to provide a holistic experience throughout the entire home buying process. She'll be there from the initial mortgage consultation, through to arranging viewings, negotiating offers and right up to the completion of contracts on your purchase or re-mortgage.

Kerry works closely with Ellis Winters & Co and is able to offer

an appointment at a time, location and date to suit you including in any of our offices.

Please call us on **01480 388 888** to arrange your appointment.

Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage. There may be a fee for arranging a mortgage and the precise amount will depend on your circumstances. This will typically be £499.



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