

# The Riverporter

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

## Crown Street - pedestrianised or not?

**S**hopkeepers in Crown Street have spoken to The Riverporter about traffic problems in the area of Crown Street and Bridge Street.

For some time vehicles have been going over the pavement as they enter Crown Street from The Broadway, which has damaged most of the footpath. When the current street layout was created the idea was that this area would give priority to pedestrians. The road signs say this and entry for vehicles is restricted to residents, delivery vehicles and blue badge holders during the day.

Raised pavements were removed and it was hoped that shoppers would be able to walk around the shops safely without having to dodge traffic. Those of us who can remember the days before the bypass, when most traffic left and entered St Ives over the ancient Bridge, will recall how dangerous it could be to cross the road.

Although traffic is considerably less now, the number of vehicles that drive around these streets seems to have grown recently and pedestrians, even walking on the pavement, have to keep a watch-out



for vehicles. Shopkeepers have said to The Riverporter that there could be an accident soon unless something is done.

Repairs to some of the damaged slabs were made recently, but this seems to be futile if vehicles are still going over them. What has made the situation worse are the vehicles parking in Crown Street, especially along the south side of the road, which means any vehicle trying to get into Bridge Street mounts the pavement to get by (see picture above). The opening of a new Taxi Office seems to

have contributed further to the problem as taxis regularly park on the pavement.

### What can be done?

Well the obvious solution would be for drivers to obey the signs and not to park just anywhere. That said, we all know that it only takes a badly parked vehicle to cause problems and it would be a miracle if everyone behaved responsibly.

The authorities, which in this case would be the County Council, could rethink

traffic/pedestrian priorities and signage but again this will not prevent abuse.

The third, and probably the most successful option, would be to have proper policing.

Now The Riverporter doesn't wish to be too critical of our local police officers, who just happened to be quoted in this week's HP calling for an end to 'selfish' parking in St Ives. They go on to say that 'everyday officers issue fixed penalty notices'.

We remain sceptical as it seems that St Ives has too few police officers to deal with traffic problems as well as increases in anti-social behaviour, graffiti, vandalism and burglary.

The constant cuts to services has gone too far and putting it right could end up costing more in the end. Clearly it makes sense to put things right now, before someone gets run over and before the pavements are too damaged for elderly people to walk on safely, before our town is damaged, dirty and scruffy and people don't feel safe anymore.

The Riverporter would like to see these issues being looked at seriously and soon, and calls on councillors, shopkeepers, business leaders and the police to work together to find a solution. **Ed.**

### RIVERPORT BLUES

I woke up this mornin'  
I went lookin' for a treat  
If only, oh if only  
I could see that Sgt Street  
I went apeerin' down those alleyways  
And was asquintin' up that Quay  
Could I find that policing man?  
No, him I could not see  
So if you need a copper  
An you want him on the run  
Don't bother with alookin'  
Just dial that one-o-one  
But then you'll be a waitin'  
And a waitin' all day long  
So go and have another drink  
And sing yourself this song.

Driftin' Jack Nobody



### HOW MANY ARE GOING TO ST IVES?

**So now we know!** After his consultation the Police and Crime Commissioner has announced that a significant proportion of those who participated (*which was 3,268 people, less than 0.4% of the population*) agreed that we should each pay an extra £12 a year to help pay for 55 extra 'warranted' officers in Cambridgeshire from April - hooray! **But how many will St Ives get?**

It is unusual to see a policeman in St Ives and I know a lot of policing is now done on-line but the signs are clear that there are too few police in our town (see above). Our neighbourhood policeman, Sgt Street, seems to agree but even he has been seen less.

Anywaysup, if St Ives residents are shelling out even more from their hard-earned cash to help get our policing back to where it should be, can we NOW please have some of the new bobbies tackling OUR increasing problems.

By the way, Sgt Street wants to upgrade the Designated Public Place notices in town so that new signs will give him wider powers to tackle street drinking that often lead to anti-social behaviour. He urges every one of us to call 101 every time we see flagrant street drinking - and not only when it is associated with anti-social behaviour. Only by giving the police the evidence they need for what we are complaining about can they do anything about it.

**So if you see anything not right call - 101!**



# ST IVES DAY CARE CENTRE HELPS THE OLD AND YOUNG



Jade (second from right) with some of the Centre volunteers (Nancy, Hilary & Rena).

**M**et Jade Crawford, age 16 from Somersham, who has been doing work experience at the St Ives Day Care Centre since October as part of the Extended Diploma in Health & Social Care she is studying at Parkside Community College.

The Health & Social Care unit of her Diploma includes completing 100 hours of work experience in the field and she is particularly enjoying her time at the Day Centre as it has given her practical experience in aspects of social care of the lonely, frail and elderly. Her main activities at the Centre have included talking to members, providing much needed social contact, making teas and coffees and generally helping out.

She really enjoys talking to members and learning about their lives (one member told her about their experience during the war of drawing sea maps)!

**The St Ives Day Centre provides 5 day a week day-care service for the elderly within the local community including St Ives and surrounding villages.**

The Centre welcomes new membership and volunteer enquiries so if you are interested please contact the Day Centre on 01480 463 444 or Email: [daycentre25@googlemail.com](mailto:daycentre25@googlemail.com)

**St Ives Day Care Centre, 72 Ramsey Road, St Ives, Cambs, PE27 3XL**  
**[www.facebook.com/StIves-Day-Care-Centre-23899677716650369/](http://www.facebook.com/StIves-Day-Care-Centre-23899677716650369/)**

## St Ives '68

This year the Civic Society of St Ives is celebrating its 50th year, not by looking back at past achievements but by looking forward to 2068. Your St Ives '68 is a competition asking everyone to imagine what St Ives will look like in 50 years time. It is not an art or writing competition, it is not for the best picture or model, it is about using your imagination and thinking about the kind of St Ives we will have (or would like to have) in the future.

Your St Ives '68 is free to enter, open to everyone either individually or as a group, you can create as many entries as you

want and there are four ways to show how you imagine St Ives in 50 years time.

You may write about it, prose, poetry, fact, fiction, humour, horror. You may paint a picture, sketch, multi media, embroider, collage, quilt. You may make a model, 3D print, Lego, matchsticks, papier mache, recycled materials. You may make a video, animated, acted, spoken, sung.

Any way you can think of that fits into one of the 4 categories. All entries will be displayed in the Free Church on the 7th and 8th September the winning entries will then be on display at the Norris Museum from the 10th to 22nd Sept.

**Details at: [www.stivescivic.org.uk](http://www.stivescivic.org.uk)**

THE CLOSING DATE IS 6TH SEPTEMBER 2018

## Is there a link?

We noticed that Police & Crime Commissioner, Jason Ablewhite, who is also District Councillor for St Ives East, has been busy trying to take control of Cambridgeshire Fire Service.

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority, who are responsible for the Fire Service and whose Chairman is St Ives County Councillor Kevin Reynolds, is vehemently opposed to the Police & Crime

Commissioner taking over the running of both services.

Coincidentally District Councillor Deborah Reynolds has just been de-selected as a Conservative candidate for the forthcoming elections in May.

A letter in the Hunts Post asked why such a stalwart of the local party had been de-selected? We at the Riverporter were also curious as to why this had happened, so we emailed Hunts Conservative HQ to ask them why? As yet we have had no reply.

## WHAT'S NEW ON THE BROADWAY?

**Y**ou must have noticed the Piggotts the Jewellers closing-down sale in the run-up to Christmas – queues round the block – wow! Many have expressed sadness at the departure of a much-loved family business that has marked the milestones in many a family. When they said everything must go they weren't kidding.

But who is to come next in this prime position in the town centre? We had hoped it would be another up-market business that would continue to contribute to efforts to brighten up The Broadway and attract more people to shop at this end of the town. So who have we got? Well, we have it on good authority, from our moles on the street, that it is to be yet another estate agent, and this time it is Leaders.

We wonder if there are there enough properties changing hands in our beautiful town to sustain this new agent? Time will tell. We are keen to see the proposed Neighbourhood Plan, mooted by our Town Council, which will show where housing development will go.

## THE RIVERPORT WI WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

**A NEW BRANCH OF THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**, The Riverport WI, was formed last April and meets on the third Tuesday of each month in St Ives Corn Exchange. It's a fun and friendly group with members of all ages.

After enjoying activities including Morris dancing, Indian head massage and a poker lesson in 2017, they are looking forward to trying lots of new things in 2018, including a drawing lesson, ceroc dancing, and cheese tasting.

Organiser Jade Hockie said 'We

**theWI**  
**INSPIRING WOMEN**

love to welcome new members, and the first meeting is free to attend. Please do join is for a glass of wine, a slice of cake and an entertaining evening!

**For more information, please contact [riverportwi@clubmember.org](mailto:riverportwi@clubmember.org).**



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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)

### Musical chairs without the music?

Dear Editor,

I notice that you highlighted some comings and goings at our Town Hall in your first issue of The Riverporter. It seems that there have also been several changes at Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) where there have been three different Conservative Executive leaders since early 2016.

Following his election as Police & Crime Commissioner, Jason Ablewhite handed over the leadership to Robin Howe. Cllr Howe, aided by cabinet colleague Steve Criswell, set about trying to forge a better relationship with other councils and councillors, but this approach was short-lived as Cllr Criswell was moved sideways and two St Ives Councillors took over some of Cllr Criswell's roles. Cllr Fuller became Deputy Executive Leader and Executive Member for Housing and Planning, and Cllr Dickinson Executive Member for Community Resilience, Well-Being and Regulatory Services.

In 2017 Cllr Howe surprised everyone by resigning the leadership and Graham Bull from Oldhurst took over. So far there has been little sign of Cllr Bull's leadership and with all-up elections in May one is left wondering if there will be yet another leader soon.

Ian Dobson

### Talking rubbish

We often see articles written in newspapers all over the country where councils are fining people for not sorting their rubbish properly or fly tipping. I have no doubt that organising rubbish collection must be a tricky job, but it's not on when HDC are responsible for leaving piles of rubbish in the street! (see right).

We know the area around The Quay and Wellington St. are difficult for vehicle access, but we have residents, some elderly, having to go to some lengths to get their rubbish removed each week and why do some residents have to put up with having bags of rubbish piled up outside their homes for days at a time before the truck comes? Can't this piling up of bags happen more immediately prior to the truck pick up?

**Intrepid RiverReporter Erik The Dog**

If you have any issues with rubbish collections in town, please let us know and we will write collectively to the responsible HDC dept. and publish their response. **Ed.**



**What?!** When did these appear, and who put them there?

### What a difference an hour makes

Last Wednesday's Town Council Planning meeting heard from developers who will shortly be submitting plans to use Wyton Airfield for the next few years to store brand new vehicles. Apparently manufacturing is exceeding sales and there is not enough space to store them.

Vehicles will arrive on transporter lorries and access the site through a new entrance on the A141. This will result in an extra 168 large transporter movements a day which could impact on our already clogged roads. The applicants are unlikely to have to contribute any funds for infrastructure improvements.

About an hour later, during the Full Council meeting which followed, councillors heard that the County Council have earmarked £1m to look at 'congestion busting' schemes in four places, three of which are in St Ives. The three areas are: Houghton Rd., Meadow Lane roundabout and Harrison Way.

Good news no doubt, but don't get your hopes up as this money is only to look at ways to beat congestion. Any measures agreed will need funding and, as yet, no funds are available. The County Council's existence is under threat from the new unified authority, whose Mayor holds the purse strings for such work.



### Website news

#### A correction to our correction!

In the last issue of The Riverporter we said that the St Ives Matters website/facebook page had been shut down since we wrote about it in our first issue. Well it seems it's back up again and it shows some interesting correspondence about the Dolphin Hotel. It also reports on the number of police in St Ives - a subject we have highlighted in this issue. However, we still don't know who manages it.

### Will there be housing there?

A friend of mine, who clearly has better connections than me, has hinted that The Sailing Club is looking to build houses on the land below the Clubhouse, between Harrison Way bypass, Meadow Lane and the lake. I guess it will be some time before we know for sure.

### Armed Forces Day is Freedom Parade Day

This year's 'Armed Forces Day', set for Saturday 30th June has become the Freedom Day Parade as the Town Council is confirming the Freedom of St Ives to the Royal Engineers based at Wyton. We hope to bring you details of the day when they have been decided.

### Corrected Dates

Anita Laud kindly corrected our article on the Free Church Passage Mural. She pointed out that the original painting had not been on the wall for around 30 years but for just 11 years. The young boy in the original is now 15 years old and he was 4 when painted by his Dad who signed his work F n L and not Ethan as mentioned.

### Well that didn't last long!



Sniffing around as I do I hear that the town's newly opened Poundstretcher may be set to close. The good news however is that it may be replaced by a Tesco local. With the opening soon of our new Morrisons quickly followed by Aldi our town is certainly going to be blessed with a wide shopping choice which of course is great, but the worry is what effect these giants may have on the rest of our lovely town centre.

As these major retailers compete for our business there is no doubt that as shoppers we benefit, but smaller providers may struggle to keep up and if shops close the atmosphere of the town centre will alter irrevocably, perhaps even threatening our historic market.

At this time we already have several empty shops and the smaller locations in our side streets, and alleyways are staying empty and proving difficult to let, with nonsensical graffiti and dumped items starting to appear. As a town resident I am determined to support our small shops and buy locally whenever possible, and those of us that care passionately about St Ives should all do the same. When it comes down to it it's simply a case of use them or lose them. **Erik.**

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Suede Bag



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## TIDY THE STUMP ?

From our environmental correspondent . . . Heidi N. D'Tries

Sad to see the large tree blown over in the storm the other week on the corner of The Quadrant and Cromwell Place. Caused a right old blockage for a while didn't it? The clean-up team were quick off the mark but it would be nice if they returned to level off the jagged trunk don't you think? It now looks like a bolt of lightning hit it! Heidi x

(I was wondering if it could be sculptured into something fantastic like a mythical beast - a Riverport Thunderbird or similar? Any takers? Ed)



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ADVERTORIAL

## Putting your home on the market this Spring?

Mike Ellis of Ellis Winters gives some tips on selling your home.



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### 1. De-clutter and de-personalise

Don't wait until move day to have a big clear-out, do it before the viewings start. Hide away as much as you can, clear away coats and shoes from the hallway, the washing basket from the bedroom and personal effects such as ornaments and photographs.

### 2. Spruce up the decor

When your home is as empty as it can be, give it a fresh coat of paint. If the kitchen is old, you don't necessarily need a new one, replacing cupboard doors can make a huge difference. Make sure all the lights are working, present bedrooms nicely and add some plants for a homely feel.

### 3. Deep-clean

A deep-clean of your home by a professional cleaning company, which tackles things like ovens, shower doors and underneath sofas, makes a huge difference – and it could be cheaper than you think.

### 4. Don't forget the garden

First impression count, tidy the front garden and make sure the gate opens without difficulty. A poll from Zoopla showed that more than a quarter of potential buyers would be put off by an overgrown garden, so mow the lawn and position a table and chairs in a spot where buyers could imagine having a morning coffee.

### 5. Sacrifice your parking space

Move your car up the street and leave your parking space free for prospective buyers to use, they will remember how easy it was.

### 6. Hire the right estate agent

When it comes to getting the right sale price for your property, it's a not always the best idea to go with the agent that suggests the highest value, this is an old trick to win instructions. Find out how and where your agent intends to market your

property, make sure they are knowledgeable, locally active and you have a good rapport with them.

### 7. Get on top of your paperwork

Instruct a solicitor to kick off the conveyancing process early. Ask them to break down and fully explain all costs associated with selling and, if you can, get a fixed upfront fee for their services.

### 8. Be smart on viewings

When it comes to viewings on your home, it's always best to get an agent to do it – they know their job. And, as the owner, you should ideally vacate, the buyer is then more likely to give honest feedback.

**For more information on the best way to sell your home call us on 01480 388 888**

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