

# The Riverporter

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

## Sun brings Easter crowds to St Ives and Quayside

The warmest Easter for 70 years said the Met Office and it certainly brought the crowds into town throughout the four day holiday as the picture below shows.

Visitors poured into town visiting our local shops and restaurants. The added attraction of the Bank Holiday Monday market saw more people packed on to our beautiful Quayside and along the Waits than have been seen in a long time.

We spotted queues waiting patiently for ice cream, causing stocks to run out by Monday afternoon for some vendors.

At a time when our councils and town organisations are taking a serious look at the future of our town centre, constructing plans and initiatives to support and promote our shops and businesses, it's certainly heartening to see the crowds packing our streets and enjoying our lovely town.

However, one sour note has to be that once again a rise in anti-social behaviour was being reported to the police concerning some of our street drinking visitors.

Several of the incidents, reported on social media pages, relate to serious abusive outbursts at passers by, including foul language, serious threatening behaviour, racist remarks and obscene gestures towards women.

Speaking with our local police liaison officer, residents were urged to always report every incident by calling 101. Unless these reports are received there is little that the police can do. Even though cameras are watching, you should call 999 if at any time you feel under threat.

## HAVE YOU SEEN THEM YET?



A two year project organised by St Ives Town Team came to fruition on Tuesday when three life-size willow animals were installed on the roundabout near Morrisons. See article on page 2.



## Antiques Road Trip visits town

Hyperion Auction Rooms held another record breaking sale over the bank holiday as well as being filmed for the Antiques Road Trip, when expert Izzie Balmer (right) visited the Antiques Centre on Thursday 18th April. Apparently the BBC crew wisely checked out Toms cakes too. Another BBC programme will be in town on 1st May, when Gardeners Question Time will be hosted by Hill Rise Allotment Association in the Corn Exchange.



## THE Chapel Arts Season 2019

A series of concerts and events in the Chapel on St Ives Bridge

Friday 17 May 8pm	<b>Martin Kemp Trio</b> <i>Freewheeling attractive jazz from the Dixieland era</i>
Saturday 8 June 8pm	<b>Federico Pecchia</b> <i>Brilliant guitarist and singer from Argentina</i>
Tuesday 18 June 7.30pm	<b>Poetry Folk Nite</b> <i>Local poets presenting their work. £5 on door</i>
Friday 5 July 8pm	<b>Daniela Rossi</b> <i>Classical guitar concert featuring Rodrigo, Albinez, Tarrega etc.</i>
Sunday 4 August 6pm	<b>Ruth Holden</b> <i>More glorious arrangements from this sensational Harpist</i>
Tuesday 20 August 7.30pm	<b>Poetry Folk Nite</b> <i>Local poets presenting their work. £5 on door</i>
Friday 23 August 8pm	<b>Robin Walker</b> <i>Music for Harpsichord from early English and Italian to Bach</i>
Friday 27 September 8pm	<b>Acoustics Anonymous</b> <i>Songs and laughter from this entertaining quartet</i>
Tuesday 15 October 7.30pm	<b>Poetry Folk Nite</b> <i>Local poets presenting their work. £5 on door</i>
Friday 25 October 8pm	<b>Keith Pearson Quartet</b> <i>Heart-melting harmonies and superb musicianship</i>

Please note: some performances take place on the lower floor of the Chapel, which can only be accessed down a narrow flight of stairs. There are only 30 places available for each music concert.

**Tickets for music concerts are £10 and can be purchased on-line at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives) or from The Corn Exchange**

For details of each event and to find out what else is happening in St Ives go to:

**[www.theoldriverportstives.co.uk](http://www.theoldriverportstives.co.uk)**



## HAVE YOU SEEN THEM YET?

The project, part of a scheme to improve the appearance of the town for visitors, especially the roundabouts, has been organised by St Ives Town Team. The idea for the willow animals was conceived about three years ago as a way to promote the history of the town's important cattle market and long association of basket making and willow growing, as well as creating a unique attraction.

Over the past two years funds have been raised, including a grant from St Ives Town Council, and approval sought from the County Council, Marketing Force and Holywell cum Needingworth Parish Council. Finally thanks to the generosity of Kevin Page, who agreed to install them for free they can now be seen gracing the 'Morrison's' roundabout.

*Pictured left are Kevin Page (right) and Chris Elliott with the three cattle before being secured into the Roundabout. Kevin and Chris were aided by Kevin's son Martin and Lee Cotel who did a great job to finish the installation last Tuesday.*

## Good Friday 'Walk of the Witness'



Christians across St Ives came together on Good Friday for the traditional Walk of the Witness. The event was organised by Churches Together in St Ives, including All Saints, Christian Fellowship, Crossways, the Free Church, the Methodist Church, Sacred Heart and The Bridge and the Prayer Palace.

Worshippers gathered at the Crossways Christian Centre for a short service before carrying a large wooden cross along Ramsey Road.

Tim Drye, the Mayor of St Ives, attended the event and the procession made short stops outside the fire station, the old parish hall, and again outside the Norris Museum the walk ended at the Free Church in Market Hill, where a service was celebrated for all the assembled congregation.

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**You can contact me on 07598 862246 Brian Leith**

## 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 2nd May 2019**

**Screen 2**

**FACES PLACES**

**Director: JR, Agnès Varda**  
**France 2017 1h 34m**



The most charming of road movies stars 90-year-old Agnès Varda, legendary French New Wave director, who teamed up with 30-something photographer JR to drive around rural France in a van meeting people from all backgrounds and photographing the many faces and places they come across. An utterly delightful odd-couple film.

**Friday 17th May 2019**

**Screen 1**

**SHOPLIFTERS**

**Director: Hirokazu Koreeda**  
**Japan 2018 2h 1m**



The latest award winning film from master Japanese director Hirokazu Koreeda is a beautifully observed study of a makeshift family making ends meet on the fringes of society. With characteristic insight and humanity, Koreeda explores family dynamics and what happens when an incident reveals unexpected secrets.

## Launching the Dolphin



Local artist Denny Gaudin has been showing her talents again, this time Denny was commissioned to produce a painting for the Dolphin Hotel and Easter Sunday saw the unveiling of the large six-foot-long painting of a Dolphin leaping from the sea.

Denny said the project was a challenge and a pleasure 'I tried to capture and freeze the moment of sheer beauty in action building up the layers of colour both under and over the surface of the water'. Denny says she hopes the painting will lift people's spirits and make them smile.

## Bulls remain rampant to the end



St Ives Rugby 1st XV ended their league fixtures with a resounding 45-17 win away to Coalville, almost a repeat of the 55-6 winning first game of the season back in September. Coalville, the most westerly team in the league finished just two places behind the Bulls, the league's most Easterly team, which suggests that the Bulls may dominate the league next season.

The score allowed the Bulls to end the season with a 400 point difference between points scored and conceded, which over 22 games put St Ives ahead by more than 18 points on average before allowing their opponents to score.

The Bulls final game will be played on Saturday 4th May in the H&P final at Peterborough against Deepings.

## Meet the Potter at the Norris

**WARNING: The latest Exhibition in the Norris Museum isn't about meeting Harry Potter!**

Titled **From Smoke & Flames: 100 Raku Pots** it actually showcases new work by potter Sara Wilkinson and is on from 6 April to the 30 June. Raku is a Japanese inspired technique producing ceramics with wonderful colours and crackling, as seen in traditional Japanese tea sets.

Sara will be hosting another 'Meet The Potter' session and demonstrating at her wheel on Sunday 5th May between 2 and 4pm. Sara recently worked with the Norris Museum to create the Time Vine in the courtyard and if you like her work you can buy the pots for £30.



## Paw Patrol?

One of Erik's mates has been sniffing around again and tipped Erik some gossip that is hot off the press. Apparently those very nice people at MAGPAS may be about to use some of the Octagon, once the auction room for the famous cattle market, for storage. This would be in keeping with the District Council's aims for this iconic building, which remains a bin store despite a £50,000 make-over it received three years ago when Tory District Councillors claimed they had saved the building for the community. They didn't say as a bin store though!

Residents worries that the MAGPAS helicopter might use it as a landing pad should be dismissed though as we understand the Councils bins are going to remain in situ.

Hyperion are likely to remain miffed that their plans to return the building as an Auction Room were considered as offering nothing new to the town or visitors by councillors.

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,

Is *The Riverporter* newsletter available online or via email please?

My husband and I visit St Ives a few times a year as we find it so pleasant, welcoming and with so much going on (Arts, culture, photographic society, classical music concerts, talks, flower arranging, crafts, markets, cafes, Norris museum changing exhibits, etc) - very eclectic I know but we love it. It's so homely! So we really enjoy finding out what's happening locally in the local paper. We know the centre so well - but there's still yet more to explore in the hidden niches and history books of St Ives and of course in *The Riverporter*!

I look forward to reading more about St Ives.

Regards. **Teresa and Martyn Culverwell**

Dear Teresa and Martyn, Thanks for the nice comments about St Ives and our newspaper. I'm glad to say you can see *The Riverporter* online, and all of the past issues at:

[www.theriverporter.uk](http://www.theriverporter.uk)

Erik

### Police increase numbers?



Dear Erik,

Is this what the PCC will be spending the extra rates on? I'm sure it will scare the criminals off ... if they happen to shop at Morrisons!

**Frustrated of St Ives**

Dear Erik,

Please would you pass on our thanks to our town centre neighbours and fellow devotees to the hospitality industry, Jason at the Golden Lion Hotel and Scott at Wetherspoons for helping us out, at very short notice and with no hesitation, with additional equipment for a very large function in the Corn Exchange recently. It was very much appreciated, and we hope that they will not hesitate to contact us if we can repay the kindness and help them with anything at all in future.

**The bookings Team, St Ives Corn Exchange**

### Smoke over Water (and the bridge)



Police assisted the Fire Brigade to deal with a fire on the water under Harrison Way last Tuesday that caused visibility problems for drivers. No cause is yet known.

### Is Gardeners Question Time low cost for BBC ?

It seems that Radio 4's popular Gardeners Question Time programme, coming to the Corn Exchange on May 1, can be costly to host.

Hosts are only allowed to charge £4.50 and sponsors are not permitted. Yet hosts are also expected to provide refreshments for panelists, drinks for the audience (ideally wine as it makes for a better light-hearted programme apparently) and a medically qualified First Aider per 100 people.

After paying for the venue and promotion costs it is unlikely that the Hill Rise Allotment Association will make much profit despite selling all the tickets!

### On the road to the bridge

As many town centre visitors will have noticed HDC have been making efforts to repair some of our roads and footpaths and while any repairs are gratefully received it seems that the work is not quite meeting the expectations of some residents.

*The Riverporter* received the following poem.

On the road to the bridge  
is a ridge after ridge  
and my scooter goes  
thump after bump  
There goes a woman in front  
with a limp and a hump  
her sausage dog pulls her  
and goes down in a pit,  
his little legs gripping  
the tarmac and grit,  
and now there's a cyclist  
in lycra and cap  
and though he's quite fat  
his unpadded rear  
he holds up in the air  
in case his suspension  
breaks loose with the tension  
on the road to the bridge  
..... where we live!

Organisers of the Flea on the Quay wish to apologise for cancelling the last event at short notice.

The next Flea will be held on Sunday 12 May and will be held on the 2nd Sunday of each month until 13th October.

## Flea on the Quay

### Dog Show Returns

Lizzie Rogers of Canine Central is organising the St Ives Dog Show again, which will be held in Warner's Park on the May Bank Holiday, 6th May. There are Pedigree classes for gundogs, terriers, hounds, toy, utility and veteran dogs. Non pedigree classes include: Dog the Mayor of St Ives would most like to take home, prettiest bitch, best condition and most handsome dog.

## COUNCIL & COMMUNITY NEWS

### Vehicle charging points too few

Recent data has shown that there are only 12 vehicle charging points in Huntingdonshire. Whilst the number of licensed electric vehicles has risen from 41 to 726 over the past 6 years the number of charging points may have decreased since the collapse of Source East Network, who installed HDC's existing points which are no longer being supported, according to Cllr Marge Beuttell, Executive Councillor for Operations and Regulations.

### Using a mobile whilst driving can be costly

Cambridgeshire police have released figures showing that 483 drivers were caught using their mobile phones whilst driving last year. Some 81 per cent of those were men and in Cambridgeshire, they were primarily aged between 22 and 36-years-old.

The automatic fixed penalty notice for being caught results in six points on a driving licence and a fine of £200.

A spokesman for Cambridgeshire police said: 'Your case could also go to court and you could be disqualified from driving or riding and get a maximum fine of £1,000 or £2,500 if you're driving a lorry or bus. If you passed your driving test in the last two years, you'll lose your licence and in some circumstances, for example if use of a phone has caused or contributed to an accident, the police may prosecute you for driving without due care or dangerous driving in order to secure a more severe punishment.'

### Did Huntingdon's rush to beat St Ives backfire?

It's believed that having seen St Ives' plans for animals to decorate a roundabout (see front cover) that Huntingdon may have decided to get in first. However according to the results, see below, their rush to be first backfired badly as the hastily prepared animal ended up looking more like a reindeer than a prize heifer!



### Councillors tell a different story?

Wednesday evenings AGM of the Noble's Field Trust saw a good attendance in the Free Church and some interesting debate. One discussion, about the future of the nearby Country Park on the old golf course, showed all is not clear about its future. District Councillor John Davies, one of Noble's field's Trustees denied that HDC were discussing any details about the park.

This seemed at odds to Councillor Fuller's remarks at the recent Town Meeting. He claimed that securing the land for the park from the developers Barratts, was his greatest achievement in the last 12 months. He also praised his fellow District Councillors, from St Ives, including Cllr Davies, for working hard on the infrastructure plans which would soon provide a facility that would benefit the town for the next 100 years.

**Ed:** *Wouldn't it be good, if just for once, all the Tory councillors could agree on something!*

### Something not in the news

Dear Erik, On Friday 12 April, a small group of friends joined me on a trip to inspect the scaffolding on the Houses of Parliament to make sure our tax payers money is being well spent. Progress looks good, though it appears funds (£195,000,000) may have been diverted into prosecuting a soldier who may or may not have committed a crime 47 years ago. Obviously, funds to draft letters of comfort for the IRA were available which has helped settle one side. As an ex-military person myself, I wasn't surprised at 22,000 bikers turning up - we stand with Soldier F.

**Nick**

*NOTE: Soldier F is the code name given to the soldier, one of 17 former members of the 1st Battalion Parachute Regiment, who faces prosecution by The Crown Prosecution Service over the Bloody Sunday violence which left 13 people dead in Londonderry in 1972. Critics of the prosecution have pointed out that roughly 200 IRA fugitives, thought to be behind a series of terror attacks during the Troubles, were sent so-called 'comfort letters', assuring them they were no longer suspects. Ed.*







## Fine Antiques & Jewellery Sale Results!



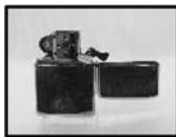
The Bank Holiday weekend was host to another Record-Breaking Sale!

Good Quality 18ct Gold Pocket watch with Roman Numeral Dial  
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Ladies 18ct Gold Sapphire Bead Suite of Jewellery with Diamond Set Clasps  
SOLD £630!!!

Impressive Ladies 18ct Yellow Gold Ring set with Oval shaped Ruby  
SOLD £420!!!



18K Gold Zippo lighter in wooden fitted case  
SOLD £1100!!!

Next Antiques & Interiors Sale: Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May starting at 11.00am

Hyperion Auctions, The Salerooms, Station Road, St Ives PE27 5BH

[www.hyperionauctions.co.uk](http://www.hyperionauctions.co.uk) 01480 464140



# Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> MAY

## 11am to 3.00 pm

at

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# All Quiet On The Brexit Front

Mike Ellis of Ellis Winters assesses the current housing market



For the last three years Brexit has been everywhere, from the minute you got up in the morning until the last thing at night, but, all of a sudden, it's gone very quiet. Yippee I say, perhaps now we can get on with our lives and that's certainly true for property sales, according to figures from Rightmove.

Over the last year family homes, comprising of three and four bedroom properties, have outperformed other sectors, with prices rising by 0.7% on average year-on-year compared to a national average fall for all properties of 0.1%.

Rightmove's data also shows that this sector is more likely to sell than the national average, as well as being more willing to come to the market, with 0.7% more new sellers than this time a year ago. The reason, everyone has probably been waiting for Brexit to sort itself out before committing themselves to the

expense of a bigger mortgage or the cost of moving, but with no end in sight buyers are now taking the plunge to move.

The EU's offer of a Brexit extension until October coincides with what is usually the busiest moving season. While it is only a postponement, it lasts for long enough to relieve some of the short-term uncertainty, and so it arrives at an opportune time for the housing market.

No doubt there are still a lot of twists and turns to come over the next six months, but this extension could give hesitating home movers encouragement that there is now a window of relative certainty in uncertain times. We are not anticipating an activity surge, but maybe a wave of relief that releases some pent-up demand to take

advantage of static property prices and cheap fixed-rate mortgages.

So if you've been thinking about moving but have been delaying because of Brexit maybe it's time to re-think your options, why wait, we're all in the same boat after all!

If you'd like some information about selling your home call us on 01480 388 888 for an informal chat, it costs you nothing and our advice is free.



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