

The Riverporter

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Dan's the man

Dan Rowe was elected Mayor for 2019/20 at the annual Mayor Making ceremony.

Dan is well-known in the town, having been a councillor since 2016.

The annual ceremony in the Corn Exchange saw Cllr Tim Drye, the outgoing Mayor reporting on his mayoral year and giving awards to those people and groups who have contributed to the life of the town (see pictures).

Tim, without a flat cap in sight, was able to give over £5,000 to local groups as a result of his fundraising efforts.

In his speech he said he was immensely proud to have been involved in the centennial celebrations marking the end of the First World War and to be able to present the Freedom of the Town to the Royal Engineers. Having set out his plans, when taking office, to help with the mental health of the town Tim was most proud of the recent movement to make St Ives the first CALM town in the country.

CALM the Campaign Against Living Miserably, will be featuring on national radio on 18 May as part of national mental health awareness week.

Mayor Dan, in his acceptance speech, said that he would also be supporting the work of CALM as well as making every effort to improve the relationship and activities between St Ives and Stadallendorf, its twin town in Germany. He said that in this age of Brexit where people are getting further apart he wanted to embrace diversity and difference.

Breaking with tradition

Dan also said he was breaking from the tradition of having a personal chaplain and would invite a representative from each of the Town's religious groups to speak before council meetings. Dan nominated his fiancée, Amy Sewell as his Consort.

Councillors then elected Cllr Jonathan Pallant as Deputy Mayor, who nominated his wife, Carrie, as Deputy Consort.

During the ceremony, whilst robing took place, St Ives Poet Laureate, Patrick Macdonald, read out some of his poems including one about being a Mayor and even one about flat caps!



Above: Patrick Macdonald reads one of his poems. Presentations included: 1. Natalie Leigh-Brown for the Hunts Volunteer Centre; 2. Mayor's Cadets: Flt Sgt Rhiane Davis and Staff Sgt Eleanor Phipps; 3. Veronica Smoothy collecting John's Freedom of St Ives Certificate awarded posthumously; 4. The Commerce in the Community Rose Bowl presented to Chris Doe of St Ives Scaffolding Ltd.; 5. Helen from CALM; 6. The Millennium Shield collected by Carol Levens on behalf of the CIFA Majorettes; 7. Julian Limentani collects a cheque for Holt Island; 8. Sue Limentani collects a cheque for the Norris Museum. Gilly Jackson also collected the Community Award (see p2.)

ST IVES TOWN TEAM PRESENTS

THE Chapel Arts Season 2019
A series of concerts and events in the Chapel on St Ives Bridge

The Martin Kemp Trio
Friday 17th May 8pm

Doors open at 7.30pm

Martin, a renowned sax and flute player, is joined by John Cherry on guitar and Pete Hill on Bass in the first of this season's Chapel Arts concerts. The trio will be playing freewheeling and attractive jazz from the Dixieland era including early works of Duke Ellington.

Tickets cost £10 (include refreshments) and can be purchased from The Corn Exchange or on-line at www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives
For details www.theoldriverportstives.co.uk

FEST celebrates 10 years with award

FEST (Festival Events St Ives) has presented over 200 successful events in the town over the last ten years – so no wonder they are celebrating! Events they have held include, COSI concerts, Picnic in the Park, Dragon Boat racing and the Illuminated Boat Parade with the support of GOBA. Incidentally this year's free event will be on 7th September and will have a Disney theme – for the boats as well as spectators!

FEST like to organise FREE family events such as Santa's arrival by snowboat before he parades to their uniquely designed Grotto in the Corn Exchange. He's there for 3 weekends in December meeting over 600 children, all of whom receive a gift. In addition, they now present ARTSFEST – the popular two-day art and photography exhibition, held in the Corn Exchange. Of course, FEST also runs the popular Music on the Waits. Free Sunday afternoon concerts throughout July and August. This year's concerts feature:



- July**
- 7 MANEA SILVER BAND
 - 14 ACOUSTICS ANONYMOUS
 - 21 CAMBRIDGE & SURROUNDING DISTRICT BAND
 - 28 BEDFORD TOWN BAND
- August**
- 4 SOMERSHAM TOWN BAND
 - 11 TBA
 - 18 UPWOOD UKULELE'S
 - 25 DEEPING DIXILANDERS

Pictured above are some of the FEST volunteers with Gilly Jackson (centre) having just received the Mayors Community Award at Wednesday's Mayor Making Ceremony.

FEST would like to thank all their sponsors for their support, and all the volunteers who help them do what they do. 'We could not do it without them' said Gilly.

FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH Dementia Friendly Community gathers pace

Ian Jackson, Chair of the town's DFC Steering Group reports:

- Pauline Mohamed (left), owner of Genesis Hair Company, and her great niece Leigh Anne present a cheque for £200 representing donations made at the funeral of Mrs Winifred Feeny, Pauline's mother.
 - The recent Slepe Hall Hotel 'Las Vegas' themed dinner and dance with raffle generated over £500 for the DFC group thanks to the support of Shammi Malik and his wife Emilie.
 - The County Council has profiled the St Ives DFC in a short video to promote their Innovate and Cultivate fund – monies set aside to encourage others to increase awareness of dementia in more communities in the county. Staff from Genesis and Waitrose featured. See <https://youtu.be/2w3oc6nYW4A>
- Genesis, Slepe Hall Hotel and Waitrose are just three of the growing number of businesses in the town displaying the Dementia Friendly sticker.

'The support and commitment we are gaining is amazing', commented Ian. 'The monies we receive help us fund more activities for those with dementia and their carers. With many other groups under the dementia friendly 'umbrella' we really are making a difference. Well done St Ives! Come and see us at the Farmers' Market on 18 May'.



A Blooming good evening



Sorry about the predictable headline, but nevertheless visitors to the St Ives Corn Exchange had a great evening when the BBC radio 4 Gardener's Question time was recorded here in St Ives on the 1st May.

The BBC production team took over the Corn Exchange and recorded two shows to be broadcast on 17th May and 7th June.

The BBC was invited to St Ives by the Hill Rise Allotment Association and they hosted the event beautifully. On this occasion the GQT panel was chaired by Kathy Clugston (left) with panellists Christine Walkden, Anne Swithinbank and Bob Flowerdew. The panel answered lots of questions from an enthusiastic audience, but we have to wait until 3pm on the 17th to hear their answers.



Working to become
Dementia Friendly

Police Aware?

PCSO Beverley Snell held a Police Surgery in town on Wednesday 1st May. The surgery was held at the bus shelter on Station Road, St Ives, from 1 pm to 3pm and local residents and business owners went along to meet Beverley and discuss any concerns that they may have about policing in our community.

The idea was to give the opportunity to ask questions and let the Police directly know their views. Beverley answered questions from several town residents ranging from lack of police presence, car parking, anti-social behaviour and the recent spate of bag snatching.

Beverley explained that they are doing all they can but confirmed once again the importance of people reporting incidents by calling 101.

In preparing this report *The Riverporter* checked previous records of 101 reports and in 2016 HDC recorded zero reported incidents, so we must assume that when the office of the PCC assesses budgets for following years they assume we don't need police because we don't have trouble... *The Riverporter* wonders if our readers agree? One interesting report seen in a national newspaper quotes Baroness Newlove who advises... 'Few people know about the 'Community trigger' when victims who have suffered three incidents within six months can seek a review of how agencies have responded to their complaints'.



The Riverporters Ron Westrip with PCSO Beverley Snell at the contact point.

SCREEN ST IVES & CARE NETWORK CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Bringing People Together Through Film

Popular community cinema Screen St Ives, in collaboration with Care Network Cambridgeshire, present a special afternoon screening of the much-loved Ealing comedy Passport to Pimlico under the banner A Classic Film in the Afternoon. This will be a warm and relaxed screening in the Burgess Room at the St Ives Corn Exchange. Everyone is welcome to enjoy the film and join in an informal chat afterwards over refreshments. It's a chance for a break from the routine, to enjoy a great film and meet new people. The venue has disabled access.

The screening will take place on Wednesday 22 May at 2pm. Doors open at 1:30pm. Tickets only cost £5.

They are available online and at the Corn Exchange in advance. Seating is very limited so advance booking is advised. Screen 1 will be on as normal.



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.

SCREEN ST IVES
&
CARE NETWORK CAMBRIDGESHIRE
present
A Classic Film in the Afternoon
Enjoying much loved classic films together in a friendly place
Wed 22nd May
PASSPORT-PIMLICO
Doors open at 1:30pm for 2:00pm start.
Screening followed by refreshments and a chat
Tickets £5
Care Network
Corn Exchange, St Ives, PE27 5AD
Book online at screenstives.org.uk or in person at the Corn Exchange.

Experienced administrator available for up to 15 hours a week

I am a retired Management Accountant seeking a part time administration or general office support role, ideally between 10 to 15 hours a week. I have had over 30 years experience at a high level and offer reliability, innovation and full commitment.

You can contact me on 07598 862246 Brian Leith

having your say ...

The Riverporter



Dear Erik PAWS FOR THOUGHT

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

Dear Erik,

I have just read the Editor's thoughts 'Is Gardeners Question Time low cost for BBC?' (or were they yours Erik?).

Some years ago, when I was Chairman of the Civic Society, I enquired of the BBC their requirements for the Civic Society to host Radio 4's Any Questions ... and gave up!

I was told that the BBC could not be seen to exclude anyone so we could not charge for tickets and we must have full disabled access. Due to the space taken by the staging for the Any Questions Panel and the cables running around the floor we would be very restricted in how many audience members we could have in the Corn Exchange - probably fewer than at our usual Civic Society talks.

I enquired about hiring the Burgess Hall but was told that so many charities want to hire the Hall at a Charity Rate that this was not possible, so we would have to pay about £500. St Ivo School hall was not acceptable as there are steps down from the foyer.

I didn't get as far as discussing drinks or First Aiders; I had given up by then. It looks as if the BBC's rules have relaxed a little, and perhaps modern technology means that there is less of a problem with cables on the floor. So I hope GQT went well! **Barbara Richmond**

We're having an Art attack!

The following is an extract from the Cambridge News.



'It may not seem like much, two rubble refuse bags sitting at the side of the road, but these aren't just any old rubble bags ... these are rubble bags claiming to be the work of Tracey Emin. The bags were left by the side of the road in Cambourne, on land adjacent to the site of a new hotel and pub under construction.

As lovely as Cambourne is, I can't see any links between the Croydon-born artist and the Cambridgeshire village of Cambourne, which leads me to think this may be the work of a cultured practical joker.'

But *The Riverporter* asks 'Has the same art enthusiast struck here in St Ives too?'



Wheelie loud noises draw complaints



Police checked the areas around California Road, Westwood Road and Meadow Lane late on Tuesday evening, 30th April, following reports of cars being driven noisily and at dangerous speeds.

Nothing suspicious was found, although the drivers of three cars located on Meadow Lane were spoken to and told to move on. Additionally, St Ives social media was alive with angry residents near the park and ride and the Waitrose car parks about the noise of squealing tyres. One angry resident said 'perhaps it'll quieten down when they have to pay out for new tyres!'

Police Swoop



Last Friday saw a number of St Ives social media calls for help when concerned motorists were confronted by a swan that had managed to land on the Harrison Way bridge during rush hour.

The poor confused bird was in serious danger of being struck by traffic until officers turned up and went into rescue mode. The swan came quietly and was redirected safely back into the river. An unofficial police spokesperson said that the swan apparently took a wrong turn due to a sat nav error!

COUNCIL & COMMUNITY NEWS

Police & Crime Commissioner explains statement?

The Riverporter has received a reply to our email of 12 March to Police & Crime Commissioner Jason Ablewhite. Following his comment at the Town Meeting, when he announced that:

'The fact that the Police and Crime Commissioner is now cheaper to run than the former Police Authority, then you save that money in your pocket or I get that to give to the Chief Constable for more cops.'

We requested to know how he had reached this conclusion when the evidence is that his costs are £225,000 more. The reply we received last Friday is printed in full:

I can confirm that the Police and Crime Commissioner had no intentions of misleading the audience at the St Ives town meeting. His comments were based on the fact that the role of a PCC includes greater responsibility than just setting the strategic objectives for local police forces. The two are not comparable.

Even if you calculate the final year costs of the Police Authority and add inflation, which you have done, the Police Authority did not include the areas of responsibility PCC's such as Victim Support and Community Safety Grants.

Under the terms of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, PCC's must:

- Secure an efficient and effective police for their area;
- Appoint the Chief Constable, hold them to account for running the force, and if necessary dismiss them;
- Set the police and crime objectives for there are through a police and crime plan; [?]
- Set the force budget and determine the precept;
- Contribute to the national and international policing capabilities set out by the Home Secretary; and bring together community safety and criminal justice partners, to make sure local priorities are joined up.

All the detail of the PCC's costs can be found on the website - <https://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/accessing-information/money/>. If you would like to read more about the PCC's responsibilities, please visit the website: <https://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk>.

Naturally *The Riverporter* thanked the PCC's office for the reply and pointed out that presumably it was now accepted that there are no savings, either for the Chief Constable to use for additional officers, or for the pockets of tax payers!

Helicopter gave us a fright

Friday May 3rd a huge Police presence in St Ives town sparked alarm at around 1.30pm, when people saw officers in several areas around town near the riverside. The numerous police cars were supported by a helicopter flying low over the river and Harrison Way area. Cambridgeshire



Constabulary however has confirmed that the incident was a false alarm, after a member of the public had called, in good faith, to report that a child was on their own near the river. But after searching the scene it was discovered that the child was in fact safe with an adult. A Cambridgeshire Constabulary spokesperson said: 'We received a call at around 1.30pm to report concern after someone believed they saw an unattended child near to the river in St Ives. We now know the child was with an adult and the incident has ended.'



Someone's having a bad day!

Police officers attending The Quay on May 3rd, returned to their car to find it had been vandalised by an opportune passing cyclist. According to witnesses the cyclist had loudly expressed a grudge against police and showed his dislike by smashing up the car.

Visible damage included a smashed wing mirror, tail light and a large dent in the front wing. The cyclist sped off over the town bridge but not before being filmed by the town's new improved street cameras and being caught on a police dash cam. Police are believed to have a good idea of the identity of the culprit.

POLITICAL ICON SADLY DECEASED

We were sorry to learn of the passing this week of local politician Lord Toby Jug aged 53. Lord Toby, whose real name was Brian Borthwick, was one of the founders of the Monster Raving Looney Party in 1987 and he claimed to be the Shadow Minister for Mental Health.

Lord Toby was expelled from the party in 2014 for comments he had made about Nigel Farage and the UKIP party who he had allegedly called fruitcakes (and yes, we have spotted the irony!). Lord Toby had stood in several local elections and was well known in St Ives and nearby towns. In 2014 he spoke about his addiction to alcohol and at one point had nowhere to go and ended up sleeping rough in St Ives. He will no doubt be remembered for his outrageous and flamboyant style his manifesto, which included laws to give all criminals gallstones until they were good and that spoons should be demonised to make them more cool to reduce knife crime. I think it's safe to say he will be missed.



ALL NEW £5 LUNCH @ **bests**

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STEAK HAVE IT YOUR WAY

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- 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

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OVEN BAKED JACKET POTATOES

Plain With Butter

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SALAD PLATTERS

Chicken Caesar Salad

Honey Roast Ham and Mature Cheddar Ploughman's

Waldorf Salad

Goats Cheese and Tomato

Bests Coffee Shop

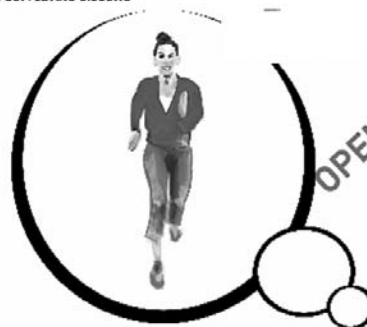
7 Kings Hedges, St Ives PE27 3XS Tel: 01480 462422



ME/CFS EXHIBITION

SUNDAY 12TH MAY 11AM -3PM

FREE ENTRY - FREE COFFEE AND DISCOUNTS



TO BE OPENED BY MAYOR OF ST IVES
CLLR DANIEL ROWE

TIME FOR HEALTH

ST. IVES
PILATES AND

YOGA CENTRE
8 Station Road
PE27 5BH

INVEST IN ME RESEARCH UK
SUPPORTING
BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Poster art: David Ditchfield



OUR CHILDREN...THEIR
STORIES...THEIR
LOST YEARS...THEIR
SUFFERING FROM A MULTI-SYSTEM
DISEASE WITH NO CURE:

ADVERTORIAL

IS NOW THE TIME TO SELL?

Mike Ellis of Ellis Winters assesses the current housing market



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winters
&CO**

For the last three years Brexit has been everywhere, from the minute you got up in the morning until last thing at night, but all of a sudden, it's gone very quiet. Yippee we 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, three and four bedroom properties have outperformed other sectors, with prices in this area 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 and we are now seeing more new sellers than this time a year ago.

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 is 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 a huge 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.

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



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The Riverporter

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

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