

# The Riverporter

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

## So much to do and so much to see!

**W**as last weekend the busiest ever in St Ives? Even for our town, renowned for always having something happening, there seemed much more to do than usual. Of course the good weather helped to bring out the crowds.

It all began last Friday evening with a superb concert by *Prime Brass* in All Saints Parish Church. At the same time the Carnival & Music Festival were showing *The Greatest Showman* film at an outdoor cinema in Hill Rise Park.

Saturday midday, the Carnival left the town centre and in the afternoon visitors to Hill Rise Park could enjoy all the fun of the fairground before relaxing to a *Proms in the Park* style concert as dusk arrived.

All of this was going on whilst the popular Hemingford Regatta was once again being enjoyed by anyone who loves rowing and Pimms.

### Note for future reference:

It seems one gets a much better quality of lost property at the Regatta - a pair of Armani reading glasses was handed in!

**Sunday** was probably the busiest

day of all, which started with the monthly **Flea on the Quay** from 10am to 2pm.

At Hill Rise Park the Music Festival was in full swing by 12.30pm with seven bands performing until 9pm. Meanwhile back in the Old Riverport, Acoustics Anonymous were playing in the regular Music on The Waits concert organised by FESSt.

### NOTE Change of venue

Just for this Sunday the 21st July, the **MUSIC ON THE WAITS** concert will be held in the Parish Church of All Saints, a short walk along from the Waits with the Cambridge & Surrounding District (CSD) Brass Band from 2.30 pm to 4 pm.

Those nice people of FESSt were still busy, after packing up at The Waits, organising the annual COSI

(Chamber Orchestra of St Ives) Concert in the Free Church.

Starting at 6.30pm the programme of music from around Europe was just right for a summer evening.

### And there's more to come

Music on The Waits continues throughout August. **Please Note concerts start at 2.30pm NOT 2pm** as we reported in our last issue.

There are numerous events planned for children and families at The Norris Museum throughout August.

Also in August, another Flea on the Quay (Sunday 11th) and the Chapel Arts Season continues in the Bridge Chapel with Harpist Ruth Holden on Sunday 4th and Harpsichordist Robin Walker on Friday 23rd. The month ends with the St Ives Flower, Produce & Craft show being held on Saturday 31st August in the Corn Exchange.



Mayor Dan and Mayoress, Amy Sewell enjoy the comfort of a Bentley while waiting to leave Market Hill in the Carnival Parade which wound its way up Ramsey Road to Hill Rise Park.



Uncle Fester (top left) drives rock stars Roy Wood of Wizard fame and Roy Orbison in Saturdays Carnival Parade, which included characters from children's shows and some floats. Organisers of the Carnival and Music Festival have claimed this year's 20th Anniversary event as the best one yet.



SCREEN ST IVES & ST IVES DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

present

CALAMITY JANE



Wed 14th August 2019

A dementia friendly screening: low lighting | half-time break | singing encouraged! | extra space for comfort | free refreshments



Doors open at 1:00pm for 1:30pm start.

Tickets £5 (carers free)

Corn Exchange, St Ives. PE27 5AD  
Book online at [screenstives.org.uk](http://screenstives.org.uk) or in person at the Corn Exchange.

## Ellis Winters & Co open new office

Pictured outside their new office in Market Hill, which opened last Friday, are (l to r) Matt Pyman, Anne Dellar, Lisa Winters and Mike Ellis.

This is the latest in a number of new branches this well established local Estate Agent has opened recently.

Although house sales are proving more difficult at the moment, with the uncertainty over Brexit, highlighted by the recent falling prices in London, sales in our area are still progressing.

Whilst many people have used on-line agencies Ellis Winters believe that a combination of on-line marketing and face to face service benefits buyers and sellers alike.



## New group helps improve public speaking, confidence and leadership skills

Huntingdonshire Speakers Club met for their opening night at The Golden Lion in St Ives. The event started with a warm welcome from club president Darren Walton before a handover to the compère, Nadine Bowles-Newark. Guests came from St Ives and beyond to find out more about how this Toastmasters International club can help to improve their public speaking, confidence and leadership skills. Huntingdonshire Speakers meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month 7pm to 9pm. Affiliated to the not-for-profit organisation Toastmasters International, it supports members to develop their communication and leadership skills.

For more information visit [www.huntingdonshirespeakers.co.uk](http://www.huntingdonshirespeakers.co.uk)

*Pictured from left to right: Darren Walton, Mayor Dan Rowe and Nadine Bowles-Newark. The evening ended with Dan welcoming the club to St Ives and thanking members and guests for an enjoyable evening.*



## A warning for savers

**It was reported in the Cams News that an elderly widow has been left penniless after Huntingdonshire District Council stripped her of her £28,000 nest egg - because she had saved too much.**

Mary Morley, 86, regularly saved a little bit of her £149.54 State Pension every week after she retired at the age of 65 in 1989. The former chambermaid fell victim to a scandal which can see elderly people on low incomes stripped of their nest eggs by councils fed information from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

Because she had unwittingly saved more than the £16,000 allowed by people claiming their housing benefit - the council are now taking it back from her.

Mary, who has carers twice a day, has been taken to court for inadvertently crossing the savings limit for claiming Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support.

## What to do with the money?

**The Hunts Post reported his week that Huntingdonshire District Council has accumulated a £15million pile of cash from development charges but has forked out just £3million on a road project it is involved in.**

Councillor Ryan Fuller stated that Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money, paid by developers to help offset the impact their schemes can have, had only just started to be paid in larger amounts as a number of big developments started to trigger payments but he vowed that communities which bore the brunt of development will share in the cash when it is distributed.

The council has calculated that it could receive up to £108 million in CIL money during its local plan period, which runs until 2036. So far councillors have approved the spending of just over £3million on the Edison Bell Way link road, which it was involved in providing with Cambridgeshire County Council, to open up an under-used industrial area and reduce traffic pressure on the ring road.

## Some Good News

HDC has approved the construction of St Ives Town FC's new football pitches of land at Hillside View, Somersham Road, as well as giving outline permission for a clubhouse. Development of the old pitch by St Ivo School for housing has still to go ahead.

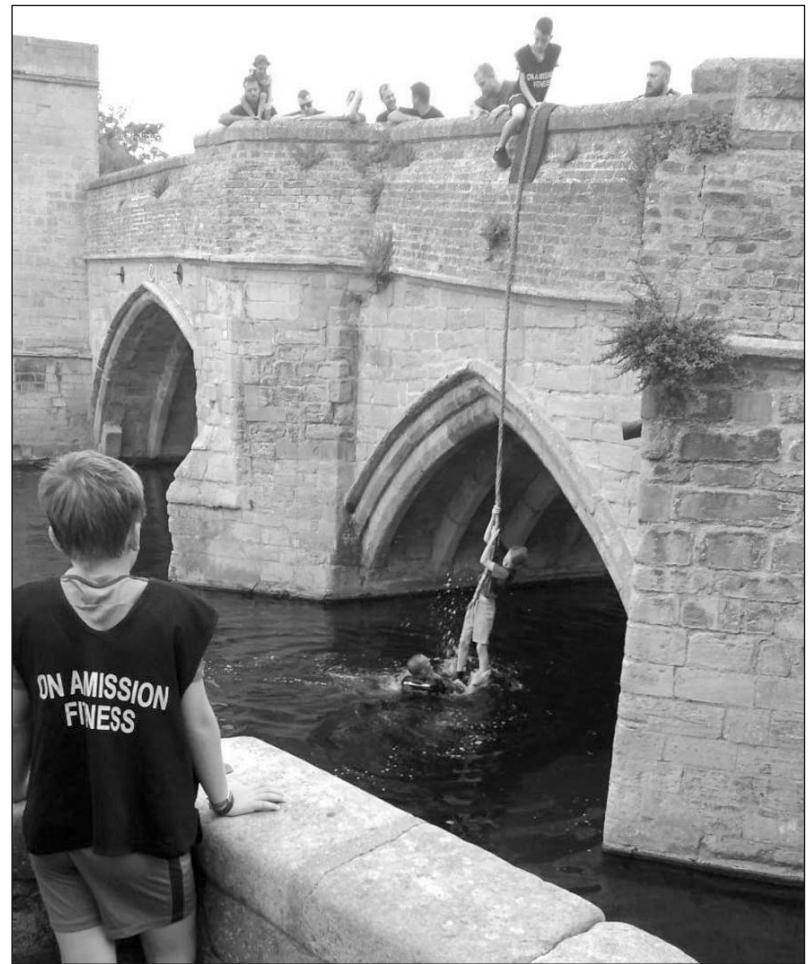
**Policing numbers** in the county have risen after 28 recruits joined the constabulary on

July 3 bringing the total of new officers joining the force since November to 124.

**The St Ivo Academy** pupil Joe Purbrick is celebrating English Schools' Championships medal success for the second successive year with a silver in the intermediate boys' hurdles.

Joe, who is also a highly-rated footballer clocked a personal best of 13.11, a mark that lifts him to third in the national Under 17 Men rankings despite still only being 15.

## The Mission was to get wet!



*The local St Ives 'On a Mission Fitness' group were spotted Last Tuesday scaling down the town bridge and into the chilly Great Ouse. Participants were having a great time and on such a warm evening. Passers by were amazed at how eager the team were to undertake the tough task.*

**Erik** says well done . . . he enjoys a little evening dip himself in this weather.

## A reader sent us this item from a local Facebook page



*Here at The Riverporter we thought this was a very good idea!* **Love Erik**

## Town Team AGM

The community group, St Ives Town Team which works to promote the Town will hold its AGM at The Golden Lion Hotel next Tuesday 23rd July starting at 7pm.

Formed by the Town Council in 2011 it has been encouraging people to visit St Ives by providing information via its website, producing leaflets and putting on events such as the Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival.

The Team relies on the skills and support of its volunteers and is always seeking new ways to promote the Town. The meeting is open to anyone, so if you have ideas on how we can improve our work and would like to help with any of our many projects, please come along.

From our Environmental Correspondent Heidi N. de Tries

## Heidi - about Bats again

Would Heidi leave you hanging? No way my lovelies. (Riverporter 38 article Storm in a tree cup.) It appears that the last-minute Town Council bat survey for our beloved yet condemned Horse Chestnut tree in Warner's Park included an 'aerial' inspection. This revealed no crevices suitable for roosting. No bat activity was therefore concluded and so sentence was carried out with no special measures. However, bat boxes were installed in neighbouring trees - we know that the two neighbouring Walnuts do show very suitable crevices so we have to wonder why the boxes were felt needed? You can't pacify Heidi that easily! No matter, any bats still around now have plenty of choice.

Routine Council tree surveys apparently do not include bat surveys - now this seems short-sighted and our Council would be well advised to reconsider this. It would save money (compared to retrospective surveys), allow the Council to plan and manage maintenance in respect of bats' status in law, and allow it to keep the public properly informed in a similar situation.

Finally, the Council said no further statements will be issued. This might be considered insensitive given the number of people who were genuinely concerned. But, rest assured, your *Riverporter* will remain as vigilant as ever over such matters and work hard to find out the information you deserve to know.

Bye! I'm off to lounge under the Walnuts! **Luv Heidi.**



## Dear Erik PAWS FOR THOUGHT

Get it off your chest, email *Erik* at: [editor@theriverporter.uk](mailto:editor@theriverporter.uk)

### To Erik and Heidi,

She who binds herself a joy ...  
How subtle be that Heidi fay  
That lingers in de trees  
Revealing all the secrets  
Of 'de' birdies and bees  
For young 'n old to glean  
Whatever, they may please.  
Yet I prefer my mysteries  
To unfold in my skies  
Of birds and bees and tender trees  
Before my dotting eyes  
Leaving 'twitters' to the birds,  
And buzzings to the bees,  
They bless us as they fly around,  
In eternity's fair breeze  
Waterboatman  
*Acknowledging the genius of William Blake.*

### Dear Erik,

Yesterday in the north of St Ives there was that awful, all-pervading stench again, which I presumed came from the egg laying factory on Somersham Road. However could it be from the mushroom Farm by the Bluntisham/Woodhurst junction when the wind is strong?  
I wonder if any of your readers might know the cause?

### Did you get your gift?

Passengers arriving at Morrisons on Monday 8th July on the very first No.22 Stagecoach bus will have arrived at Morrisons at 09.58 am.

A source at Morrisons has said that everyone on the bus will have received a small gift from Morrisons to celebrate! However *The Riverporter* has been unable to find out what the gift was!



Were you on the bus? Did you get the gift?... Drop us an Email and let us know what you think of the new service...

### William Hill to close?

Major betting chain William Hill have announced plans to shut 700 stores around the UK, and the branch in Station Road, St Ives is on the list! The betting company, with around 2,300 stores nationally, employs 12,500 people, said the move follows the Government's decision to change fixed odds betting terminals which are claimed to be highly addictive and leading many people into major debt problems.

### Colin has been at it again



This time taking *The Riverporter* to a voodoo fetish market in Togo. As a result of Colin's world travels we thought we'd show that the folks in the Ollie were equally well informed.

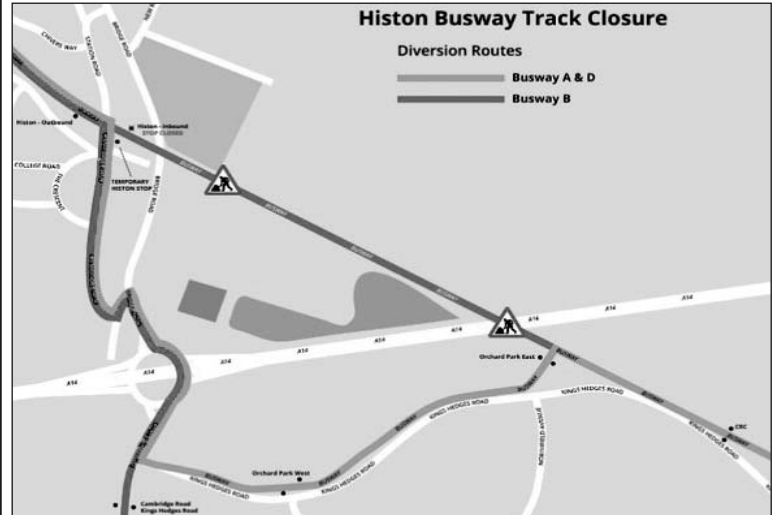


## COUNCIL & COMMUNITY NEWS

### Part of Busway closed all summer

Due to the ongoing A14 roadworks the bus service will be unable to reach a number of the usual stops due to the roadworks in the area on the A14 being carried out, a longer diversion route will be in place throughout the planned period.

The map below issued by Stagecoach shows the affected areas...



### Travelling towards Cambridge

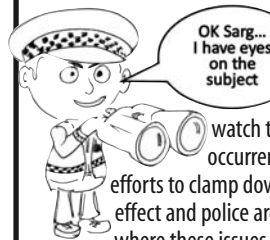
Busway Route A/D will leave the track at Histon (turning right onto Cambridge Road) and through Orchard Park to CRC where it will re-join its normal route. Passengers are able to board and alight at the stops just outside the Mace Shop and at CRC.

Busway Route B will leave the track at Histon (turning right onto Cambridge Road) and will continue along Histon Road. Passengers are able to board and alight at the stops just outside the Mace Shop and at stops just South of King's Hedges Road. Passengers intending to board at Orchard Park are advised to use stops on the opposite side of the road and board Busway A.

### Travelling towards St Ives

Busway Route A/D will serve its normal route up to CRC. After serving this stop, it will then travel through Orchard Park before turning onto Histon Road/Cambridge Road. The route will join the track at Histon (turning left at the Mace Shop). Passengers are able to board and alight at the Histon Busway stop and at CRC as usual.

Busway Route B will travel along Histon Road, serving stops just South of King's Hedges Road. It will continue its normal route along Cambridge Road, and will re-join the track at Histon. Passengers are able to board at the Histon Busway Stop and at stops just South of King's Hedges Road. Passengers intending to board at Orchard Park are advised to use stops on the opposite side of the road and board Busway A services.



### Neighbourhood watch welcome the latest policing update

The past week saw a report to a town centre neighbourhood watch team, relating to the recent series of anti-social behaviour occurrences in the town centre. Sgt. Draper informed the group that efforts to clamp down on these problems and report all occurrences is having an effect and police are now better informed with a flow of evidence of when and where these issues occur, which will lead to police action when appropriate.

### Holiday Season means nothing to report

July's Town Council meeting was probably the shortest ever, lasting just 28 minutes. Mayor Dan had decided that councillors needn't wear their heavy robes, due to the heat, and the subsequent discussion on the merits of this decision lasted longer than any other item on the agenda. Colin Saunderson returned to speak in the public participation section as the draft minutes showed he was in favour of the controversial motion C46 (asking the Corn Exchange to provide details of the last four years booking charges -see Riverporter 37) rather than totally against it. *The Riverporter* noted the minutes have now been amended.

Mayor Dan did announce his concern at the low attendance of councillors at Civic events and went on to comment on speaking to the press saying: 'If we (councillors) talk to the media we do it ONLY as a corporate body. Individuals (councillors) do NOT do it off their own back.' *The Riverporter* subsequently sought clarification on this comment as it appeared to us that councillors were being dissuaded from talking to us, an issue we had been discussing with the previous Mayor. The confusion arises because Town (or Parish) councillors are part of a corporate body and therefore cannot speak on behalf of the Council unless authorised to do so. This means that they cannot talk as a councillor but as an individual, which implies that outside the council chamber they are not councillors?! Confusing or what! Anyway the Town Clerk confirmed that councillors can speak to the press as long as they do so as individuals. There were no reports from the Police, District Councillors or from the County Councillor, in fact very little was discussed. With no meeting in August there will be no news until September!

## COPE "Cambridgeshire Older People's Enterprise" Forum

### COACH OUTING TO FELIXSTOWE Friday 9th August 2019

Meet at CO-OP Car Park at 10.00am (return at 4.00pm) Coach Cost £15 per person NB. The Coach can only take 30 persons, so make sure you book early to ensure a seat. Please send Name, address and cheque (made payable to COPE St Ives Branch) for £15 per person to Angie Walters, 9 Erica Road, St Ives, PE273AE Tel: 01480 300726.

### More Music on The Waits

28th July Bedford Town Band  
4th August Somersham Town Band  
11th August Stella Hensley & Chris Newman  
18th August Upwood Ukulele's  
25th August Deeping Dixilanders

### Touchline blues sorted



The Bulls (St Ives Rugby Club) is very grateful to Honorary Life Member and former physio Alison Taylor for funding the supply of touchline coats. Observing matches in mid-winter last season, Alison said, 'I know exactly what it's like to stand on that touchline in freezing conditions. I am delighted to help keep the players warm and ready to enter the fray.'

The pictures shows some of the players modelling the coats whilst holding Alison. (Editor's thought - a very wise move, after all the last thing you want before going on to play is frozen Bullocks!)



**Record Breaking Year  
so far for Hyperion  
Auctions!**



**Our Next Fine Art & Antiques Sale is on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>  
August entries Invited**

**Results from our Last Fine Arts Sale**



**Vintage Louis Vuitton Steamer Trunk with  
fitted interior SOLD £3400**

**Lladro 'Stroke of Twelve' Elite Limited  
edition SOLD £1400**



**Ligne Roset Togo Modular Corner Sofa by  
Michel Ducaroy SOLD £850**

**Next Antiques & Interiors Sale: Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July 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



## Fenland Lace Makers

In 1982 local Lace Makers decided to meet once a month, to make lace together, listen to talks and take part in workshops to further their interest in this traditional craft. Each year they hold a Lace Day at the Burgess Hall, a ticketed event where Lace Makers from the wider region come to buy equipment from specialist traders, see the displays of work and listen to a speaker.

This year they are holding their first exhibition of lace open to the general public at The Norris Museum, highlighting the traditions of lace making and showcasing new designs.



- Exhibition and Demonstrations at The Norris Museum
- Exhibition Runs from 27 July – 29 September 2019
- Monday – Saturday 10am – 4pm
- Sunday 1pm – 4pm
- Demonstrations on Saturday 27 July, Monday 5 August, Monday 19 August, Monday 2 September & Monday 16 September.
- Free Entry – Post Code for Norris Museum is PE27 5BX
- Workshop Event Friday 30 August – Equipment Provided – Come and Try your Hand. Bookable through the Norris Museum.

## Screen St Ives

**Thu 1 Aug 2019, Screen 2:**

**WILDLIFE** (Cert 12A)

Dir: Paul Dano, US, 1hr 45min, 2018.

Carey Mulligan and Jake Gyllenhaal star as a dysfunctional couple with a teenage son who isn't quite sure who to trust. A massive forest fire near their town marks a turning point in all their lives – will they manage to stay as a family, or is it time to drift apart?



**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.**

ADVERTORIAL

## MONEY FOR OLD ROPE

*Mike Ellis of Ellis Winters assesses the current housing market*



The true worth of High Street estate agencies comes to the fore when the market gets a bit tougher and buyers are fewer on the ground. Just putting the property up for sale on Rightmove and waiting for the buyers to call just doesn't cut the mustard.

We're now in that tougher market and the companies that splash adverts all over the TV, who charge upfront and then put their feet up as they've already been paid, are now finding the reality of having to work for every sale.

No doubt, you will have also seen in the national newspaper that the owners of these very same companies

are cashing out and selling their shares, just as they wind up their operations in Australia and the USA and close their support centres in the UK. It appears we are seeing the demise of the internet agents.

In this more tricky market, it's time to work smarter and work with your agent to make the very best of every opportunity, ensuring the house is in the best condition it can be, from minimising and decluttering, to cleaning and mowing the lawn.

It's a great time of the year for sunny photos and as it is recommended to refresh property details every 4-6 weeks to enhance your chance

of someone coming to view, now is the time to get out with the camera. Also keep your eyes on Rightmove to see what prices are doing - try to be ahead of the curve and don't be afraid to cut your asking price if you can.

For more tips on how to make your property stand out, please contact us today on 01480 388 888.



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winters  
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