

The Riverporter

ST IVES AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER

Issue 41: 16 August 2019



A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

There's a lot to look forward to...

August is a usually a quiet month for news as councils tend to have a break from meetings. Most local papers resort to filling their pages with strange press releases, saved just for that purpose but fortunately for us, here in St Ives there is still quite a lot going on to report about.

In this issue we cover parking, as concerns seem to be emerging, not just in St Ives, but in other areas of Huntingdonshire. This follows HDC's roll out their new parking regime announced in February as 'An investment worth hundreds of thousands of pounds' which it claimed would see a raft of new technology installed! (See page 3).

We also have a report from our Health and Beauty consultant, Sandy Bottam, who visited the Felting Barn, a new aromatherapy and massage suite in town (page 2).

Of course there are the usual comments to Erik from readers and some pieces of fun (well hopefully they are funny) plus news from some of our many groups that make St Ives the healthy community it is.

There is still a lot going on to enjoy this summer

The last two weeks of August will see two more *Music on the Waits* concerts with the popular Upwood Ukelele's on Sunday 18th and the Deeping Dixilanders on 25th of the month.

In between these two concerts is a **Lace Making Demonstration** at the Norris Museum on Monday 19th, a **Poetry Evening** in the Corn Exchange on Tuesday 20th and a **Harpichord concert** in the Chapel on Friday 23rd.

August will bow out on Saturday 31st, with the **Annual St Ives Flower, Produce and Craft Show** in the Corn Exchange (details of which are on page 2). Also on the same day on the other side of the meadow, at Hemingford Pavilion, is a **Classic Car show** which raises money for the Magpas Air Ambulance.

September is looking particularly busy

There seems to be something happening just about every day in September, too many for us to give details for, so here are some of the main events.

Friday 6th is the **Mayor's Charity Quiz** and Saturday 7th is the Disney themed **Illuminated Boat Parade** from 7.45pm - best viewed from the Bridge and Quayside, where the following day, Sunday 8th is another **Flea on the Quay** market.

On Friday 13th and Saturday 14th there is a **'Right 'ole Knees Up'** Charity Cabaret show in the Burgess Hall by the Centre Theatre Players.

The following weekend we are spoilt for choice. From Thursday 19th to Sunday 22nd is the 5th **Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival**. Twenty five free concerts of superb music to enjoy and if that isn't enough to do there is, over this weekend, the annual **Heritage Open Days** (HODS), when the town's historic buildings are open to visit. (See details in our next issue).

The Riverporter noticed that online a World Village Market was being advertised to take place on the Sheepmarket on 21st and 22nd. However we believe that may take place the following weekend as there is a Farmers' Market due to be held on the 21st September. On Friday 27th there's another Chapel Arts concert, this time with **Acoustics Anonymous** and of course September may finish with lots of food and drinks if the World Village Market goes ahead on 28th.



New larger premises allows for more services

The Mayor of St Ives was on duty in the town on Saturday 3 August to open Star Dancewear & Crafts' new shop. With dancing and crafts becoming more popular the larger shop has a much bigger choice of dancewear, wool and haberdashery and can also offer baby gifts, wedding items, lunch and storage bags and personalised items.

There are also plans to provide an alterations service as well as classes for crochet, knitting, needle felting and other crafts and it is hoped that the shop will become a community hub for many age groups, all benefitting from what Star Dancewear & Craft has to offer. Elaine and her colleagues Wendy and Linda always aim to give excellent customer service, helping to ensure dancers are fitted with the right shoes and go away with the correct uniforms, as well as helping customers to choose their next crochet or knitting project. Opening hours are Mon-Sat 9.30-5pm, 3 Crown Street, St Ives PE27 5EB.



Dickie de Vere and the Dorchester Mavericks will be appearing at The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival, bringing you the very finest in light musical entertainment, playing a toe tapping selection of your favourite melodies from times gone by. You can catch Dickie and chums at the Taproom on Saturday 21st September at 8pm. Full details of the Festival are available at www.theoldriverportstives.co.uk

St Ives Flower Produce & Craft Show Saturday 31st August 2019

at The Corn Exchange, St Ives

Download the schedule at

www.stivesshow.org.uk

Also available from:

The Corn Exchange,

The Town Hall

West End DIY

Escape and Create



TO CONTACT THE RIVERPORTER EMAIL: EDITOR@THERIVERPORTER.UK

The Felting Barn

When we heard that a new Aromatherapy massage business was being started in an old Felting Barn we decided to send our trusty correspondent to find out more... Firstly we wanted to know what is a Felting Barn? And it turns out it was a place where wool was felted into material. Felt from wool (produced by matting, condensing and pressing fibers together) is considered to be the oldest known textile and it seems likely that with all the sheep that have grazed on the meadow over the centuries this was where felting took place.

So where is it? Let Sandy take over from here...

I went through the red gate at 37a The Broadway near the Norris Museum to see Heather Wells in her aromatherapy and massage suite in The Felting Barn which overlooks the east end of Holt Island (see below). Although a beauty correspondent, I am not

used to having beauty treatments on myself, so I wasn't sure what I was in for. Heather is calm and professional and put me at my ease. I had a facial treatment, with a Calendular cleanser, Orange flower toner, Frankincense intense lift moisturiser, eye and lip serum and a Frankincense firming mask, ending with a Rose facial polish.

I have to say it was wonderful, my skin felt younger, firmer and glowing and best of all when I woke up the next day, it still felt wonderful! I would definitely recommend a visit if you need a pick me up or have specific aches or conditions that need addressing. Heather offers:



- Aromatherapy massage
- PMT and Menopausal Essential oils
- Deep tissue massage
- Pregnancy and Postnatal massage
- Lava shell massage
- Neal's Yard Holistic Facial
- Neal's Yard Facial Rejuvenation

Look her up at uk.nyorganic.com/shop/heatherwells or email her at heathermarywells@gmail.com or Telephone her on 07999 718967

Heather is offering a free consultation and look around if you phone/text first.

Health & Beauty to you all Sandy Bottam

Blown away the Fleas!

Unfortunately, the August Flea on the Quay had to be cancelled due to the high winds. The severe weather over the weekend had improved a little by Sunday morning but the wind still proved to be a hazard for the outdoor market. The Town Team organisers are also looking for more stallholders to join the monthly event and anyone interested is asked to email r.westrip@sky.com for an entry form.

Tables are only £10 and any profits go towards funding other town events.

The next Flea on the Quay is booked for September 8th.



Recently the Mayor expressed concern that the turnout of councillors at Civic events had been poor and he reminded them of the duty. It seems this comment fell on deaf ears as 14 out of the 17 elected members are unavailable to help open the Town Hall over the Heritage Open Days (HODS) weekend.

Hence the Town Hall will not be open on either the Saturday or Sunday of HODS, much to the Town Clerk's disappointment.



DIARY DATE - Saturday 31st August for the Tenth Anniversary of the St Ives Flower, Produce and Craft Show

Organisers of the St Ives Flower, Produce and Craft Show want local people to make this year's the best ever, with it being the 10th anniversary of its return to the town.

To mark this special date, the show will have two new prizes. These are the 'PEOPLE'S CHOICE' where visitors to the Show get to vote for their favourite photo, art or craft item, and secondly, the Hill Rise Allotment Association will be sponsoring a prize for the BEST COLLECTION OF VEGETABLES. Finally, Waitrose will once again be sponsoring a prize where a range of vouchers will be up for grabs for the entries that most catch their eye.

The event is taking place on Saturday 31st August in St Ives Corn Exchange and will have a wide range of categories which people can enter for free, including fruit, vegetables, flowers, jam making, baking, home brewing, arts & crafts and photography. The closing dates for entries is Tuesday 27th August with more information, and programme, available on our website www.stivesshow.co.uk The Show will be open to the public from 12.15pm with fun for all the family and is free to visit. On the day there will also be a range of refreshments as well as a raffle and games to play.

For keen gardeners wanting to bag a bargain there's also a plant and flower stall. Exhibits will also be auctioned at the end where people can bid for fruit and veg as well as some of the tasty food on show. You can also collect a programme from West End Stores in Bridge Street, or the Town Council offices, the Corn Exchange and Escape and Create.



Above: some of the many entries on display.

Silver Quay



The eagerly awaited results for the St Ives In Bloom team are not expected until next month and this year the awards ceremony will be held at the Burgess hall in St Ives, but meantime Marin Leshi the owner and master chef from 'Amore' restaurant on the quayside was delighted to receive the **Silver Award** from St Ives in Bloom for the towns commercial sector.

Marin and the residents of the Quay have been working hard to make the Quayside one of St Ives best kept beauty spots and this years display has been wonderful. Unfortunately the high winds last week took their toll but we'll get it all sorted and go for gold next year said Marin pictured with Quay residents, Susan Westrip and Erik who thought he deserved an award for keeping the seagulls under control.

THE GREAT FEN PROJECT TRIP



Next month COPE are organising a trip to the fascinating Great Fen Project with a tour of the great Fen Centre. The project was officially born in 2001, named after a large

area of wild fens before the land was drained for farming, the project is to restore it to its natural flooded state.

The Great Fen was originally a 50-year vision, but after just over a decade, more than 50% of the land is already owned by the Great Fen partners with 2140 acres in restoration and 3750 acres managed for nature conservation, including the two National Nature Reserves of Woodwalton Fen (pictured above) and Holme Fen. The Great Fen also delivers an education and community service, has ten

members of staff working on the ground, and is supported by more than a hundred active volunteers. This achievement is more crucial than ever now to help combat climate change.

St Ives Group monthly meetings are held every 2nd Friday of the month, in the Free Church Hall, at 10:30am. To join the Great Fen Trip send a cheque made payable to COPE for £12 per person with a stamped self-addressed envelope to: COPE, The Olive Golding Room, St Luke's Com. Centre, Victoria Road CB4 3DZ. Telephone 01223 364303 or email cambridgecope@hotmail.co.uk



Cambridgeshire Older People's Enterprise



Dear Erik PAWS FOR THOUGHT

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

Dear Ron, John and Erik of course,
Many congratulations to you both! Richly deserved. We're really delighted for you and *The Riverporter* team. Looking forward to more of the same. Best wishes George and Dee

Dear Erik,
Many congratulations on your Gold win! Very well deserved!
I always look forward to every alternate Thursdays to getting *The Riverporter* and it's news!
Well done, keep it up! Yours Diana Baldwin

Dear Erik,
Subject: Town centre car parks. On Saturday I was ripped off by paying £4.00 for parking. Four yes four pounds!!!! Are Hunts District Council trying to ruin St Ives? Markets are not as busy as they used to be without discouraging what people we do have coming into town. Very disgruntled ... Chris Davis organiser Mon and Wed markets, Corn Exch. PS. my stall holders have to park somewhere!*

Morning Erik
2 questions for you:
Why is St Ives Monday Market shrinking? There used to be a lot more stalls than there is now. Is it due to Council charges?
Where in St Ives can I purchase one of those cars which don't seem to have indicators? Presumably their cheaper. There's a lot of them about the area. Ian Roofe

Ed's note: *The shrinking market is a comment we have heard recently from several people. There's probably not one cause but there are some fairly obvious reasons why. Firstly the traders will only continue to come if they can earn a living, which means lots of customers. The issues over parking and reductions in bus services have probably contributed to reducing the number of shoppers, as has the 'out of town' developments. Increased charges from HDC might have prompted some traders to move to other, less costly, markets instead.*

Cllr Marge Beutell said last March (see issue 31 of The Riverporter) that the HDC had worked successfully with St Ives Town Centre Initiative and the Town Council to run events encouraging visitors. 'But there is no evidence of this happening. Marge also extolled the virtues of The Council's plans to expand its existing loyalty reward schemes for regular market stall holders. Stall holders told The Riverporter they knew of no such scheme. It will take a considerable effort and action, rather than just warm words if the council run Monday and Friday markets are to be rejuvenated. Surely the viability of the whole town centre needs proper incentives and positive action from the Council. A little less money grabbing from visitor parking charges might give greater rewards in the long run.

Clamping down on the town's bad parking



In the past week officers have been out issuing advisory notices to vehicles parking on yellow lines and in loading bays around the town. Normally these would bring a fine of £30 but the police, it seems, are giving motorists a chance to mend their ways before it starts getting expensive. Not so with DVLA officers though ... A DVLA team were also out last week and they were actively clamping cars with no valid road tax leading to much bigger fines and we understand in serious cases cars can be removed and crushed. Additionally, PCSO's joined in with the local Speedwatch team on St Audrey's lane logging vehicles travelling faster than 30mph one was clocked at 45mph. It does seem that the parking and traffic issues in our town are at last being addressed. However ...

Meadow lane park and donut!

It seems the issues at the Meadow Lane Park and Ride continue with drivers turning up, making a noise and racing their cars. Police were called on the 9th of August but arrived too late, however the local force have now put the area under regular surveillance and will make it far more difficult for the racers to get away with it.



Typical tyre marks left by cars doing donuts!

Well done Wheatfields Primary School!

In 2017 Wheatfields received an OFSTED rating of 'requiring improvement', but in their latest inspection they have been upgraded to 'Good' which is a great achievement.

The OFSTED report praised the teachers for the support they offer the children and for their good subject knowledge and making the subject interesting giving the learning purpose. The school has said it now puts a high priority on recruiting staff of the highest quality. Inspectors noted that school routines installed good levels of conduct in the school and that pupils were well cared for by the school staff. Head Theresa Thornton was commended for her strength of character for her work in achieving the improvement.

COUNCIL & COMMUNITY NEWS

A Quiet Month?

Town council vows to investigate

Was the headline in the Hunts Post this week when a mother had to take her son to hospital after he suffered cuts to his face by a gate, located at Burleigh Hill Park play area. Carly Blake was at the park with her son, Harry, 7 (pictured right) when the gate reportedly snapped back, hitting him in the face and cutting his forehead.



Another resident of St Ives, Laura Wilson, said the same thing happened to her daughter in April. Carly was reported to say that Harry has been left emotionally and physically damaged and will have a huge scar on his head and is now afraid to attend the park again.

A spokesman for St Ives Town Council, which manages the park, reportedly said: 'We are currently working with the insurers and other parties involved and whilst an investigation into this unfortunate event takes place it would be inappropriate for me or anyone else linked to the council to comment further.'

One Leisure makes huge loss

Accounts of the District Council-owned leisure centres revealed that the facilities made a loss of £279,000 last year. Cllr Tom Sanderson, independent member for the Stukeleys, expressed his concern saying that HDC had projected a £190,000 profit for the sites in the financial year 2018/19, but subsequent accounts showed the centres had actually lost almost £280,000. Cllr Jonathan Gray, cabinet member responsible for finance and resources, responded saying the council had 'the best financial record in the district' and blamed much of the loss on reduced revenue from the Burgess Hall in St Ives due to a staff departure. It doesn't seem that long ago since Cllr Ablewhite, when Leader of the Council said, following a £4.3 million investment, 'In times of cutbacks, innovation is required to ensure the longevity of some of our non-statutory services. Investment now will make the leisure centres more sustainable in the future'.

PARKING - seeking clarification is most confusing

Following the two comments about parking charges in Erik's column, we noticed two other mentions this week. Peter Law of Houghton Road wrote this pithy letter to the Hunts Post: *It would kinder of Huntingdonshire District Council to board up the shops in St Ives rather than bleed them slowly to death — by doubling car park charges for a one-hour stay.*

Another letter from Ste Greenall from Black Cat Radio, St Neots complained of charges being increased where some car parks previously designated as 'short stay' were now charging for a minimum of two hours, in some cases resulting in a 400% increase when parking for an hour. As presenter of Black Cat Radio's Full English Breakfast Show, Mr Greenhall invited Cllrs Marge Beutell, parking portfolio holder, and Ryan Fuller, Deputy Leader of the Council, to debate car parking issues with him and St Neots Town Cllr Stephen Ferguson last Friday, but didn't get a reply from either councillors.

We know how he feels. *The Riverporter* contacted HDC parking services department nearly two weeks ago to seek clarification on parking charges and when the new parking regime, currently being rolled out in the District, would come to St Ives and what changes that would make to the charges. Despite three phone calls and two emails to them as directed by the call centre, we could not get to talk to anyone on the subject and received no email response. As evidence by the comments we receive regularly on this topic, this is an issue that HDC have failed to deal with and like this Heron, pictured, would seem to be looking the other way to the correct direction, likely resulting in even higher charges in the town centre.



The current situation is confusing but our investigation shows that it is critical where you park to get the lowest charge. This is a list of the charges in St Ives and depending on how long you wish to stay determines what you are charged. Over two hours and you really need to be in the long stay parking area. Of course if you haven't got much to carry you could park for free in the Meadow Lane Park & Ride site.

- Cattle Market** (Bus Station short stay) Up to: 1 hour: 80p 2 hours: £1.20 3 hours: £2.20 4 hours: £3.20
- Cattle Market** (Harrison Way long stay) Up to: 1 hr: 80p 2 hrs: £1.20 3 hrs: £1.80 4 hrs: £2.40 23 hrs: £3
- Darwoods Pond** Up to: 2 hrs: £1.60 2 hrs & 15 mins: £1.70 2 hrs & 30 mins: £1.80 2 hrs & 45 mins: £1.90 3 hrs: £2.30 3 hrs & 15 mins: £2.10 3 hrs & 30 mins: £2.20 3 hrs & 45 mins: £2.30 4 hrs: £2.40 23 hrs: £4
- Globe Place** Up to: 2 hrs: £1.60 2 hrs & 15 mins: £1.70 2 hrs & 30 mins: £1.80 2 hrs & 45 mins: £1.90 3 hrs: £2.30 3 hrs & 15 mins: £2.10 3 hrs & 30 mins: £2.20 3 hrs & 45 mins: £2.30 4 hrs: £2.40 23 hrs: £4
- Waitrose** Up to 1 hour: 80p. Up to 2 hours: £1.20

Planning Matters raise concern

The Riverporter has been made aware of concerns about the large number of planning applications going through without concern for future problems with the infrastructure, particularly drainage. One theory is that councillors are not being firm enough, but another view is 'don't blame town and parish councils, its the system!'

The pressure for new houses is considerable and to help speed up planning, the system is now centrally directed by the National Planning Policy Framework, (NPPF). The latest version of this includes a statement 'The Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development'. Often 'Sustainable' is omitted, thus changing the meaning somewhat! Under the NPPF, local plan authorities have to meet predicted demand, hence the pressure on to find even more places to build with infilling in areas like the town centre, despite the creaking infrastructure.

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or Pop in to see us at 7 King's Hedges, St. Ives
(between Jonquil and Lloyds Pharmacy)

Open Monday-Friday 8am-5:30pm,
Saturday 8am-4pm and Sunday 10:30am-2pm



There really isn't a nicer thing to do than go messing about on the river on a summers evening.
Photo Dee Loakes.

Screen St Ives

Thursday 5 Sep 2019, Screen 2:
PHANTOM THREAD Cert 15

Dir: Paul Thomas Anderson, UK / US, 2hr 10min, 2017. A sumptuous, romantic, unsettling film about a fictional master couturier, Reynolds Woodcock. Notoriously fickle, Reynolds falls head over heels in love with his model Alma, with surprising consequences for everyone involved. Visually spectacular and with an award winning soundtrack, Phantom Thread weaves the fabric of life before our eyes.

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

DRONE PHOTOGRAPHY

Mike Ellis of Ellis Winters assesses the current technology helping good agents



ellis winters &CO

Drones have changed the landscape of aerial photography for ever, giving the property industry a fresh perspective. At elliswinters&co, we employ the latest drone technology which brings a whole new meaning to the expression 'seeing things from a different point of view'. It allows us to access many places we wouldn't be able to photograph otherwise. Buyers can put the property in context and understand the surroundings like never before. Drone photography is seen across all types of marketing and there's no doubt it's a growing trend in

the property business. It's quite simply a wonderful piece of prop-tech innovation that enables us to capture the best shots to create stunning marketing material. Aerial photography provides an extremely accurate view of property exteriors and can be used to persuade potential buyers to visit and purchase a house. With this smart technology, we are one of the first estate agencies in Cambridgeshire to provide in-house

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