

The Riverporter

ST IVES AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER

Issue 45: II October 2019



A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Is no local news bad news?

Well according to a recent article in the Observer it is. In the article Tim Adams argues that communities without local newspapers are poorer for it with 58% of the country no longer served by a regional newspaper.

The article went on to say that a 2016 study by King's College London, found UK towns, whose local newspapers had suffered closure, showed a 'democracy deficit' that resulted in reduced community engagement and a heightened distrust of public institutions.

Dr Martin Moore, the author of the study, observed 'We can all have our own social media account, but when local papers are depleted or in some cases simply don't exist, people lose a communal voice. They feel angry, not listened to and are more likely to believe malicious rumour.'

This deficit was felt nationally too as good stories usually filter up from reporters on the ground.

The King's study found that the third of parliamentary constituencies that were no longer covered by a dedicated daily local newspaper at the time of the 2015 election received scant mention during it.

The editor of the long-defunct Barrow Herald, in Cumbria, expressed the view that 'Nothing interests a man more than the news of his own neighbourhood,' an opinion you won't be surprised to learn *The Riverporter* agrees with.

It is one of the reasons we started *The Riverporter*, for although we do have the Hunts Post locally we felt it wasn't really covering St Ives news properly. Long gone are the days when a Hunts Post journalist sat through occasionally 'interesting' council meetings to report on the state of the public toilets.

The article went on to highlight how local journalists covered important issues and their investigations have brought people to account. Their presence in the community, talking to local people, is even more important in this social media world where fake news is rife.

The conclusion seems to be that without local

papers, and local journalists, it is too easy for our politicians and people of influence to have their actions go unchallenged.

You may be pleased to know that *The Riverporter* does attend Town Council meetings to hear what is being discussed on our behalf. Sometimes it is interesting and importantly it does allow the paper to highlight issues that affect residents.

Of course journalists aren't always perceived by politicians as someone to confide in, although I have yet to meet a politician who doesn't seek publicity for their 'good works', particularly when seeking re-election.

Since our last edition a local story has achieved national coverage, one highlighted by this very newspaper.

The story broke the day after our last issue when George's Bakery was banned from the St Ives Farmers' Market.

The Council decided to announce this decision by posting a picture of George with the following message on the Council's Farmers' Market Facebook page:

Following recent social media posts by George's Bakery in which they appeared to be inciting violence against the Town Council and its Staff the decision has been taken that they should no longer be allowed to trade on the Farmers' and Specialist Food Market with immediate effect.

At the same time as this was posted George was sent an email informing him of the decision. Within minutes there was a response from some of George's supporters and over 400 comments soon appeared, mostly in support of George.

Within days this reached local radio, national

A Cake of its own Baking



papers and even Anglia Television.

The Riverporter has spent the last week talking to some of George's supporters, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor who agreed the action and to other market stall holders to get a clearer picture of the incident. Not since the demonstrations against the Council 12 years ago, over plans to sell the Corn Exchange, have so many people been enraged by the actions of the Town Council.

The Incident

On 21 September George posted the comment which asked supporters to let the Council know they were unhappy over the way the Council had moved his stall by bringing banners, mega phones, machetes and strongly worded letters! Everyone agrees this was an unfortunate choice of words but the post remained largely unnoticed for 9 days when the Town Clerk, returning from holiday, decided on immediate action, which the Mayor and Deputy Mayor sanctioned. The Police were informed and subsequently interviewed George, advising him to remove the offending word before deciding no further action was needed.

Many George supporters posted their dismay about this decision and some claimed their posts had been removed from the Council's Facebook page, however the Council has say that they have not done this and that they have acted professionally in accordance with its own code of conduct, requiring members and staff to treat all with respect.

A Right Royal Eaton Mess?

Last Saturday the Farmers' Market, without George, celebrated British Food Fortnight and was busy in the sunshine with Mayor Dan and Deputy Mayor Jonathan in attendance. This special market was publicised in the Council's

latest edition of *The Bridge* magazine, which included the line 'George's Bakery is easy to find as he always has a long queue at his stall!' The Council's advert for the British Food Fortnight advertised two local chefs appearing - one from D'Ritas Italian restaurant and the other a Thai chef - an irony not missed by George's online supporters.

Having spoken with several of the other stall holders, their clear opinion was that there is blame on both sides and it should have been handled better.

This has clearly not been a good week for the Town Council or George. The long term consequences for the Farmers Market, losing its most popular stall, have yet to be seen but one important question remains to be addressed, which is, why was this issue dealt with over social media, when a telephone call or face to face meeting could have easily sorted it out? In another ironic twist *The Bridge* advertised the services of Colin the Norfolk Sharpie, available to sharpen your kitchen tools, scissors and garden tools.

I wonder does that include machetes?



Camilla tries one of George's cakes at Ely Market as shown on ITV.

ERIK AND DOGBOT DISCUSS BREXIT



Busy time for our Rotary Club

Giant Charity Pub Quiz

The Axe and Compass Wins -
and we pass the £50,000 mark

Rotarian Adrian Acton reports 'The quiz team from the Axe and Compass, Hemingford Abbots magnificently triumphed in the Giant Charity Pub Quiz, held last Thursday in pubs and clubs across the whole of Huntingdonshire. The quiz attracted 48 pubs and clubs and raised in excess of £2,600 towards Rotary charities and other good causes. Plus £700 was handed out to the winning pubs to donate to their chosen charities. In all some 720 quizzers took part in the twenty first running of this bi-annual event.'

And the good news doesn't stop there, as we have now raised over £50,000 across all the Pub Quizzes we have run, which is a tremendous amount of money, and we really would like to thank everyone who has ever taken part, for helping us, help so many others. Rotarian Adrian Acton can truly feel proud of all his efforts over the years in raising this huge amount.

We detail the top ten positions below, and the scores, together with the charities that these pubs and clubs have supported with their winners' cheques.

**Top 10 positions
3rd October 2019
Points (Max 195)**

- 1 Axe and Compass, Hemingford Abbots 189 (Hemingford Village Hall)
- 2 King of the Belgians, Hartford 186 (Hunt.Community Centre)
- 3 Honest John, Chatteris 183 (Chatteris Xmas Lights)
- 4 Sutton Conservative Club 180 (MAGPAS)
- 5 Prince of Wales, Hilton 177 (Cystic Fibrosis)
- 6 Lakeside Lodgers, Pidley 175 (Stroke Assn/British Heart)
- 7 Duchess, Fenstanton 174 (Anthony Nolan)
- 8 White Hart, St. Ives 173 (Pancreatic Cancer)
- 9 Jolly Sailor, Ramsey 173 (Help For Heroes)
- 10 Three Horseshoes, Graveley 173 (Little Miracles)



Above: The victorious quiz team from the Axe and Compass in Hemingford Abbots, receiving their Cup and Cheque from St Ives Rotary Club President Iain Martin.

Many thanks go to our fellow Rotary Clubs of Huntingdon, Huntingdon Cromwell, Ramsey, Rushden Chichele, St. Neots St. Mary's, and St. Ives Inner Wheel Club, plus everyone who performed as Quizmasters for their enthusiasm and support. In particular.

We also thank sponsors Peter Lane and Partners, Estate Agents, for their continuing support of this event.

Anyone wishing to join in the next Quiz, on Thursday 26th March 2020, can get more details from Sandra King on Tel 01480 462450 or email her at: kingsk1066@btinternet.com.

What a great night last Friday was to be a fashionista in St Ives, when St Ives Rotary Club, together with the Acorn Cancer Support Trust and Colours Fashion Shows, brought an evening of style and bargains to the Corn Exchange Catwalk.

Not only did everyone have such good fun, but nearly £900 was raised for Acorn Cancer Support Trust.

Huge thanks have to go everyone who put in such a shift on the night, and in particular to Shirley Hand, Carolyn Bussetil, Leah Bussetil-Humes and Rotarians Moira Penney, Beccy Roberts, Sally Heffer-Martin and Simon Townend.

And of course, even more thanks to everyone who came along and made it such a smashing night out.

St Ives Rotary Club - Fashion Show

Fabulous Fashion Show at The St Ives Corn Exchange



A GOOD CAUSE

Friends of Malezi (FOM) is a UK based charity supporting a children's centre for orphans and vulnerable children in Geita, Northern Tanzania.

Some of you will know about FOM and how we came to be involved out there but if not, please have a look at our website friendsofmalezi.org. (we're in the process of updating the website so the pub quiz mentioned is out of date!)

The pub quiz has become a regular and favourite event for our supporters, raising lots of money! It's about to come round again, so do please think about signing up for what is always an excellent evening. Tables are going fast!

Through the generosity of regular sponsors we are able to send money every month which goes towards the children's food, clothing, health care, education and transport to school. In addition, capital sums are needed too for projects to improve the facilities at Malezi and the money raised at the quiz goes towards these. We give a short report at each quiz so everyone knows where their money is going.

Dee and I will be going there later in the year and will post our report on the website.

Many thanks,

George and Dee Smerdon



Friends of Holt Island
Nature Reserve

Quiz Night

St Ives Corn Exchange
Saturday 23rd November
6.30pm for 7.00pm start

Fish 'n Chip supper

Bar

Teams: 4 – 8 people
£10.00 per person

Contact Helen Cripps: 07745 621361

holtislandquiz@gmail.com

www.holtisland.org

Dear Erik,

Can you print the attached poster for our Quiz Night in *The Riverporter* please? Thanks

Jill Burt.

Of course we can Jill.

Love Erik.



having your say ...

The Riverporter



Dear Erik PAWS FOR THOUGHT

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

Dear Erik,

A Lament

George Hepher our Lionheart hero,
Super delish cake maker
Banned by Town Clerk
One wretched, rotten week in St Ives.
Proud-standing, dear Free Church
Violated and despoiled
The next.
What next
In sad sorry St Ives?
Doberman

Heidi thanks her admirer

Oh how I swoon and how I sway
Anon's poem just made my day.
But stay - wait awhile
And forgive my smile.
Anon is learned and I hope handsome – phew!
But 'bark' was surely meant for Erik's pant too.
'Barque' it is to float in as fingers trail the flow
Perhaps Anon would like to know?
Ah well, I await his call and suggestive advance
And methinks too Erik will dribble and dance.
Heidi x

Under way!

A local resident from the Quadrant has written to *The Riverporter* to tell us of their dismay that the work to extend the GP surgery at Cromwell Place has commenced.

The design of the extension work has been the source of considerable upset to nearby residents who have described the finished building as looking like a distribution warehouse situated on the only road leading into the Market Hill end of town.

Unsurprisingly at the same time we have received a tweet from PIP Architecture who see the project from a very different perspective (see below).

As a *Riverporter* reader let us know what you think by writing to Erik ...

 **PIP architecture** @PiPArchitecture · 3h

We're on site! Excited to see this #building transformed to provide new #NHS services to the growing #community of St Ives. The high-quality #design was praised for it's sensitivity towards the surrounding Listed buildings and will enhance the setting of the #conservation area



Welcome to the St Ives Town News

The latest copy of the Council's Bridge magazine came out recently. By coincidence I came across a copy of the very first issue, delivered in the Spring of 1997 (see right).

It was an 8 page two colour issue titled St Ives Town News and asked readers to suggest a name for future issues. The Bridge was selected from the suggestions received and copy on the front page requested community groups to send in details of their activities that the Council could publicise along with their news. The Bridge continued to do this until quite recently, when the new format, now 16 pages in colour, came along, which the Council said would concentrate on Council News.

Why is it I get the feeling that elections are in the air when reading pages 10 and 11 of the latest issue? **Ed**

Welcome to the St. Ives Town News!

St Ives Town Council

A Message from the Mayor

Dear Residents of St Ives, This is the first issue of our Town Council's 'Newsletters'. I hope you will find it useful and informative. It is based on the fact that in 17 years, the Council has been hard at work to make St Ives a pleasant place in which to live. But people don't always know what is being done by the Council and it is our duty to let you know. It is our aim to let you know what is being done by the Council and it is our duty to let you know what is being done by the Council.

COUNCIL & COMMUNITY NEWS

Another super village gets the go-ahead in Cambridgeshire

The site of Waterbeach barracks has been given the green light to develop a new super-village that may end up twice the size of Cambourne. The plans include a railway station, five primary schools, two secondary schools, a sixth-form college, a special education school and shops serving the 11,000 homes in total and the timeframe sees the houses becoming available from 2022.

The developers are describing the project as a village of a different kind with a beach, bars, 20-acre leisure lake, fewer cars, a cycle link into Cambridge and energy efficiency schemes. Certainly the visual graphics of the new village are impressive (see below).



In a previous issue of *The RP* we wrote of the new Northstowe development and posed the question 'What does this mean for St Ives?' The advent of these major developments so near to St Ives and the increase in population, businesses, and the opportunities for leisure that spring from these newcomers need to be openly discussed so that we are not left behind with our road links and infrastructure. We know that the County council and combined authority are looking at options and are inviting ideas from our local council and town organisations.

St Ives gets a right bad turn

Cambridgeshire Live asked their readers to nominate the worst right hand turns in the county and St Ives came high up the list with ...

Needingworth Road onto St Audrey's Lane

The right turn which leads from Needingworth Road onto St Audrey's Lane in St Ives is another right turn which has been getting people's backs up. Writes Cambridge Live. A reader suggested that a mini roundabout would be a welcome addition to the area.

The publisher asked that anyone with another idea for their list should let them know by emailing to - newsdesk@cambridge-news.co.uk

It all seemed to happen at once

It has been an interesting time in the Town Hall lately with the Farmers' Market problems and a number of projects on the go, although last Wednesday's Full Council meeting was a pretty dull affair as there were no reports from the Police or CCTV or County and District Councillors (they were all at an HDC meeting). The ongoing debate on the Council's relationship with the Corn Exchange didn't take place as the Clerks report on the matter wasn't finished in time.

One item that was discussed was the proposed Public Spaces Protection Order requested by the Police to cover The Quay, Bus Station and Warner's Park. Councillors decided that the Town Council should request that The Broadway and Waits be included in the scheme.

Surprisingly there was no formal mention of the handling of the George issue and no representation from the public on the matter, which is still rumbling on social media. The latest claim suggests that a fake account was set up by someone called 'Ollie Cromwell' with access to the councils facebook page, in order to change public opinion in favour of the Council.

Countryside Park for early 2020?

Back in March at the Town Meeting District Councillor, Ryan Fuller, said he was most proud of securing the land for a Country Park, as a result of the development of the old golf course.

The Riverporter had been hearing rumours that this was a little premature and that the land in question was still owned by the Golf Club. Reports also persisted that HDC didn't have the money to spend on the Park and we were unable to find out the truth as HDC has refused to answer our emails recently.

The good news is that an article in the latest edition of *The Bridge* confirmed that the Park will be open in early 2020 and we now understand that a 106 agreement between HDC, Messrs Cook, Casey, Goodliff and Alsop (Trustees of the Golf Club) and Lloyds Bank will allow the land to be used for the Park. Even better is that we are told that £30k a year revenue, along with £80k of capital funding has been agreed by HDC. There is also expected to be a further £20k from the Football Club's planning contribution and we will get an 'arboretum' style park.



Entries Invited for the next Fine Art Sale



Saturday 19th October
 With a Specialist Section of Militaria Catalogue closes Tuesday prior to Sale
 Starting at 11.00 on the 19th October with viewing Thursday & Friday 9.00-5.00 and on the morning of the Sale

Military Items to include:

Medals, Ephemera, Weapons & Clothing and a collection of assorted British and European ceramics and glassware, Silver, Jewellery, Pictures and Furniture

Next Antiques & Interiors Sale: Saturday 2nd November starting at 11.00am

Hyperion Auctions, The Salerooms, Station Road, St Ives PE27 5BH
www.hyperionauctions.co.uk 01480 464140



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



Our Eagle eyed editor **Erik** noticed that following the redecoration work on the outside of Lloyds chemist had seen the disappearance of the famous mortar and pestle above the door. The item has adorned the building for many years and appears on many publications about our lovely St Ives.

Eager to find out the item's fate the RP asked staff who assure us that the item is undergoing a bit of a touch up and will be back in it's historic position in the near future... **Erik will be watching.**

Flea on the Quay

Due to the high possibility of rain The Town Team have announced that this Sundays market has been cancelled.

Is nothing sacred?

It appears the answer is no as a recent police report informs that intruders smashed a side window to break into the Free churchbuilding on Market Hill overnight on Thursday 3rd / Friday 4th October.

Once inside the raiders carried out an untidy search of an office and broke into the vestry. Full details of what may have been stolen have yet to be confirmed. If anyone has any knowledge that may help police, please call them and use reference No. 35/70909/19.

ADVERTORIAL

SNOWMEN IN DISTRESS...

Anne Dellar of Ellis Winters appeals for help on behalf of the St Ives snow men and women



Each November hundreds of snowmen appear throughout St Ives fixed to lampposts and buildings. The snowmen, made mostly by the children at Thorndown school, have become an annual festive feature. But this year the snowmen are feeling the cold and urgently need your help...

The Snowmen are feeling underdressed and urgently need hats and scarves before the winter nights really set in.

CAN YOU HELP?

If you have some spare wool and a bit of time, the organisers have a pattern you can follow and maybe, just maybe none of the brave little guys and gals will have to suffer from frostbite.

There will be an exhibition of Snowmen in the Bridge Chapel on the Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th November

where, hopefully, you'll be able to see their new hats and scarves.

A knitting pattern can be obtained from Anne Dellar in our St Ives office, call 01480 388 888 or email anne@elliswinters.co.uk or pop into our office at 14 Market Hill, St Ives.

We need your finished hats and scarves back by November 4th.

Somersham Office Anniversary

We are celebrating our first year in Somersham and despite the challenges and uncertainty in the property market we have had more sales and lettings than any other local agent, it is particularly rewarding to know that we have become the agent of choice in the town!



ellis winters &co

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