

The Riverporter

ST IVES AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER

Issue 46: 25 October 2019



A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

St Ives Town Council and George's Bakery bury the hatchet!

St Ives Town Council overturned the decision to ban George's Bakery from The Farmers' Market after a Petition of 1,223 signatures was presented on behalf of George by Jason Ablewhite.

The Amenities Committee, which is responsible for the running of the Farmers' Market, refused to ratify the decision taken last month by the Town Clerk in conjunction with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to ban the trader for a social media comment. The meeting, held on Wednesday evening, attracted a large audience, mostly of supporters of George, George himself and his family and other councillors not on the committee who wished to see what decision would be made.

Riverporter understands that there was disquiet about the ban from several Town Councillors. Earlier in the day ex-Mayor, Ian Dobson and former Town Councillor John Souter also wrote letters to all existing councillors seeking redress for George.

The report, issued by the Town Clerk was heavily criticised and George had contested, in a letter to the committee, the accuracy of some of the statements.

The Mayor, Cllr Dan Rowe and

decisions should be made by councillors and not officers. Officers should offer advice and councillors should decide whether to accept that advice or not he stated and continued, *'Otherwise there is no point in us being here - we will have the Town Clerk making the decisions for the Town.'*

It was an uncomfortable meeting, especially for the Clerk, the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor and it seemed, also for the Chairman of the Amenities Committee, Councillor Margaret King, who is more used to having quieter discussions about playgrounds, toilets and cemeteries.

Unintended humour?

The tense debate was briefly relieved when Cllr Pallant, in defending his decision said, *'Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could have a press headline that said St Ives Town Council and George's Bakery have buried the hatchet!'*

[Well you've almost got your wish Jonathan. Ed]

In an ironic twist Cllr Fuller (referring to representations from Mr Dobson, Mr Souter, Mr Jackson, Mr Ablewhite and himself) said, *'When you have a scenario in this town that brings us all together, unified, on this issue, that must make you sit up and take notice of what's going on here frankly.'*

Deputy Mayor, Cllr Jonathan Pallant told the committee that they had felt they had done the right thing in agreeing with the Clerk's decision to enforce a ban as soon as the offending comment on George's Facebook page came to light. They said they had a duty to protect town hall staff from any threat of violence. However Cllr Fuller queried whether there was an imminent threat as the post had been up for 10 days already and he asked how banning George would have stopped the threat of an attack from one of his supporters anyway.

His comments also included the observation that both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor had supported a decision made by the Clerk. Cllr Fuller rightly pointed out that



He continued ...

'When you have this group of people telling you something has gone wrong ... something has gone wrong, because to be fair it isn't very often that we all agree!'

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor were excluded from voting as they had pre-determined the decision by confirming the original ban, which left the six members of the committee, who all decided not to ratify the ban and thereby pave the way for George to return.

Finally *The Riverporter* can confirm that George intends to be back at the next Farmers' Market on 2nd November, if permitted, and has no plans to leave at the end of the year as suggested by the Town Clerk.

Alison Benfield, the Town Clerk confirmed to *The Riverporter* that a meeting is to be scheduled with the trader, presided over by an independent mediator, to determine the way forward for the George's Bakery to return to the Farmers' Market.'



Heated Debate

The Committee of 8 councillors and the Mayor were tasked to confirm the ban but instead, following a motion put forward by Councillor Ryan Fuller and seconded by Councillor John Davies who requested a recorded vote, decided unanimously to reject the ban.

This decision means that the ban will be considered as never happening and therefore George's Bakery should be able to attend the Market. Because George is not a St Ives resident he was unable to speak at the meeting, which led to the petition being presented by Mr Ablewhite.

Ex Mayor Ian Jackson also spoke to ask the committee requesting them to re-instate George and *The*

There's No Business like Snowman Business

Yes it's that time of year when hundreds of jolly Snowmen, spend their winter vacation at the unique Snowman Festival.



There are more reasons to visit St Ives this Christmas time as the Festival kicks off with an Exhibition of Snowmen in the Bridge Chapel on **Saturday 9 November from midday until 4pm** and on **Sunday 10 November from 1pm until 4pm**. There is also a Snowman Rocks Competition as well as the chance to win a £200 Townrow Gift Voucher in the Snowman Trail.

For full details go to www.facebook.com/stivessnowmanfestival Download the Trail Map at: www.theoldriverportstives.co.uk

Snowman Festival 2019

Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 November Snowman Exhibition in the Bridge Chapel
Wednesday 13 November Snowman Festival & Snowman Rocks Competition begin
Saturday 23 November Snowman Festival Trail starts in all participating stores
Sunday 24 November Snowman Craft Day and Gift Fair - Corn Exchange 10.30am
Saturday 30 November Santa & Snowman arrive by boat at 11am on The Quay
Saturday 21 December Snowman Festival Prize Draw - Midday in the Norris Museum

Supported by St Ives Town Team and sponsored by

Townrow

St Ives Hotel

& ellis&co winters

TO CONTACT THE RIVERPORTER EMAIL: EDITOR@THERIVERPORTER.UK



STARS IN THEIR EYES

Mr Melvyn Thurlbourn is a very keen stargazer who built an observatory in his back garden but he may have to tear it down because a neighbour has complained the glare of sunlight reflecting from it means they have to wear sunglasses inside their own home.

Mr Thurlbourn built his home-made observatory, in 2017 when he mounted a large white dome on top of a garden shed. However, after applying for a retrospective planning application this year, his neighbour objected, saying that they can't enjoy spending time in their garden without wearing sunglasses because of the 'highly reflective glare' they even must wear sunglasses inside their own home unless they shut the curtains.

Mr Thurlbourn has offered to paint the dome a different matt colour and to put plants in to help disguise the building, but a council planner from HDC, said the proposals would not reduce the over-bearing nature of the building. They branded the dome as 'un-neighbourly' and 'incongruous' due to its proximity to the neighbouring garden.



The view of the dome from a neighbour's garden (Image: SWNS)

Old Riverport now has its own Stout

Last weeks Booze on the Ouse, held in the Burgess Hall, unveiled a new beer from Papworth Ales called Old Riverport Stout. According to Rob Zanconato, seen right trying a sample, it's not a bad tipple.

Over the past 5 years, since the Town Team unveiled the Old Riverport title, more and more people are using it. Wetherspoons have had a Riverport Ale, made by Huntingdonshire brewery, Rocket Ales, since opening here and there are several businesses incorporating the word Riverport in their names.

According to Rob this was yet another successful beer festival held in St Ives and of course a chance to wear that extremely fashionable Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival T-shirt as well.



ROTARY & ST IVES IN BLOOM - CLEAN UP



Volunteers made the most of a sunny morning on Saturday to clear litter from the Park and Ride area. With the extra volunteers from the Rotary Club, the group were able to extend their litter pick from the Busway all the way down Meadow Lane, then along Harrison Way back to along the Busway from Station Road. A great improvement to the environment, both for wildlife and for people. Margaret King from St Ives in Bloom said, 'We are really trying to encourage other people in the town to take part in litter picks in their spare time. What we have done didn't take long, and over 15 bags of rubbish was collected.'

St Ives civic society were asked to comment, and they have said; 'The white dome is in very close proximity to the boundary of three neighbours and is so close there is little possibility of the applicant using a tree or hedge screening to mitigate the view.

Consequently, and in view of the height and stark appearance of the dome the society's view is the application is overbearing.'

However, St Ives Town Council have approved the plan and welcomed Mr Thurlbourn's offer to paint the observatory and plant screening. A statement submitted in support of the application said the surface shape of the dome could not reflect light in the same way as a garden greenhouse could without restriction, as was suggested by Mr Thurlbourn's neighbour.

St Ives charity fundraising group set up to fight muscular dystrophy



A new charity fundraising group has been set up in St Ives to help fund research and treatment in the fight against muscular dystrophy. The group called St Ives MDUK - Stronger in Numbers, is a local branch of the nationwide Muscular Dystrophy UK charity, and its members either have muscular dystrophy or have friends and family who live with the condition.

The group held their first event an 80s v 90s Dance Classics disco at the weekend (October 19th) at the St Ives Corn Exchange to raise awareness and fund vital research into Muscle Wasting conditions.

The group would like to thank everyone who attended, The St Ives Corn Exchange for the warm welcome and amazing venue, the security team and Main Room Productions who provided the sound, lights and music.

Just over £1600 was raised and a great time was had by all.

To follow the group for up and coming events please search St Ives MDUK on Facebook and like the page.

Screen St Ives

Thursday 7th Nov 2019 Screen 2
CLEO FROM 5 TO 7

Director: Agnès Varda France, 1962, 1h 30m
Selfish pop singer Cléo has two hours to lose before she is given the results of her biopsy. Lack of emotional support from her friends results in her wandering around Paris, where she meets a troubled soldier from the Algerian War that puts her concerns into perspective.

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.



having your say ...

The Riverporter



Dear Erik PAWS FOR THOUGHT

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

Dear Erik,

In the latest Riverporter issue 45 and some previous editions I have noticed that there is a habit of naming the highway from Ramsey Road traffic lights to Needingworth Road as St Audrey's Lane. I don't think St Audrey ever owned the road. Many years ago the road sign showed St Audrey's Lane until the Council was persuaded to correct it to St Audrey Lane! Please keep up the good work reporting items that concern the good people of St Ives. Regards P Davidson.

Dear Erik,

Could you include the following two pieces in the next available edition of *The Riverporter*.

'A RIGHT OL' KNEES UP'

As a result of their recent successful charity show 'A RIGHT OL' KNEES UP' the Centre Theatre Players are delighted to announce that they have donated £1000 to their nominated charities Dementia Friendly and Parkinson's.

Both performances were well attended and the Players, together with the charities would like to thank you for your continued support. To date The Centre Players have raised in excess of £80,000 from their charity work with over 30 different charities benefitting.

It's Panto Time - Oh yes it is!

The Centre Theatre Players are busy in Rehearsal for their forthcoming seasonal production, the traditional family pantomime 'DICK WHITTINGTON' which they are presenting in the Burgess Hall of One Leisure St Ives on January 8th-12th.

This show is full of fabulous characters, some catchy songs, intriguing plots and of course plenty of audience participation. It has all the ingredients for a great show. The Players will be staging eight performances in total and with the matinee tickets selling fast you are advised to book early to avoid disappointment. Tickets can be obtained from the Centre reception, telephone 01480 388111 or on line www.burgesshall.net

The Centre Theatre Players have been providing the town with seasonal entertainment for the last 45 years and have gained a fine reputation for their standard of performance winning the NODA award for best pantomime in the district several times.

Christmas at the Free Church St Ives

Sunday 15th December

6pm readings and carols by candlelight

Sunday 22nd December

11am Café-style Christingle Service

Tuesday 24th December

6pm Christmas Eve All-age Service

Tuesday 24th December

11:30pm - Midnight Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

St Ives Choral Society presents Handel's Messiah

On Saturday 16th November at 7.30pm in St Mary the Virgin Church, Godmanchester.

Directed by Alison Daniels, with the orchestra led by Richard Chen and with soloists Zoe Bonner (soprano), Emma Lewis (mezzo), Harry Bagnall (tenor) and Phil Wilcox (bass-baritone) and singers from Hinchingsbrook School led by Kate Cooke.

Tickets: Adults £12 and £10 (concessions), accompanied children under 16 free, from www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-ives-choral-society.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Bridge Street 120 years apart. These two pictures suggest a world of a difference. On the top is Victorian St Ives before the rise of the automobile. Bridge Street is busy with people, horses, carts and looks charming.



Below:

Bridge Street today. A rare view without a car in sight and it's raining.

Soon to be brightened up with Snowmen, Christmas lights and revellers.



COUNCIL & COMMUNITY NEWS

Fairground assault

The annual Michaelmas Fair returned to St Ives Town Centre last week. During this popular event officers from the Huntingdonshire Neighbourhood Policing Team were patrolling the event on all three nights. Police issued a notice saying *'The Fair is a much-loved family event. However, like at all events where there are crowds of people, please remember to keep your possessions – handbags, wallets, mobile phones and anything else you take with you – safe about your person, and be aware of who is around you at all times. Stay safe and have fun.'*



Left:

John Scarrott who has been running the Michaelmas Fair for many years.

However, for one family at least the fair didn't turn out to be the fun they had hoped, and The Riverporter discovered the following heartfelt comment posted on Facebook. (The names of those involved have been withheld.)

A parent writes...

'I've been debating whether to share

this online or not but here goes - if anyone knows the boss from Pound Stretcher, I'd like to thank her and a lovely couple for looking after our son on this dreadful evening Monday just gone 14th October. Our 15yr old son and his friend went to St Ives fair. A family fun event. They were only there for 5 mins when they got jumped from behind - by 3 lads from Papworth. Both my son and his friend were seriously assaulted. When we arrived our son was laying on the ground surrounded by police. I sat and held his hand whilst I waited for the ambulance. I was so scared. Three lads ran away from the scene - we know who they are and have all been reported to the police. It's just a matter of time now. I'll have to be patient.' Police are continuing their investigations.

Cemetery concerns

During the Public participation at the Amenities Committee, Peter Townsend voiced his concerns about the in-house civil engineering works done by the council at the cemetery. He complained that there was no expert external advice or supervision and he had grave concerns about the Council's compliance with design, construction and management regulations 2015. He asked the committee what they intend to do to rectify the sub-standard work and sought confirmation of the Council's compliance with CDM regulations and if they were content with the path widths.

St Ives has a rising star

Described as an incredibly talented writer, who can pen soul searching scripts. Bryony Kimmings (right) writes stories the way Amy Winehouse wrote her songs - from the heart - very raw and sometimes hard hitting, but always utterly compelling. And now our St Ives talented ex-St Ivo schoolgirl Bryony has got together with movie star Emma Thompson to co-write what may well be this year's hit Christmas movie. 'Last Christmas'. This already highly acclaimed movie is set for its New York Premiere on 9th November and is a romantic comedy film directed by Paul Feig and written by Bryony Kimmings and Emma Thompson. The film stars Emilia Clarke, (Game of Thrones) Henry Golding, and Michelle Yeoh. The film is scheduled to be released on 8th November 2019 in the United States and Canada and on 15 November 2019 in the United Kingdom by Universal Pictures. The Movie tells the story of a young woman named Kate, who has been continuously unlucky, accepts a job as a department store elf during the Christmas holidays. When Kate meets Tom on the job, her life takes an unexpected turn. Additionally the movie features the music of singer George Michael, including 'Last Christmas' and other previously unreleased tracks.



Serious spate of burglaries

In recent weeks police have been inundated with people reporting break-ins all over town and in the last couple of days police have issued the following report...

POLICE have today (22 October) arrested three people in connection with a spate of burglaries in St Ives. Two women aged 49 and 43, and a 20-year-old man, were arrested on suspicion of burglary in Greengarth, St Ives, at about 3am and taken to Parkside Police Station.

Since Monday, 30 September, 11 burglaries have been reported in St Ives and are believed to be linked. The burglaries have taken place in: Warren Road, Park Side, Hill Rise, California Road, Wellington Avenue, Tennyson Avenue, Shakespeare Road, Pettis Road, Tamar Close, Hemingford Road and Landcliffe Close.

The latest report states that the 20-year-old man has been charged with two counts of burglary and is due at Peterborough Magistrates' Court this week the two women who were also arrested have since been released but remain under investigation. Since the outbreak of these burglaries local social media has been active with people describing their experiences. Police have said that for burglary prevention advice visit: www.cambs.police.uk/A-Z/Burglary Anyone with information about these burglaries should call police on 101 and ask to speak to the southern burglary team or visit www.cambs.police.uk/report. Alternatively, contact Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555111 or via www.crimestoppers-uk.org.

bests

COFFEE SHOP

THE 'BEST'

Surprise in St Ives

No Trick, A Real Treat!!

HALLOWEEN EVENT

Thursday 31st October 5:30-8pm

We will be offering Haunting Halloween Treats at Undaunting Prices.

Dress up and join the fun ... Treats for all Children

Offering freshly made sandwiches, baguettes, paninis, toasties, salads, baked snacks & jacket potatoes.

Fresh Barista Coffees, Teas & Cakes & Autumn Warmers.

Buffets and Business Catering orders.

Pop in and enjoy the relaxing atmosphere.

Eat in or on the hoof?

We've got it all under one roof!

7 King's Hedges, St Ives

01480 462422

Open Monday-Friday 8am-4pm,
Saturday 8am-4pm



Huntingdon Male Voice Choir presents Evening Song in All Saints'

with special guests

Karen England

one half of international opera
duo The OperaBabes



and celebrating one hundred and twenty-five years of singing

Whitland Male Voice Choir

from South West Wales

All Saints' Parish Church, Church St, Saint Ives, PE27 6DG

Saturday 16th November, 7.30pm. Tickets £12.50

from Julian 07764 788292 or on the door



www.hmvc.org.uk

ADVERTORIAL

ONLINE PROPERTY VALUATION

Mike Ellis of Ellis Winters explains how to get a quick valuation on-line



Everyone wants to know what their property is worth but often don't know where to look. At elliswinters&co, we have an amazing instant on-line valuation tool which will give you an indication of what the value might be.

Of course whilst it provides a ballpark figure, nothing is as good as a personalised valuation from an experienced agent but it only takes less than a minute and gives a good start pointing for any further discussions you may have.

Getting the right asking price is critical and is one of the areas where a good agent can add significant value. Getting the pricing wrong can result in you losing money or buyers - if you overprice and your house doesn't sell, you may then have to reduce the price to create interest and you will have lost valuable selling opportunities.

Conversely, if you price the property too low, you risk selling it undervalued and not achieving the price you need to move on. The price at which you should market is normally a combination of elements which together will create the best price strategy for your property at the time.

If you need to sell quickly to achieve other goals in your life you may price the property more keenly than if you are willing to wait until another buyer comes along who's willing to pay more. Life events such as marriages, births, divorces or the death of a family member, will often be a trigger to sell and will then create a greater urgency.

In addition to an on-line valuation, knowing what's currently on the market and what's sold in your area will give you a guide to a base level for your pricing and will also indicate general levels of interest in each property type in your neighbourhood. The Rightmove website offers a wealth of data, but, don't forget this information is also available to buyers who arm themselves with knowledge before they start viewing.

The wider economy also has an effect on prices but only on sellers coming out of the market completely. If you sell and buy another property immediately the market will affect both parties equally and so although Brexit seems to dominate everyone's

agenda, if you are selling and buying it doesn't really matter.

The same old mantra of supply and demand still dominates and determines property values - more houses means less money and fewer houses, higher prices.

If you are thinking of moving and would like a rough idea of the value of your home or you are just curious, visit our website where we have an instant valuation calculator - it takes less than a minute and if you would like to discuss the results further or to arrange a no obligation appointment with one of our experienced valuers.

ellis&co winters



Ellis Winters (St Ives) Ltd 14 Market Hill, St Ives, Cambridgeshire PE27 5AL Tel: 01480 388 888 | Email: info@elliswinters.co.uk | www.elliswinters.co.uk

The Riverporter

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

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