

The Riverporter

ST IVES AWARD WINNING
NEWSPAPER

Issue 47: 8 November 2019



A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Breaking News MP selected by narrow margin

The Riverporter has learned that Huntingdon MP, Mr Jonathan Djanogly has won the nomination to be the Conservative Party candidate for Huntingdon Constituency in December's General Election by just two votes at a controversial meeting of the Huntingdon Conservative Association.

A recent local social media posting by Huntingdon Blue Wave Activists sought to make sure that all Conservative Association members were informed of the imminent meeting to discuss the selection of local MP Mr Jonathan Djanogly.

The posting apologised for the short notice but stated that a Conservative Association meeting would be held at the Great Stukeley village hall on 6th November. There was to be only one item on the agenda...

The Application from Mr Jonathan Djanogly to be adopted as the Conservative candidate for Huntingdon, who will address the meeting, the notice said.

The posting went on to list a few issues that have embroiled Mr Djanogly in recent times along with his voting record especially relating to Brexit issue with some openly suggesting he should be de-selected. Interestingly the original posting (see below) can no longer be found

on the local site. The posting appeared to be copied from the Leave.EU Facebook page, an organisation dedicated to leaving the EU that was founded by Aaron Banks and recently fined £120,000 over data law breaches.

Some Huntingdon Conservatives consider the behaviour of Mr Djanogly inconsistent with party policy and have expressed this in the letters pages of the Hunts Post.

Mr Djanogly has had problems in the past since taking over from ex PM Sir John Major in 2001.

A wet fish who has been a disaster

A Daily Telegraph article, published in 2010, found that two senior members of Mr Djanogly's local party, thought he was 'lazy, with no political convictions or beliefs'.

It quoted one senior figure as saying: 'He [Djanogly] works very hard not to give an opinion. He sits on the fence on every issue and nobody knows where he stands on anything. He is a wet fish and is constantly wriggling on the political issues of the day.'

He also attracted controversy over his expenses claims when the Daily Telegraph disclosed that he had spent thousands of pounds on electric gates

for his Huntingdon home, along with cleaning and gardening for the property.

It also came out that in 2009 he had hired a detective to find out the source of the leaks about his parliamentary expenses claims. He repaid £25,000, one of the largest payments from any MP.

It emerged that he'd claimed more than £13,000 in 'cleaning costs', which had been paid to his au pair and he had also claimed for jam making pans, which reputedly earned him the nickname of Jam-Pan-Djanogly.

Sir Peter Brown, his agent at the time, is alleged to have concluded after he survived the controversy: 'Jonathan has lived to die another day'.

Hardly a ringing endorsement

Wednesday's special general meeting proved to be a lively evening. The decision, decided by the Executive Committee, was a close run thing, with a vote of 11 FOR and 9 AGAINST.

Some of the members, who we are told, had no say on the appointment, were unhappy and demanded a vote of no confidence in the committee.

Simon Burton, the Constituency Party Chairman refused the request and our sources say that there were many angry members at the meeting, which was attended by party officials from Tory Head office.

DESELECTION PETITION FILED AGAINST TORY REMAINDER DJANOGLY

"We need a replacement MP who respects the electorate and abides by the Conservative manifesto."

"We are conservative members. He isn't representing his constituents."

Local Tories trigger deselection bid, demanding a real Conservative candidate for the general election



LEAVE.EU

Snowman Festival

Come and admire the jolly Snowmen & Snowwomen, who will be making an Exhibition of themselves in the Bridge Chapel this Saturday and Sunday.

Made from recycled milk bottles - see their colourful attire - lots of hats and scarves made by the wonderful 'Knitters of St Ives', assembled by 'The Riverport Snowmaidens' and dressed by the 'Pupils of Thorndown School'.

Find out details of the Snowman Trail with a chance to win a £200 Townrow Gift Voucher or afternoon Tea for Four at Sleppe Hall Hotel in the Snowman Rocks Competition.

PLUS buy 'Snowmen Gifts' including decorations, cards and calendars at

THE SNOWMAN EXHIBITION IN THE BRIDGE CHAPEL

SATURDAY 9 NOVEMBER midday until 4pm and

SUNDAY 10 NOVEMBER 1pm until 4pm

also on

SUNDAY 24TH NOVEMBER

at St Ives Corn Exchange from 10.30 am to 4pm

Snowman Festival Craft Day & Christmas Gift Fair

FREE

Children's Craft Activities

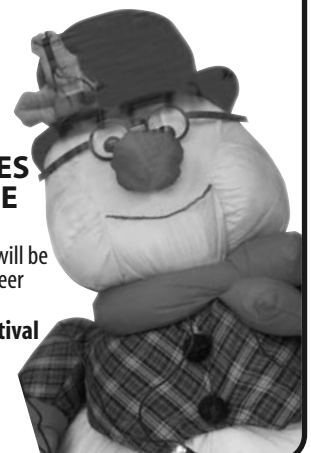
GIFTS • STALLS • GAMES
CAFE • MULLED WINE

Following the Lights Switch-on, the Corn Exchange Bar and Serveries will be open for drinks and Christmas Cheer For full details go to

[facebook.com/stivessnowmanfestival](https://www.facebook.com/stivessnowmanfestival)

Supported by St Ives Town Team

and sponsored by **ellis&co**
winters



SCREEN ST IVES

Corn Exchange

2:30pm Sunday

1st December 2019

Doors open 2pm

Special Christmas Screening

Royal Ballet 2018 production of

THE NUTCRACKER



Tickets

£10 (£5* Child)

Available online
at [screenstives.org.uk](https://www.screenstives.org.uk)

In advance and on screening
day at the Corn Exchange

*Under 13 and accompanied
by an adult

Bridge of sighs . . . and ooh's

The annual Fireworks display from Hemingford was another spectacular event that brought the crowds into town, in total defiance of the wet weather on the night.

The town bridge is always an excellent viewing place and children and adults could be heard oohing and arrring as each salvo was more spectacular than the last.



We asked Heidi, our Environmental Correspondent to look into the environmental issues for this, one of our longest traditions, when thousands of pounds of fireworks go up in smoke with a bang. Here are her musings!

Whoosh, Bang, Wallop – Heidi rides a rocket!

Hello dears!

Oh I had such fun at the weekend – prosecco in one hand, sparkler in the other. I simply love fireworks – I get giddy with the excitement of it – don't we all?

But wait. Whilst languishing in the bath before the party my radio announced a special program of relaxation music for our pets during the noisy displays.

I was amazed. But I discovered that our poor pooches, moggies and other pets, plus horses and wildlife, are all upset by the loud bangs and squeals that we all enjoy. And, according to a close friend, people with dementia can be disorientated.

I am easily aroused as you know and this time my curiosity led me to the supermarkets - and guess what? Fireworks are now graded by sound! Yes! I'm used to choosing low fat, low sugar and low salt but now I'm seeking out low-noise bangers! So well done Asda, Aldi, Morrison and Waitrose for helping us keep the booms down.

But there's more. Sainsbury has stopped selling fireworks completely. Wow! Apparently 750,000 people signed a petition to ban shops from selling fireworks, the latest in a whole series of protests. So this is getting serious.

By now I really had the hots for more information and my delicate delving

revealed that not only are fireworks causing noise pollution but air pollution too – all those pretty colours are in fact metallic particles that in close spaces can affect our lungs and trigger asthma attacks. OMG darlings – what is to be done? Fireworks are fun right? Of course they are but manufacturers will need to refine controls on emissions and noise levels, events organisers need to use them in open spaces – and we all need to stay upwind!

Phew – now where did I put that glass? Stay safe luvvies and keep on having fun (but quietly!)

Saluti, Heidi x

Have you films of St Ives?

Screen St Ives are starting a project to create an historic archive of cine and video film of St Ives and its environment over the last century.

Rob Zanconato of Screen St Ives said 'We are making a call to all in St Ives to search their lofts, attics and cupboards to see if they have any home cine film and videos that are collecting dust and who would like to donate or loan them to Screen St Ives. We are looking for formats such as 8mm and 16mm cine film as well as more recent video tape formats such as Betamax, VHS and Video 8. The older the better.'

Screen St Ives' aim is to create a montage of these films and present it back to the people of St Ives, through special screenings in the Corn Exchange to show how the town as changed over the decades.

So if you can help us or know of others who could help them track down these valuable historic gems of our town please contact Rob at info@screenstives.org.uk.

Screen St Ives

Friday 15th Nov 2019 Screen 1
CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME?

Director: Marielle Heller USA, 2018, 1h 46m

Lee Israel is a frustrated, hard-drinking author who can barely afford to pay her rent or bills in 1990s New York. Desperate for money, Israel soon hatches a scheme to forge letters by famous writers and sell them to bookstores and collectors. When the dealers start to catch on, Lee recruits a dubious friend to help her continue her self-destructive cycle of trickery and deceit.

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.



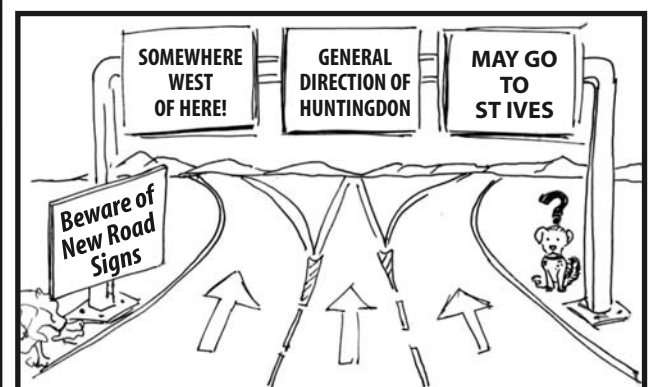
You will often hear people saying

‘I'm bored there's nothing to do around here’

You really can't say that here in St Ives! Our town has one of the best night lives of any town, anywhere. Halloween saw revellers out in force haunting one pub after another and the work and craft put into some of the make-up this year was exceptional. Added to the live music in several of our venues and another great St Ives night was had by all.



A14 BYPASS TO OPEN DECEMBER 9



having your say ...

The Riverporter



Dear Erik PAWS FOR THOUGHT

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

Dear Erik,

I attach a poster of a free Christmas concert coming up which I would be grateful if you could publish in the next issue of *The Riverporter*. Tapestry are a local acappella choir with a good local following and we have an annual Christmas concert in the Free Church. We have regularly raised about £800-£1000 for local charities. This year, we are raising money for Dan's Hope - a local branch of Muscular Dystrophy UK. Thank you and best wishes

Margaret Leverett

Dear Erik,

I have suddenly realised why this ballet is called the Nutcracker!

Des Custard



Where to get yours

One of the only complaints we get is 'I couldn't get a copy of *The Riverporter*'. So here is how to get your copy, admittedly you might need to be quick. Copies are obtainable from many places including: The Corn Exchange, The Library, W H Smiths, Mace, Kings Hedges Post Office, The Coop in Constable Road, Morrisons and many of our pubs, cafes, hairdressers and shops.

Copies are also available in Somersham Library, and the village stores in Needingworth, Fenstanton and Hemingford. Of course if you can't get hold of a printed version you can read it on-line at www.theriverporter.uk

What a welcome relief for local drivers

It was announced this week that the new, 12-mile-long A14 by-pass, south of Huntingdon, is to open a year early on the 9th December and for so many local commuters what a relief that will be.

Making the announcement, Highways England project director David Bray said:

'Opening the Huntingdon Southern Bypass is a huge achievement in the delivery of this major road upgrade, and I'd like to thank road users, residents and stakeholders for their patience and support during construction. Opening the new bypass will start to unlock many of the project's benefits and, together with the upgraded section of the A1 between Alconbury and Buckden which opened earlier this year, means that the western section of the transformed A14 is essentially complete.

From 9 December, when the new bypass opens to traffic, drivers travelling eastbound on the

new bypass will still have to join a section of 40mph narrow lane roadworks from the Swavesey junction, so should look out for the new road signs when they approach the area. The new A14 was designed with safety as the number one priority and its design is simple and intuitive. Variable mandatory speed limits will help to manage traffic to reduce congestion and ensure safety. As with any major road, the main things to remember are to keep left, unless overtaking, not to drive under a Red X, stick within the speed limit and know what to do if you breakdown. A red roundel around a speed limit means it is mandatory.

Slow moving vehicles will be prohibited from the new bypass and will be directed to use alternative local access roads.

The picture right shows the road crossing the River Gt. Ouse between Brampton and Buckden.

COUNCIL & COMMUNITY NEWS

DRUGS ARREST IN ST IVES

Neighbourhood officers in St Ives including Sgt Alice Draper and PC Phil Hepworth started their shift one day last week with an early morning warrant. Alongside Police Dog Fred and his handler, they attended a property in High Leys and carried out a search and arrested a woman on suspicion of drugs offences who was later in custody at Parkside Police Station.

Police ask 'Be our eyes and ears'. 'Drugs and drug related crime can have a negative impact on our communities and its use can harm the health and safety of our residents.' said a Police spokesman. 'We're committed to tackling drug related issues and we welcome any information you may have about drug use or dealing.'

You can provide information by calling 101 or online at www.cambs.police.uk/report

Over the past year our street cameras have been substantially upgraded, both in quantity of cameras and the quality of the images they can now capture, which will play a major role in helping to catch drug dealers, making St Ives an increasingly difficult place to deal drugs.

The Great Mince Pie Run

Cambs Friendly Bikers are a group of motorcyclists local to St Ives who marshal bike events such as St Ives Equals Scooter Run, The Distinguished Gentlemen's Ride in Cambridge and this weekend The Desert Rats Ride of Remembrance at Thetford. Organiser Andrew Harding said, 'Both of my parents passed away in care homes with dementia over the last few years and we thought it would be good to do something for those communities'.



'We will be grateful if you could include something about our Great Mince Pie run in *The Riverporter* please? All days start with a hearty breakfast at our favourite meeting place, The Haywain in St Ives at around 0900hrs. So get dressed up [as Santas] and come along and spread some cheer this Xmas. They will be visiting the following Care Homes:

23rd November

Field Lodge - St Ives
Rheola - St Ives
Bramley Court - Cottenham
Etheldred House - Histon

7th December

Hilton Park - Bottisham
Spiller Down - Newmarket
Soham Lodge - Soham
Millbrook House - Soham
Vera James House - Ely

15th December

Red House - Ramsey
The Gables - Chatteris
Fitzwilliam - Cottenham
Alex Wood - Cambridge
Langdon House - Cambridge

Dear Erik,

We had a first aid course here in the Corn Exchange a week or so ago, and the trainer asked if we have a defibrillator. He said it would be a good place for one as we have lots of events with large numbers of people. Today, a man collapsed up the street in St Ives, and someone rushed in here to see if we had one. Our receptionist said no, and didn't know where one was located, so the man rushed off to find one.

So - I wondered if you could do a piece on this in the *Riverporter*, to let people know where there is one if needed. **Thanks Jan.** Of Course we can help - **Erik.**

There are at least 7 defibrillators in St Ives which are accessible to the public.

There is one at both the indoor and outdoor recreation centres. The Cromwell, Spinney and Northcote House Surgeries each have one and there is one outside, on the wall of the Coop Supermarket in Constable Road. We believe there is also one in The Golden Lion, which was chosen because it is open during the day and evening.

Quick access to a defibrillator is vital should someone have a cardiac arrest. So knowing where to access one is important. The Town Council have allocated funds for two units to be installed in the disused phone boxes in the town centre which will hopefully go ahead once power supply and listed building consent issues have been resolved.



bests

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Surprise in St Ives



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

Fresh Barista Coffees, Teas & Cakes
& Autumn Warmers.

Mother and Baby/Toddler Singing Group
every Friday 10-11am

Contact us for more details

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



The Rotary Club of St Ives
presents



A Musical Christmas Cracker Concert



featuring:

Huntingdonshire Concert Band

Musical Director - Ben Mason

Sunday 8th December 2019

Free Church, St Ives - Doors Open 5:15pm

Concert Starts at 6:00pm

Tickets £12.00

Free refreshments during interval

Raffle

Tickets available from:

Just Sharing, Free Church Centre, St Ives

Email: secretary@stivesrotarycambs.co.uk

SPT Ltd 01480 455579

ADVERTORIAL

PRICING CORRECTLY

Mike Ellis of Ellis Winters explains how to get your home priced correctly



Before instructing an estate agent most sellers ask the same three questions

- 1 How likely are they to sell my property?
- 2 Will they achieve the best price?
- 3 How long will it take to sell?

All these questions should be answered in the same way - it's all about pricing correctly.

We have recently valued a property at £385,000. All comparable properties point to this figure, however, it's just gone on the market for £425,000 with another agent.

When we've checked this agent on Rightmove, we can see that they have their properties for sale far longer than anyone else and they have more price reductions than anyone else.

Three more relevant questions should be:

- 1 Is the valuation achievable and where's the evidence?
- 2 How good are they at keeping a sale together?
- 3 Do you trust them?

Honesty, integrity and enthusiasm is all you want from your agent and that trust should be earned.

There should be a marketing program in place from the start with regular meetings to discuss results and a plan for going forward as well as advice on subjects like the best way to present your home and listening to viewing feedback.

Call 01480 388888 for a valuation.



ellis&co winters

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