

# The Riverporter

ST IVES AWARD WINNING  
NEWSPAPER

Issue 49: 6 December 2019



A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

## Election Special

**W**ith just 6 days left before the General Election we offer readers a message from the candidates who are seeking your vote.

The Riverporter wrote to all of the 6 candidates giving them the opportunity to say why the people of St Ives should vote for them, offering to print their words unedited.

We are pleased to say that 5 of the candidates sent us their thoughts. However Conservative Mr Djanogly,

despite us emailing him direct and contacting the Hunts Conservative Association has chosen to ignore the opportunity to address the voters of St Ives.

You can read the comments of those candidates who want your vote on page 2.

### Breaking news

#### More bad news for the Town Council

Following concerns raised by Peter Townsend about the footpaths at the cemetery (as reported in RP46) the Council has been found to have failed to comply with the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015, which is a criminal offence punishable with an unlimited fine and/or imprisonment up to two years, or both.

The Council's Appeals Panel made a number of recommendations, including an apology to Peter Townsend for not dealing with his complaint in a satisfactory way, and to change the wording of its Appeals Policy to avoid a conflict of interest. The Panel also recommended that the Council should not undertake the role of designer or contractor under future CDM projects. This was another difficult moment for the Town Council and the Clerk, who was responsible for overseeing the work done at the cemetery, some of which will have to be redone.

*Last Saturday saw the annual arrival of Santa and Frosty the Snowman by boat to The Quay, where they were greeted by Mayor Dan and hundreds of excited children and parents. Led by the Macebearer, Fred King, the Mayor accompanied Santa and Frosty around the town to his Grotto in the Corn Exchange. Santa will be there with his elves for the next two weekends where children receive a free gift thanks to the organisers FES.*



## Crowds welcome Santa and Frosty to The Quay

Erik was there to welcome them too!



Original picture by Alan Bennett / Media Imaging Solutions



# Election Special

## FROM YOUR CANDIDATES

Below are statements from the candidates in the General Election listed in alphabetical order.

### Mark Argent - The Liberal Democrat Party



Brexit is central to this election. If Liberal Democrats form the next government - by having a majority of MPs - we'll take that as a mandate to cancel Brexit. If not, we'll work with others to secure a referendum to provide that mandate.

Conservatives and Labour have lurched to extremes, abandoning many of their traditional supporters. Brexit has pushed aside things that should be at the top of the agenda, such as action on climate change, funding for the NHS and addressing the cost of housing.

I see liberty, equality and community as central. We've enjoyed decades of stability inside the EU, giving a way to decide things with others without compromising our Britishness. That stability means we can push powers from Westminster to local communities. Outside the EU we are voiceless.

Both Conservatives and Labour are promising levels of borrowing they previously said was irresponsible. Stopping Brexit spares us serious economic damage, and means we can invest in our NHS, schools and business without excessive borrowing.

The referendum exposed deep frustrations. A Brexit recession won't help those, but the £50bn+ from stopping it helps us support local communities and build a better Britain.

As your MP I'd expect to have a constituency office and regular surgeries to help me be in touch with constituents and to push for things we need, like a station at Alconbury Weald, funding for Hinchingsbrooke and for community mental health services, and ways to draw some of the economic activity around Cambridge into our constituency.

### Paul Bullen - Independent (Brexiteer)



'We need to replace our politicians with real people who have experience of life and a genuine desire to represent their constituents' views.

I'm a retired Royal Air Force Officer, a fact of which I'm immensely proud. I was commissioned because my Country placed great trust and confidence in my loyalty, courage, good conduct and integrity. I embrace politics with those principles - to defend this Country, its Sovereignty and its Democracy. I want the Huntingdon Constituency

to finally have an MP who will represent its hardworking and decent residents and not a political party that never delivers. As an Independent MP, I'll have no whip or party telling me what to do. I will be free to fully represent you.

I'm an experienced ex-County Councillor who knows that we, in the Huntingdon constituency, desperately need, more investment in our roads, our infrastructure, our schools and our environment. We need to fight crime and we need to invest in real affordable housing.

Local people need jobs and job security. We need to encourage inward investment into our area and to support our smaller businesses, too.

Our Parliament is broken; its politicians no longer care about the people or keeping any promises. Don't reward them with your vote. Help me to help you take back control!

### Daniel Laycock - The Green Party



I'm going to correct one big lie and tell one big truth. First, the big lie. Get Brexit Done. Boris Johnson's rotten deal will not get it done, it's just more years of wrangling. His oven ready meal is made of chlorinated chicken and it will make us all sick. And when we turn up at the hospital we'll find it sold to Trump's America. That's why the Green Party supports a People's Vote on Brexit and I will campaign wholeheartedly for remain. In 2016, I voted to leave and I cannot support the rhetoric, narrow minded argument for leaving the European Union.

And now, the big truth. From the Amazon to the Arctic, the world is on fire. Our House is on fire. Scientists say we have just ten years to stop runaway climate chaos. This emergency requires us to rise up and be our best. An opportunity not to just avert disaster, but through an ambitious Green New Deal to fix Britain for good.

This election is the greatest but perhaps the last chance to change course. Children can't vote. The Planet can't vote. It is up to you and I ask you. If not now, when?

### Samuel Sweek - The Labour Party



I am standing to represent St Ives and give the people of our constituency a voice in Parliament. I was born in Hinchingsbrooke Hospital and I have lived in this area my whole life, I was educated here and worked for local charities and businesses, and now I am raising my

children here.

For the past decade, the Conservatives, hand-in-hand with the Liberal Democrats, have brought our country to breaking point. Our hospitals, schools and public services have been ravaged by years of austerity and too many people in St Ives have been forced into using food banks and unscrupulous payday loans just to get by. In one of the richest countries in the world, it is unacceptable that the futures of our children have been pushed aside by the greed of the wealthiest elite.

With me, I can promise you real change. As your Member of Parliament, I will fight for fairer wages, green jobs and an economy that works for all. The Labour government of Clement Attlee founded the NHS in 1948 and I believe that it is only a Labour that can ensure that the NHS is not for sale. Vote Labour on 12 December

### Tom Varghese - Independent



38 yr old Tom Varghese is your Independent Parliamentary candidate for Huntingdon Constituency.

I live in Huntingdon with my Wife and three children. We both work at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital and it is the first time I am standing in a General Election.

Politicians must work only for country's and its people's interests who expect more from their MP. We know the NHS is the backbone of our country, but unfortunately it is half broken. It is a big issue as peoples lives are more important than anything.

They need care, proper treatment, good rehabilitation. But it is currently more about waiting for the GP appointments than treatment. Illnesses become more serious and deaths are happening.

We need to find a solution and I I don't think more privatisation is a good idea. The NHS must be run by the Government.

NHS staffs are under pressure, they're delivering care but they are not getting enough respect and support. Staffing levels are very low, with better pay we could recruit more staff, reduce agency payments and fill some of the vacancies.

If elected I would create a special family fund allowing the elderly and young to do small jobs to supplement their income.

I will promote cheaper housing plans and easy availability of mortgages for young people reducing the need for private renting.

I would hope to promote help for our pensioners, often the least well off and lonely of our society.



Above: Alfie and Ruby Lock and Austin Lailey, enjoy making snowmen, while Tommy (left) wins a snowball throwing prize.

## Snowman Festival Craft Day & Christmas Gift Fair

### A GREAT SUCCESS

On Sunday 24th November saw hundreds of visitors to St Ives Corn Exchange where children were able to enjoy a day of free craft activities and parents were able to buy a whole host of gifts from the twenty stalls offering a fabulous range of Christmas gifts.

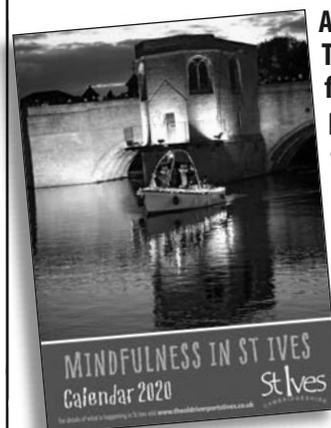
Right: Three year old Serena Rowe from Cambridge enjoying the games at the Snowman Craft Day before the Christmas Lights Switch-on.



## ArtsFEST 2019 Exhibition

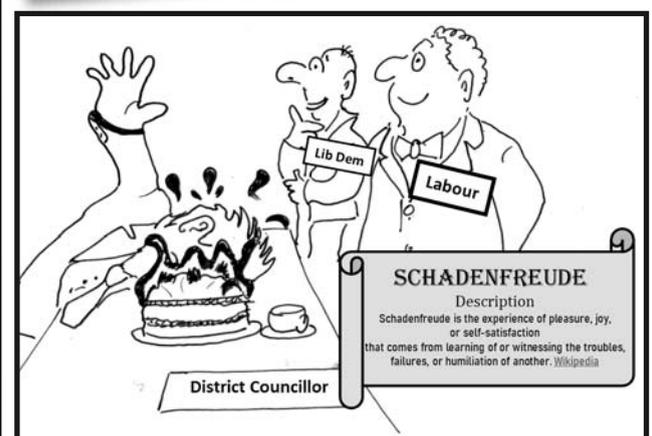
### ST IVES CORN EXCHANGE

7th and 8th December from 10 am to 4 pm  
A wide range of multi-media artwork and gifts



A chance to buy the Town Team's Mindfulness Calendar for 2020.

Full of great photographs of the year's events in St Ives. Your chance to support the work of the Town Team with 50% of the profits going to the St Ives Dementia Friendly Community Group. A great gift at just £5 available during ArtsFEST.





## Dear Erik PAWS FOR THOUGHT

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

**Dear Erik,**  
*Reference RP47 - strange goings-on*

As a St Ives [Conservative] member I attended this meeting which was steamrollered through - no members' vote nor discussion was allowed. What puzzles me is: One of the benefits, supposedly, of membership is being able to vote on the selection of one's MP (but apparently not on reselection)! The chairman refused the call for a vote of the members because it was against Conservative HQ rules and only the Exec Committee were entitled to vote. So why were the members called to the meeting at all, other than to listen. The Daily Telegraph (13th Nov, page 4) reported that the MP for East Staffs had been forced out on Monday by the votes of 234 members. Why did they get a vote and not Huntingdon members?  
It's all very strange. **John Foxcroft**

**Dear Erik,**  
**Can anything be done about this?**



Bridge Street with the medieval Chapel Bridge at one end is really lovely street. But it is currently blighted by the empty old Molise Restaurant premises which are a disgrace and have been for the last 12 months.

Surely it wouldn't take much for the current owners to smarten it up and get rid of the unsightly rubbish and blue tarpaulin!

**Concerned Resident of St Ives**

**Dear Erik,**  
**New route for A14**

Anyone expecting visitors over the Christmas period should warn them where they have to leave the new section. There are no exits to the B1040. I suggest you include some thing like the map below. **Colin Saunders**

## Memories are made of this

From our Environmental Correspondent Heidi N. de Tries I've been spoilt this week darlings. The editor has indulged me. Now that doesn't happen very often. He said, 'Write something Christmassy', in that masterful tone he has. 'And keep it clean!' Well, I can't think what he means. But it does allow me to go all misty eyed with memories of the festive season with the family gathered round. The thing is, and I expect you are the same, I always then think of those who are missing - the dear ones now lost to us. And that gives me the chance to tell you about a wonderful idea I've discovered - it's called Memory Stars.



From 1 December, and from a number of venues in town, you can pick up a Memory Star for free. There's space on the back for you to write a name, short message or dedication to someone - a star to you - that you really miss. Then you take the star along to the three Christmas trees waiting in Manor Mews, at the bottom of Bridge Street, and hang it on a branch. Now what could be nicer than that?

Memory Stars are being organised by those caring people who are turning the town into a Dementia Friendly Community, working with the lovely lady from Shades of White in Manor Mews who first came up with idea. I love them all for giving me such a warm feeling at a cold time of year. If you feel the same do pop a coin in their collection box when you see it.

Kisses, Heidi

**St Ives Choral Society Christmas Concert**  
**with pupils from Thorndown School**  
**Saturday December 14th**  
**6.30pm in the Free Church**

**Tickets £8 (accompanied under-12s free)**  
**from Fair Trade Shop in the Free Church**

## Dolphin update

Following the news (see RP47) that the owner of the Dolphin is considering using the car park for lorries *The Riverporter* contacted HDC's Planning Dept. to find out if this was possible. An informal view was that it is likely that a change of use would be required for a lorry park to be established at The Dolphin. However they also said unless a complaint about a possible breach is made then it is not something that the council can act on or look into on a formal basis.

## Illuminating

While the town's Christmas lights brought a mixed reception again this year at least the Market Hill tree was planted up straight and our famous bridge too has received a bit of attention this year. The balcony has been fitted



with a pair of projectors that project an abstract image on to the stonework creating an interesting effect. People had commented that looking at the town from the Harrison road bridge there is no sign of Christmas - perhaps a missed opportunity. Maybe the new idea on the bridge may remedy that.

Concern was raised about the organisation of the entertainment at the light switch-on, as some of the children taking part on the stage had to change into their costumes outside, which considering the cold weather was not ideal. One group taking part said that they had tried to find out details of where to change but could not get a reply from the organisers and said they had ended up changing in the bus station, which was cold and open to the public. They said they wouldn't come back again, having turned down the opportunity of dancing at the Cambridge Lights event.

## Resignation of Cambridgeshires PCC

Speculation has been mounting about the details of Jason Ablewhite's reason to resign, both from his PCC and District Councillor roles. The latter will mean an election in St Ives East ward for a replacement, probably in the new year.

## More changes at Hunts DC

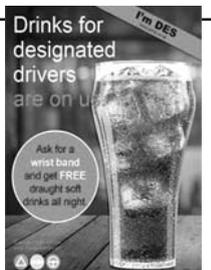
It seems that one change often creates more. Shortly after Jason Ablewhite resigned from his HDC role, Cllr Bull announced his intention to stand down as Executive Leader on 4 December. This vacancy has now been filled by Mr Ablewhite's colleague Ryan Fuller, who was the Deputy Executive Leader. The position is a political one made by the 'ruling' party. The Conservative group held a meeting last week to select their new leader but we understand it didn't take long to decide as there was only one candidate.

## Disappointing St Ives...

More than 45 pubs and venues across Cambridgeshire have signed up to support the campaign to crackdown on drink drivers this month.

As part of the 'I'm DES' scheme participating venues give free soft drinks to designated drivers. The initiative, led by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Road Safety Partnership (CPRSP), will aim to reduce the number of road traffic collisions caused by drink driving during the festive period. A total of 46 venues have signed up to the scheme this year - more than triple the number compared to last year. The Huntingdon area participating venues are... The Greystones, Sawtry; The Pig N Falcon, St Neots; The Eltisley, Eltisley; The Axe and Compass, Hemingford Abbots; Samuel Pepys, Huntingdon; Cromwells, Huntingdon; The Lounge, St Ives.

It's a great idea to cut down on drink driving and considering that St Ives has one of the liveliest night time economies it's a shame that only one venue has signed up to the scheme.



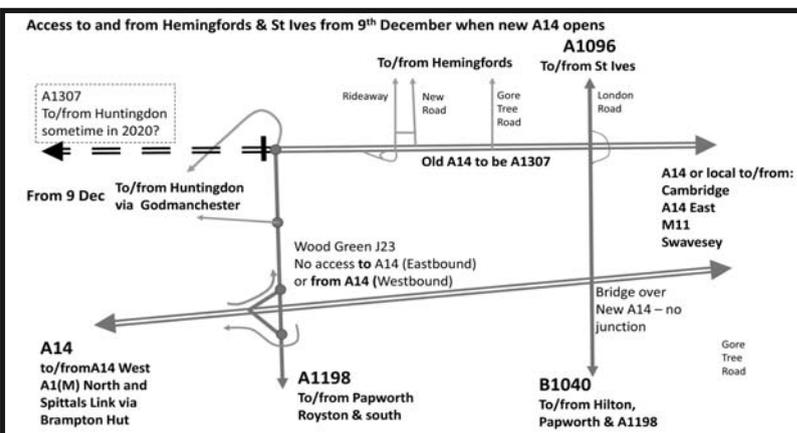
## Rousing send-off for Jerry!

Saturday night saw regulars and friends of the Oliver Cromwell come together to give landlord Jerry Schonfeldt a rousing send off he won't easily forget. Jerry has run the 'Ollie' for 17 years and has gained many friends along the way and been a great supporter of town events, so it was only fitting that everyone would come together to mark his retirement. The evening included a presentation from the regulars. When Jerry asked what they had bought him they said... 'The White Hart!' a bit of a sing along followed and the party went on 'till late.

The new team at the Ollie have taken over this week Joseph Ovenden and Jemma Yeowark. Joseph was formally a supervisor in The Cock in Hemingford and Jemma managed an upmarket bar in Chamonix France so they will be well used to the St Ives clientele! Joseph is a trained Chef and they will be introducing a new menu immediately with the added bonus of food being served in the evening too. *The Riverporter* wishes them well for the future.

## Large Police presence causes concern at 3.22am

On Saturday 23 November at 3.22am around 15 police cars and 25 officers, some armed, attended an incident in Adams Drive. Police confirmed to *The Riverporter* that because of the concern for a man's welfare, officers, including those from the Armed Policing Unit, attended 46 Adams Drive, St Ives, where Daniel Diaz Sevilla was arrested and later charged with attempting to cause grievous bodily harm, affray and assault by beating. He was due to appear at Peterborough Magistrates Court on the 25 November.



HYPERION

## Entries Invited for Our Winter Fine Art & Antiques Sale on 14<sup>th</sup> December



To Include a Good Collection of Fine Jewellery, Silver, Wines and Whisky



High Quality Ladies Platinum Diamond claw set Diamond Line bracelet 4.8ct total estimated weight, 16.9g  
**SOLD £3000**

Ornellaia 25 2010 Case of 6 Bottles  
**SOLD £750**



Rare Glenmorangie 1978 Single Malt Whisky Tain L'Hermitage Finish with Paper label 70cl  
**SOLD £450**



Good quality William IV Silver Foliate Wine Funnel London 1823 by George Burrows II, 155g total weight  
**SOLD £250**



Next Antiques & Interiors Sale: Saturday 4th January 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



Online BIDDING  
easy Live Auction.com  
LIVE AUCTIONS



the-saleroom.com  
live auctions

# The Riverporter Cartoons

A great gift for Christmas. The complete collection of cartoons that have featured in *The Riverporter* over the last 2 years.

Remember the 'Highlights' and 'Lowlights' of serious news reporting.

## Eriks Wit and Wisdom

is a fun read and a bargain at just **£2.50** or 2 for a fiver!

Available at ArtsFEST 7/8 December in The Corn Exchange



Reprinted from the St Ives Award Winning Newspaper *The Riverporter*

The Rotary Club of St Ives

## Life Education Bus at Thorndown

According to Rotary Club President Iain Martin, here is one of the very best examples of how the money that is so generously donated during our fundraising events, especially the Santa Sleigh, is spent.

Once again we have been supporting Thorndown School with funding for the Life Education Programme which delivers age appropriate drug and health education, designed to support and enhance schools' PSHE curriculum. Our picture shows President Iain Martin presenting a cheque for £1,335 to Head Teacher Vicci Godbold, with Louise Augarde from LE Cambridge and Peterborough and Year 4 pupils who attended the programme.



ADVERTORIAL

# Is Christmas the best time to sell your property?

Mike Ellis of Ellis Winters explains when to sell



We always get asked 'when is the best time to sell' and the answer is never straight forward, it very much depends on a seller's individual circumstances.

Many people like to be settled before Christmas, others like to be in by Easter or maybe before the new school year in September.

Whatever the reason we always say the same thing - take your time, do things properly and of course instruct the right estate agent.

Over the last few weeks we have seen more properties coming on to the market in all different price ranges, with people trying to take advantage of the busy market before the count-down to the Christmas holidays begins in earnest.

It usually takes three months to complete a purchase which means that a buyer finding their ideal home now should be moving in 2020.

We also see more buyers coming from further afield for the same reason and to settle their children into a new area in the new year. But really, there isn't a right or wrong time of year to sell, it just has to be right for you.

We all lead such busy lives and no one knows what's round the corner, whether it's a job move or up-sizing, a new baby or downsizing, this can happen at any time and whatever is happening in the property market, as long as you buy and sell at the same time, you won't be caught out by a sudden move in the market.



St Ives Giant Snowman - Chill Bill on Holt Island

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](mailto:info@elliswinters.co.uk) | [www.elliswinters.co.uk](http://www.elliswinters.co.uk)

# The Riverporter

is published by Ron Westrip and John Souter. email: [editor@theriverporter.uk](mailto:editor@theriverporter.uk) [www.theriverporter.uk](http://www.theriverporter.uk)

The publishers reserve the right to determine the content of the publication. © copyright reserved