

The Riverporter

ST IVES AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER

Issue 54: 6 March 2020

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Town Meeting moves to the Burleigh Hill Community Centre



Don't miss the Town Meeting Tomorrow at 6pm

Residents will have the opportunity to question Town Councillors and the Police about issues affecting them at this year's Annual Town Meeting being held this Saturday.

The Question Time style meeting begins at 6pm following a Community Fair, for community groups to show what they do and, hopefully, attract members and support.

The Fair starts at 4pm with the Annual Town Meeting commencing at 6pm, which according to the regulations is the earliest time it can happen.

For the past two years the meeting was held in the Corn Exchange, with this new format to attract a bigger audience, which seems to have been successful.

Last year the panel included the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC), County and District Councillors, Jo Lancaster MD of Huntingdonshire District Council as well as Town Councillors and the Town Clerk.

It was well attended the meeting was lively and raised many issues, although several of them seem to come along each year. It will be interesting to see what effect, if any, changing the venue will have.

The theme for this year's meeting is **Combating Climate Change** and as a result Sheryl French, who is Cambridgeshire County Council's 'Climate Change' Director will be in attendance.

Sadly this year the panel does not include any County or District Councillors, which, considering the District Council's Leader is a St Ives Councillor and that there was a by-election in this very ward just a couple of weeks ago, is disappointing.

The panel will be:
Cllr Daniel Rowe (Town Mayor)

Sgt Alice Draper (Cambs Police)
Alison Benfield (St Ives Town Clerk)
Town Cllr Nick Dibben (Planning) and Sheryl French.

Groups attending the Community Fair are:

- 1 St Ives Neighbourhood Plan
- 2 CALMtown
- 3 The Waste Minimisation Team
- 4 St Ives Eco Action
- 5 Cambridgeshire County Council - Climate Change
- 6 FEST
- 7 KICK Youth
- 8 Friends of Holt Is. Nature Reserve
- 9 The Civic Society
- 10 Citizens Advice Rural Cambs
- 11 St Ives in Bloom
- 12 Hunts Volunteer Centre
- 13 Norris + Friends of the Norris
- 14 Dementia Friends.
- 15 St Ives Town Team
- 16 Cambs, Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust

Mindfulness Calendar helps local groups

Dee Loakes, who runs mindfulness classes at the Norris Museum, teamed up with the St Ives Town Team to produce a 2020 Calendar about the year in our town. The Mindfulness Calendar featured pictures of local events throughout the year and raised a fabulous £400 for local groups.



Dee presents a cheque for £200 to Sam Thomas of the Dementia Singing Cafe.

What is Mindfulness?

Mindfulness is a term that has become quite common recently and Mindfulness classes are clearly quite popular, so we thought we ought to find out what exactly Mindfulness is. One definition is:

Mindfulness is the basic human ability to be fully present, aware of where we are and what we're doing, and not overly reactive or overwhelmed by what's going on around us. While mindfulness is something we all naturally possess, it's more readily available to us when we practice on a daily basis. Whenever you bring awareness to what you're directly experiencing via your senses, or to your state of mind via your thoughts and emotions, you're being mindful. And there's growing research showing that when you train your brain to be mindful, you're actually remodelling the physical structure of your brain.

The goal of mindfulness is to wake up to the inner workings of our mental, emotional, and physical processes.

'This boy sure can play the blues'

B.B.King talking about Dr Ika.

**Dr. Ika's Pharmacy • The Lounge 8pm
Sunday 20th September
Free Admission**



Russian Neuroscientist to play at Festival

Dr. Ika started to play piano aged 7 and classical guitar at 12. After listening to the likes of B.B. King, Ika discovered the blues and the electric guitar, but everything was against him playing it in the Soviet System. The KGB was after him for listening to 'enemy' radios like the BBC and the Voice of America and the police were cutting his long hair. While waiting for a better future Ika became a Doctor of Biology and earned a Bachelor's Degree in music. From 1986-89 Ika lived and worked as a scientist in Sweden and played with top jazz and blues musicians such as Jimmy Smith, Tom Levin and the legendary B.B.King - an unusual claim to fame for a neurosurgeon.

The collapse of the Soviet system brought about anarchy, corruption, extreme poverty and the rise of nationalism instead of democracy, freedom and prosperity.

Miraculously in 1993, Dr Ika and his wife

were awarded Royal Society Fellowships to carry out research at Cardiff University. They left Georgia for good and emigrated to the UK where Ika started to play funk-fusion, a totally different type of music in the rave clubs together with heavy house dance DJ Paul Lyons. Soon he was sharing the stage with such top DJ's as Sasha and Carl Cox.

Dr Ika now lives in Hertfordshire and performs about 200 gigs a year. He has shared the stage with Gary Moore, Stan Webb, The Yardbirds, Papa George and Sonny Black.

The trio 'Dr. Ika's Pharmacy' was established in 2012 and plays a mean Rock Blues. Dr Ika is joined by Ivan Hoe on drums and Andrew Heart on bass and vocals. Both accomplished musicians who have played with many great artists. **The provisional Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival 2020 line-up can be seen at**

www.theoldriverportstives.co.uk

There's a new choir in town. And it's a special one



The St Ives Dementia Friendly Community is proud to announce the launch of the Riverport Singers – a choir for people living with dementia, their carers, families and friends.

The first rehearsal was held in the Corn Exchange last week led by the founder Agi Peach and it was a rousing success. Within minutes Agi had the new members singing their hearts out, harmonising and stamping and swaying with gusto!

Rehearsals will continue weekly on Thursdays at 10 am until 11.30 and the first concert is already planned for Sunday 10th May in the Corn Exchange. Save the date because it promises to be a very special evening. And if you fancy getting in on the act do get in touch with Agi on 07757 811802 or agipeach@icloud.com.

Her motto is **SING, SMILE and SHINE!** Says it all really ...

HEIDI POINTS THE FINGER

Hello luvies! Remember my rubbish story last time? I reported some dreadful fly tipping to the District Council. Well they have now told me something interesting. They went to check it, discovered some clues that identified the 'tipper' – two businesses in the town – and invited them in for an interview! Well! It just shows what us country lane strollers can do. In fact, as this is a popular tipping spot, with more reports – even better with photographs of vehicles involved – the more able the Council will be to prosecute! Let's get out there and do it. Remember the portal I used to make my report?

It'smy.huntingdonshire.gov.uk.

But there's more! The reason I got so upset is that this blot on our beautiful landscape is on our stretch of a national long-distance footpath, the Great Ouse Valley Way (OVV). Just look at the state of it. Would you want to stroll along there? Nor me. And why the giant Lego blocks? Beats me.

This stretch of the OVV from Holywell leads to Meadow Lane but is now impassable. The path is overgrown, forcing you to walk on the highly dangerous road, and is not properly signed. But now comes the good news. Those lovely caring (volunteer)



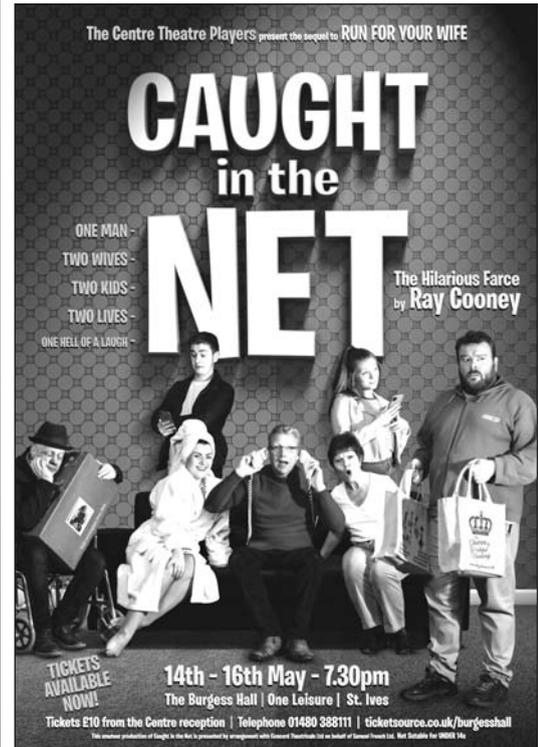
From our Environmental Correspondent Heidi N. de Tries

Above: The dreadful state of the path as described by Heidi.

people that make up the Great Ouse Valley Trust (GOVT) have talked to the County Council and our Town Council and there is a chance the path can be rerouted! Hooray! Take a look at the GOVT website www.greatousevalleytrust.org.uk to see all the other good things they are doing. They deserve our thanks and support. And, believe it or not, that's exactly what we can do this month in a well-known supermarket in town that issues green tokens. I think you can work that one out for yourselves!

Happy strolling! Love Heidi x

IT'S A FARCE



The Centre Theatre Players spring production will be the hilarious farce 'CAUGHT IN THE NET' written by Ray Cooney.

'Caught in the Net' is a sequel to 'Run for your Wife' which The Players presented with great success in 2012. The show will be staged in the Burgess Hall of One Leisure St. Ives on May 14th, 15th & 16th, the show starting at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £10 and available early March from the Centre reception, Telephone 388111 or on line www.burgesshall.net

Outstanding Ofsted for Children's Nursery

Staff at the St Ives 'farm nursery' are celebrating after Ofsted inspectors gave them an outstanding rating. Situated at The Old Pig Farm, it was described as a 'very special' and 'unique' nursery where 'children are truly at the heart' in the report.

This was the first inspection for the nursery after opening in 2017. The report continued 'Children make impressive progress in every aspect of their learning and development, especially those with special educational needs and/or disabilities.' The nursery is family run with the 'farm nursery' allowing children 'outside to raise animals and grow vegetables.

Right: Some of the 23 staff. Picture: MEADOW LANE CHILDREN'S NURSERY



Getting ready for Summer

With the dreadful wind and weather of recent weeks summer may seem like a long way off but for the many groups that arrange events, supporting our town to entertain residents and attract visitors, this time of year is very busy. The St Ives Town Team are steaming ahead with plans for music and art events and taking an active role in helping to keep our town looking at it's best for visitors.

One focus for them this year is the old Molise restaurant in Bridge St. The building is looking rather sad following the owner's attention on other town venues. The good news is that the owners have begun tidying it up and have given the Town Team permission to smarten up the windows with some of their prints. We're looking forward to seeing what they come up with.



SCREEN ST IVES

Corn Exchange, 8pm Thursday 5th Mar 2020

LEONARDO DiCAPRIO · BRAD PITT · MARGOT ROBBIE

Director: Quentin Tarantino
USA
2018
2h 41m

Tickets £5

Buy in advance Online or in the Corn Exchange

ONCE UPON A TIME IN... HOLLYWOOD

1969 Los Angeles, where everything is changing, as TV star Rick Dalton and his longtime stunt double Cliff Booth make their way around an industry they hardly recognise anymore. The ninth film from the writer-director features a large ensemble cast and multiple storylines in a tribute to the final moments of Hollywood's golden age.

THE RETURN OF THE TRAFFIC WARDENS?



having your say ...



Milly has found the training to be Sub-Editor a bit tiring so needs the odd nap! Erik is not amused.



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

Dear Erik,
Ref: HDC's budget proposals [Ed: see right]

The opposition groups at HDC were right to highlight concern over the use of reserves in the council's budget. In the last financial quarter the Operations Department, which deals with a large number of services, were given £210,000 from reserves and still had an overspend of £511,000.

Now that the council has set aside the sum of £200,000 for On-street Civil Parking Enforcement (to introduce traffic wardens) in the capital programme, will it now amend it's much heralded car parking strategy, which runs until 2023?

If this is a policy reversal how about reversing the new increase in charges in its own car parks?

Cllr Fuller said he wanted to see the opposition submit more detailed budget alternatives as they do at the County Council. Will he commit to giving them officer time to do this?

Independent District Cllr Tom Sanderson

Royal British Legion

The Royal British Legion is the leading charity for the welfare of serving and former members of the UK Armed Forces and their dependents.



The St Ives Branch of the Legion is here to help members of the service family, whatever their needs.

You can contact us at our monthly Pop-In centre in the St Ives public Library, from 11:00 to 13:00 hrs on the third Monday of every month. If you are, or you know of, a service veteran who might need our help, please pop in and see us.

Alternatively, you can call our contact centre on 0808 802 8080. Calls are free from most landlines and there will be someone there to talk to you 7 days a week from 08:00 to 20:00 hrs.

Finally, you can email us at stives.bcs@rbl.community

We'd love to hear from you.

Cambridge Living History Market

This weekend 7th & 8th March
10am - 5pm in the BURGESS HALL
For History Enthusiasts, by History Enthusiasts: A full day of entertainment and shopping with over 50 authentic stalls, live action, role play, Gladiator fights, storytelling and juggling
Entrance fee £2.50, Children go FREE!

Dear Erik,

Issue 52 of *The Riverporter* included a note suggesting that Stagecoach were bypassing the Hartford Marina stop. I do not know where that information came from but it would seem to be incorrect. If you go on the Stagecoach website you can find a document titled 'Busway Service Changes Spring 2020'. That includes the following paragraph:

"I've heard that the B isn't stopping at Hartford Marina anymore? No, the B will be stopping at Hartford Marina every half an hour throughout the day. On a Sunday to give RAF Wyton a service we've split the route, this means Hartford Marina will still be served on a Sunday, but every hour instead."

It may be that you know better but perhaps you would like to check with your informant and find out the true position. It would be most unfortunate if circulating incorrect information, you cause people unnecessary concern.

Yours faithfully, John Holmes

Dear John,

Thanks for your email. The information came to us from District Cllr Mike Humphrey and a bigger article appeared in the Hunts Post the following week, suggesting that the number of buses stopping would be reduced to 3 a day.

However since that article appeared it seems that Stagecoach has had a change of heart and have announced that buses will continue to stop at the marina, even though the current timetable doesn't show this. ED.

DO YOU LOVE SINGING?

Would you like to join Hemingford Ladies Choir in this our 25th Anniversary year? Perhaps you are feeling lonely or maybe need a break when working from home.

We are a small friendly Choir who rehearse each Wednesday from 10am to 11.30am in St Ives Free Church. We perform a couple of concerts a year to support local charities, under the direction of Lyndsay Benson, and we enjoy other social events.

We sing a wide variety of music from Elgar to John Denver, sometimes in four parts. It is helpful if you read music but not essential and we aim for rehearsals to be fun.

So come and join us to sing and make new friends or come to our next Concert on Sunday afternoon 31st May in St Ives Free Church in support of EACH.

To find out more contact Viv on
Email: vivienneoxley64@gmail.com
Tel: 01480 417925

Or follow us on Facebook

The Riverporter

NEWS UPDATES

Bizarre bus delay

Police received reports of a white VW car stuck on the Guided Busway track between St Ives and Fen Drayton, at 9:00 am on Sunday 1st March. All four of the car's tyres had burst and its airbag had been deployed, but no-one was with it. The bus company arranged recovery of the car and the delay was minimal. The bus company said that the car was not registered to anyone and was simply dumped, doesn't look a bad car to be abandoned...



So how are you getting on?



Joey & Jemma with their dog Wilson.

We're loving it!!! This was the response from Jemma and Joey the new landlords at the Oliver Cromwell pub in Wellington St. The couple are real St Ives locals and couldn't believe their luck when they got the opportunity to take over the 'Olli'.

They say the new way of life suits them perfectly. The Olli plays a major part in the local riverside community and locals were initially worried that change would alter the feel of the pub, but their worries were soon dispelled.

Jemma says that they are looking forward to putting their own stamp on the place perhaps starting next month but they don't want to change what the Oliver Cromwell is all about. They said Thursday music night is their favourite night and they are looking forward to showcasing special local bands through the year and of course the Olli plays an important roll in the town's Jazz and Blues Festival in September. They plan that the pub will soon start to offer food in the evenings as well as lunchtime and even offering Hog roasts in the Summer. Jemma said they want to thank all the locals for being so welcoming and supportive, they really appreciate it.

Big plans at Corn Exchange

Watch this space for news of more great events planned for later this year at our Corn Exchange. Our town centre venue has held many great events and shows in recent years and plans are in place to increase its appeal with greatly improved bars, amazing lighting and regular music events. It will add to the lively St Ives night-life and plans include both open free entry music nights and ticket only events, with some great bands appearing.



The amazing John Verity who will be playing at the Corn Exchange in this years Jazz & Blues Festival.

I05 new homes for old Vindis showroom?

The developers have said that the homes, including flats and houses, have raised floor levels, undercroft parking and a boardwalk for pedestrians to offset potential flooding. Developers believe they have resolved flooding issues after discussions lasting 2 years with HDC.

The allocation for housing was removed from recent versions of the Local Plan owing to an objection being raised by the Environment Agency. The scheme involves the replacement of the current building with 67 one and two bed flats, 14 two bed and 24 three and four bed houses.

Financial tightrope says councillor

Huntingdonshire District Council has just approved an increase in Council Tax of 2.6 per cent from April. According to Lib Dem Leader Cllr Sarah Conboy it is 'heavily reliant on the use of reserves'. She continued 'if we can't achieve the ambitious savings the council risks following the troubled council in Northamptonshire and losing our ability to control our finances'. Council leader, Conservative Cllr Ryan Fuller called the comment 'quite offensive' and an 'outrageous suggestion to make'. Cllr Gray, who presented the budget, defended a deficit of £1.25 million, saying the council was using reserves to cover a shortfall that it had accumulated for such a purpose. The County Council had already agreed an increase of 3.59 per cent, two per cent of which is specifically to fund social care.

Traffic Wardens to return?

HDC's budget seems to include a sum of £200,000 for On-street Civil Parking Enforcement [traffic wardens?] in the capital



programme. This is a reversal of their current parking policy and would need the support of the Police but it's good to know that the council is listening to concerns. Left: A familiar scene in St Ives, back in 1978, when this picture was taken. The man is Stan Reynolds, uncle of Cllr Kevin Reynolds. As yet we do not know the ladies name. Let us know if you do!

HYPERION

Entries Invited for Our Spring Fine Art & Antiques Sale on 14th March



To include a Good Collection of Silver, Coins, Local & International Art and Antiques & a collection of Records inc. the Beatles, Rare Motorhead etc
Sold In Our Last Fine Art Sale



A Impressive 18ct White Gold Diamond Set Tennis Bracelet 10.80ct Sold £9500



Collection of Assorted Records inc. The Police, Talking Heads, Bowie etc Sold £500



Cased and boxed 2015 2oz Perth Mint Australian \$200 Dollar Gold Coin Sold £2200

Next Antiques & Interiors Sale: Saturday 28th March starting at 11.00am

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



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ST IVES CHORAL SOCIETY

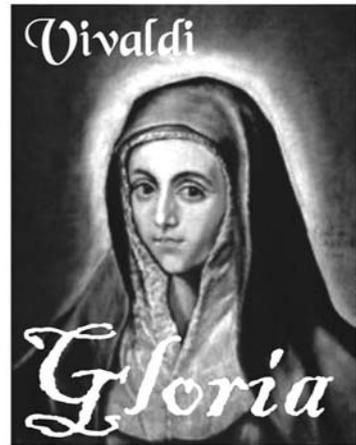
MUSICAL DIRECTOR
Charne Rochford

Soloists

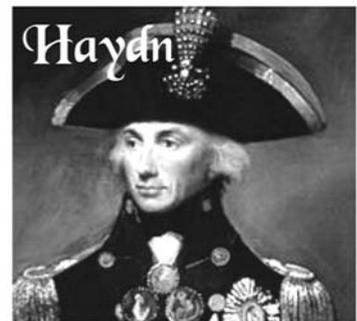
Soprano - Jane Harrington
Mezzo - Natalie Davies
Tenor - Alexander Pidgen
Bass - Jake Stevenson

Orchestra led by
Helen Medlock

Tickets Adults £12, £10 (concessions)
Available from
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/
st-ives-choral-society](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-ives-choral-society)
Registered Charity No. 291640



St Mary the Virgin
Godmanchester
Saturday 21 March 7.30pm



Nelson Mass

ADVERTORIAL

SELLING TIP

Mike Ellis of Ellis Winters explains ...



If you live on a High Street, in a non-estate location or have an individual property, you should consider naming your house to help it sell quicker. Instead of 63 High Street which doesn't tell a buyer anything about the property, call it a name that connects it in some way to its surroundings.

For instance, we named a former railwayman's cottage 'The Sidings' and an old police station 'The Coppers' after the copper beech trees in the garden. Buyers want to know the story of the property and are intrigued about its history so if a name focuses their attention and gets them through the front door, so much the better.

So get your creative juices flowing - find out more about the area where you live and look up the names of trees and flowers in your garden as they are always a good place to start.

Honeysuckle Cottage and Elm House are a few others we've helped to name over the years and before you ask, yes, they all sold.

But beware, don't go overboard, Ad-E-Nuf, Dun-Roaming & LeMeBe do nothing to entice a buyer through the door and should be avoided at all costs; also avoid mixing names together - whilst it may be fun for you and your family and friends, buyers won't feel the same connection unless

they have the same names and let's face it, how often is that likely to happen?

On average buyers take eight minutes to decide whether to buy a property once they get inside - what we're trying to do is get them over your threshold, so a great name is a good place to start.

Call 01480 388 888 and let us help get buyers over your threshold.



ellis&co winters

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