

The Riverporter

ST IVES AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER

Issue 65: 7 August 2020

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

In this issue: Shock News for *The Riverporter* (p3); Important news from the Town Council (p2); St Ives Rotary Fair (p2); Sail out of lockdown (p2); Heidi's Anatomy Lesson (p3)

'Eat out to help out' off to a flying start



A lot of St Ives restaurants has joined up for the Government's scheme to help our beleaguered restaurants kick start their businesses.

The idea is quite simple . . . If you eat out in any participating restaurant each person will get a 50% discount up to a value of £10 per person. So if two people eat out and your bill comes to £50 you would only pay £30 or if your bill only came to £25 you would only pay £12.50. The restaurant gets the rest direct from the Government.

Dine as many times as you like . . .

The scheme runs throughout August but only on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. However you can dine as many times as you want on those days - breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea and dinner.

The offer only applies to eating out and does not apply to takeaways and it does not include alcohol, but soft drinks are covered. So let's get out there and have some fun, and ask yourself when was the last time the Government bought you lunch?

The Riverporter has seen that there are 50 participating restaurants within 5 miles of St Ives. We have compiled the following list of participating St Ives restaurants but there may be many more. Please check with the restaurant before booking . . .

- Amore, 4 The Quay PE27 5AR
- Slepe Hall Hotel, Ramsey Road PE27 5RB
- Floods, 27 The Broadway PE27 5BX
- Montaz, 9 Merryland PE27 5ED
- Costa Coffee, 21 Crown Street PE27 5AB
- Oana's, 18 Bridge Street PE27 5EG
- The Seven Wives, Ramsey Road PE27 5RF
- Cherry Valley, 24 Bridge Street PE27 5EG
- Zzohanna, Bridge Street PE27 5UW
- River Tea Rooms, Bridge Street PE27 5UW
- The Taproom, 23 Bridge Street PE27 5EH
- Di Rita's, 21 Bridge Street PE27 5EH
- The Welcome, 2-4, East Street PE27 5PB
- The Golden Lion Hotel, Market Hill PE27 5AL
- PR MASSALA, Chapel Lane PE27 5DX
- Dolphin Hotel, London Road PE27 5EP
- Rockabilly, 6 Cromwell Mews PE27 5HJ
- The Sultan, 16 London Road PE27 5ES
- McDonald's, Harrison Way PE27 4AE
- Costa Coffee, Harrison Way PE27 4AE
- Subway St Ives, Harrison Way PE27 4AE
- Eric's Fish & Chips, Harrison Way PE27 4AE
- St Ives (Hunts) Golf Club PE27 4AD



Several St Ives restaurant are off to a great start and their owners will be delighted if the weather holds up for outdoor dining. But be aware some national newspapers are reporting that diners are misunderstanding the rules.



READ ON-LINE AT WWW.THERIVERPORTER.UK



Mayor & Deputy 'Floated Away'

Mayor Jonthan Pallant, accompanied by the Mayoress and their two daughters and Deputy Mayor Pasco Hussain spent most of a day travelling around the town judging the many 'Driveway Floats' in July's St Ives Carnival.

The Carnival organisers said that if all those taking part were actually mobile, it would have formed the longest Carnival procession to date. They really did have a great turn out and we know it was thoroughly enjoyed by the judges. Mayor Pallant told *The Riverporter* 'It was an absolute delight to help judge the 'house floats' at the St Ives Carnival this year, with the Mayoress and the Deputy Mayor.

We were all blown away by the efforts put in by everyone who took part - from a recreation of Nashville to a Simpson's Themed Nudist Beach and to a little slice of Venice in Italy.

In the end though, we all agreed first prize had to go to the recreation of an Ocean Cruise - including cruise ship, ocean waves, dancing lobsters, rum bar and fog horn!

It was also wonderful to see members of the community joining together to produce joint entries, and I hope the whole experience has brought us all a little closer together in these troubling times.

My thanks go to the Carnival Committee for the brilliant organisation - I know how much work goes in behind the scenes to organise an event like this and I want to pass on my thanks on behalf of the whole town.'



Calling All Local Artists and Craftspeople



The Rotary Club of St Ives is holding a Rotary Fair on Sunday 6th September at Slepe Hall Hotel in St Ives from 11am to 3pm, and we are looking for local artists and craftspeople, who may like to book a stall at this event, to sell and promote their products and work.

Up to twenty covered open-air stalls are available, and anyone interested, or requiring more information, is asked to make contact via email at fstocker@stivesrotarycamb.org.uk or leave a message on the Rotary Club's facebook page.

The event will be run in full compliance with the current Government Covid 19 regulations, and attendance-flows will be managed. We shall be delighted to provide full event details upon request, and look forward to hearing from as many of our local craftspeople as possible.

ALDI opens its doors!

Our new St Ives Aldi store opened its doors yesterday on Thursday 6th August

During these difficult CoVid 19 times it cannot be easy launching a new store, but the Riverporter wishes them good luck and we are hoping some of the first new Aldi shoppers will drop us a line to let us know what they think . . .



Important information from St Ives Town Council ST IVES COVID-19 COMMUNITY SUPPORT HUB

Since April the Community Hub has been operating to assist residents of the town. We have circulated three separate information booklets to all households over that period. The last two booklets had a 'Red Hand' symbol on the back cover for those in need of assistance, who were unable to contact the Hub directly, to display in their windows. A network of Street Wardens also voluntarily patrolled their neighbourhood areas specifically to look for the Red Hands.

Very fortunately, this service was only required on a limited number of occasions. Since the gradual releasing of lock down, requests for assistance generally have greatly diminished. It has been decided, therefore, to cease the Red Hands alerting system. We plan to keep open the Hub Helpline for the rest of the year and possibly longer dependant upon local need.

Please continue to use the telephone number or email if you are in need of any assistance – we will still be here. Tel: 01480 88 43 43
Email: clerk@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk

Friends of Holt Island

The Friends have announced that their new Chairman is former Town Mayor Daniel Rowe.

The group thanked Helen Whatnell for the years she spent in steering the The Friends successfully and effectively.

The Riverporter hopes to hear from Daniel about his plans for the Friends over the next few years and how it can operate under Covid conditions in our next issue.

Unhappy 6th anniversary for historically important building



When an application for a bar licence for the Octagon building by the bus station went to HDC in 2014, many feared the worst. After a campaign by Save the Octagon money was raised to restore the building for community benefit, however local District Councillors renegotiated on a deal in 2016 and despite £50,000 of taxpayers money being spent on it, it remains a store for bins (see recent picture, left). Other requests by established businesses, to use the building deemed surplus to requirements by the HDC in 2014, have also been thwarted and there is no mention of how the building will be used in the latest Masterplan for St Ives.

WOT NO BINS?



Covid 19 precautions, and the removal of some rubbish bins, has created more space for St Ives visitors to view the Town Team's Riverport information panel!

A couple of issues ago we reported that areas of the town were to receive new, larger rubbish bins from HDC, that would help recycle our street rubbish, but they have so far failed to appear.

We checked with our hard working Town Clerk who admitted she was as mystified as us why they had not been installed, so we called HDC's and asked them why the new bins still are missing after nearly four weeks. A very helpful person in their Press Department admitted they had no idea but said they would find out and get back to us. Alas two days later we have heard nothing.

However, in the meantime we have noticed that several of the town centre's existing bins have disappeared . . . But helpful residents now leave their rubbish in the ex-bins' location (just for old time sake no doubt! - see below).



Sail out of 'lockdown'

As well as restaurants re-opening, other businesses are re-starting, albeit with different operating methods. St Ives Electric Riverboats, which normally offers cruises with their own skippers, is now offering self-drive options for family groups.

St Ives Electric Riverboat Co

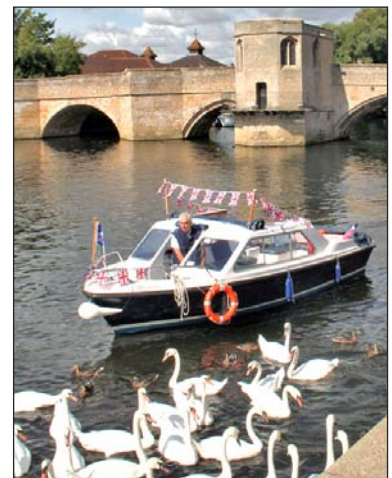
- Card Payments only ... No cash
- Boats cleansed after each trip
- Max 8 people (extended family group per boat)
- Self drive boats (max 1 hour)
- We can now offer chauffeur driven trips

For bookings contact:

Tel: 07906 257308

email: riverboats@hotmail.co.uk

www.electricriverboat.co.uk



The Riverporter is published by Ron Westrip and John Souter.

email: editor@theriverporter.uk www.theriverporter.uk

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



having your
say ...

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

Hi Erik,

I noticed a comment on Facebook that your wonderful newspaper is for grumpy old men to get rants off their chest.

Well, if that were true, I for one am pleased! After all us old geezers do need to have somewhere to moan - young people have taken over the internet to make their often, rude and unsubstantiated remarks.

So todays grump is this . . . I hear townsfolk, visitors and market stallholders complaining that there are no usable Council-run public toilets in the town centre!

What we need to know from the Town Council is, when will your toilets at the bus station be in use again, and stench-free? When will you get round to solving the problem of this essential amenity in the town centre? Next week? Next month? Next year? **Doberman**

Dear Erik,

I was pleased to see you had spotted the new defibrillator on the side of Nuts Bistro and reported on it in your latest edition of that fine newspaper, The Riverporter.



You wondered about its provenance. Well, it has been donated by the the Rotary Club of St Ives. The Town Council are, technically, the owners, but the Rotary Club had the idea and financed its purchase and installation. Nuts Bistro was more than happy to be the host and was very co-operative and helpful throughout.

We are in the process of producing a plaque to put above it and hope to have an official 'Commissioning Ceremony' in due course. I hope this helps! More power to your journalistic elbow. **Iain Martin** Rotary Club of St Ives

From our Environmental Correspondent Heidi N. de Tries

HEIDI EXPLAINS ANATOMY

Dears, how exciting! Ed has just called. A reader is in dire need of some basic anatomy education.

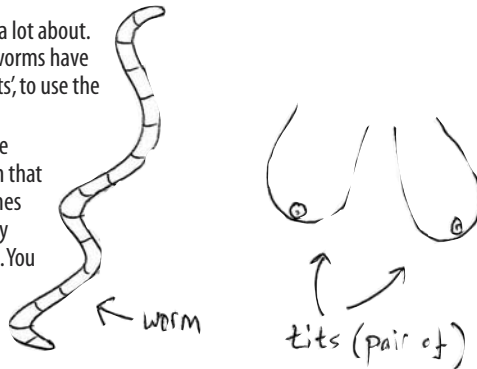
Can I help?

Well, it is something I do know rather a lot about. The poor thing appears to think that worms have mammary glands, or what she calls 'tits', to use the vernacular, which she did.

Darling, I have news for you. Worms are invertebrates. Perhaps I should explain that too. They are animals without backbones and are pretty unintelligent. Mammary glands are found on female mammals. You have tits darling because you are a female mammal, but worms? No. Here's a little drawing to help you tell the difference.

So there we have it. No more confusion. See how useful those biology lessons could have been? I'm happy to help with any other readers' anatomical confusions. Just send them in to our lovely Ed, who has perfect anatomy!

Byeas dears. **Love Heidi x**



The Riverporter

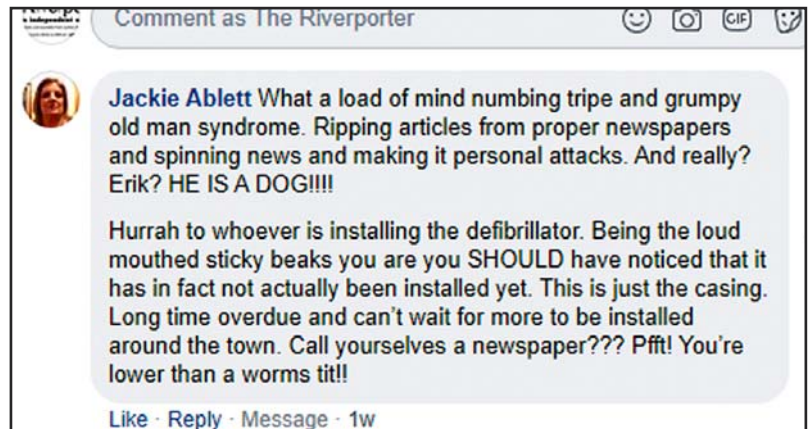
Voted Best local newspaper of the year 2019 in the Cambridge Building Society's Community Magazine Awards and as 'Lower than a worm's tit!' by Jackie Ablett.

Shock news for The Riverporter

Co-workers, here at *The Riverporter*, were shocked following the publication of our last issue.

Many readers may be familiar with our local St Ives social media sites. One of these, *St Ives discussions and rants*, carried the comment (below) from Jackie Ablett on our Riverporter newspaper that appeared to announce, angrily, that ERIK IS IN FACT A DOG!

Here at the Riverporter office we were shocked at this revelation and have requested a meeting with Erik to explain himself and why he keeps hanging around the office fridge. We're not sure of the dog remark but he is looking sheepish.



Ms Ablett did go on to give *The Riverporter* a true accolade and we can now announce to the world that we are not only Cambridgeshire's Local Newspaper of the Year 2019 but we are also 'Lower than a worm's tit!' We suspect that several local politicians will vehemently agree. . .

NEWS UPDATE

'There's Safety in Neighbours!'

Neighbourhood Watch has launched a new campaign aimed to help us keep our homes and neighbourhoods safe now that lockdown is easing and there are more people out and about again. The campaign is called 'Safety in Neighbours' and provides practical tools and advice to combat burglary. The idea is that life is safer when you know your neighbours - with more people looking out for unusual behaviour on our streets, burglaries can be prevented.

The following link has guidance, practical advice, a burglary-prevention toolkit, and lots more: <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/crime-prevention/crime-prevention-toolkits/burglaries>

More worrying news for dog owners

The Riverporter has been made aware of police reports from several other regional and national newspapers of a very worrying rise in people stealing dogs. Papers are carrying stories of house break-ins and even break-ins at dog kennels and large numbers of dogs being stolen. In some areas of the country people have been confronted in the streets with threats of violence if they don't hand over their dog.

Local thefts reported to police include:

Two cocker spaniels were stolen on May 3 from Bluntisham. They were found and returned to their rightful owners following a warrant in Willingham on June 5. Nine dogs were stolen from Horingsea with one being found close by shortly afterwards on June 11. One cocker spaniel was stolen from Wilburton on June 23 and there was an attempted theft in Haddenham on July 3.

Police advise that if you are offered a dog or puppy from anyone that you suspect may not be legitimate please report it. . . The theft of a loved family pet can be totally heart breaking but if we all remain vigilant we can help stop this heartless crime.

Latest News

A recent report that chalk marks in the street possibly indicate that a dog lives there, is not true according to the police who are taking the matter very seriously.

Report a stolen dog

If your dog is stolen then it's vital to report it to police by calling 101, but owners should also consider: Reporting the theft to your local authority dog warden and notify your microchip database provider.

Reporting the theft to www.doglost.co.uk or their Facebook page as they co-ordinate thefts for each county and offer advice and support.



Cambridgeshire Police say chalk markings outside houses are not being linked to dog thefts across the region. Picture: Twitter @CambsCops

The Courtyard

The new place to hangout with its bohemian vibe and relaxed atmosphere. Serving the best coffee and smoothies in town with lots of lovely things for you to discover with every visit. Browse our open courtyard, we have 22 exciting and unique independent sellers from florists to vintage clothing and gifts for friends and pets alike.



@souglyitscute.uk

**Next door to
Hyperion Auction Room**

Open 7 days a week
9-5 Monday to Saturday and
10-4 Sunday



We are
changing
venue!

We're re-launching our *St Ives Slimming World* groups at a new venue!

The Burleigh Hill Centre

Constable Road, St Ives, PE27 3ER

- Same amazing groups!
- Same smiley faces to welcome you!
- Please contact us to find out how to book your place at one of our fabulous sessions!

Tuesday am	Kathie 07772 868472	From 11.08.20
Thursday pm/Friday am	Di 07554 027640	From 13.08.20
Saturday am	Becs 07887 573336	From 15.08.20

ADVERTORIAL

Where's it all heading?



ellis&co
winters

The simple answer is, no one really knows, but, in typical media fashion, they'll be speculation, stories made up with no worry about consequence and as soon as one story becomes boring they'll move on like locusts looking for the next one to devour.

Maybe the more prudent thing to do is report news, after all isn't that what newspapers are for, tell me what's happening and why, report it to me, give me the facts so that I can make up my own mind.

So, I thought I'd give you some news and of course, leave it to you to decide what's best for you to do.

So here it is, Property, the facts.

The market is busy! The Government have made a good decision regarding stamp duty making it cheaper to buy houses, Building Societies aren't sure what to do about interest rates, but there are still some very good fixed rates around.

If you're on a variable rate speak to a financial advisor, they may be able to save you money, they don't charge very much and it doesn't take long to sort out. There are people out viewing houses, there are houses coming on the market and there are houses selling. All in all, I think things are ok.

I don't know how long this is likely to last and there are rainclouds ahead in the shape of the end of furlough on

1st October, Brexit at the end of the year and a second, third or fourth spike of coronavirus. All or none of these may materialise as a problem, we can only deal with them as they come along.

As a small independent business, we'll hope

for the best and plan for the worst. We are more able to move quickly or change direction as the need arises. We'll leave the speculating to the media and in the meantime, we'll do the best we can for our clients and try to put as much money as possibly back into the economy.

If you looking to move or would like us to recommend a mortgage advisor please contact one of our local offices.

