

The Riverporter

ST IVES AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER

Issue 88: 25 June 2021

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

A truly amazing project by truly amazing people

When passed the invite to mark the completion of the Berman park Groundwork project I was expecting a formal handover with a polite handshake from the Mayor but really this project is a true community achievement by a team of amazing people who, in many cases, have had to overcome severe personal adversity to work on this lovely project. A project that will benefit all of us that visit the Thicket and the new Burman Park. During the presentation of the finished project, each of the team volunteers spoke briefly of how they came to be working together and what the achievement meant to them personally. I couldn't help notice that our new Town Mayor, Pasco Hussain, was deeply moved as each gave their account of how they had come together and what the finished work meant to them. The following text is the official press release issued by the organiser.

The Thicket has been revamped by volunteers

A group of volunteers have just completed work to help improve the thicket in St Ives, as part of an employment and skills project – Green Recovery. The volunteers made access to the thicket safer for the community by removing the old barbed wire fencing along the pathway, clearing the drainage ditches, and installing a new stepped pathway. The pathway leads to a new natural picnic area which members of the local community and visitors can now enjoy. They also repainted the bridge and planted 10,000 bluebell bulbs throughout the woodland, making the area more aesthetically pleasing for all.

Andrea Finbow, Senior Project Officer for Groundwork East said 'The team of volunteers have been extremely dedicated to the project and passionate about conserving and improving this valuable green space in St Ives which, at the same time, has helped to improve their own wellbeing by allowing volunteers to meet new people, be part of a team and be around nature, learning new skills and learning about conservation and biodiversity in the thicket.'

The volunteers were presented with their certificate of achievement by Pasco Hussain, Mayor of St Ives who joined them at their celebration event on Thursday 24 June 2021. The project is run by community and environmental charity

Groundwork East, in partnership with Huntingdonshire District Council and funded by the government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund. The fund is being delivered by The National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership with Natural England and the Environment Agency.

Another Green Recovery Project will be starting in St Ives in the new year and Groundwork will be looking to recruit more volunteers to join us for this. For further information contact Andrea.Finbow@Groundwork.org.uk

About Groundwork

We work across the UK helping communities find practical solutions to the challenges they face. We provide training and create jobs, reduce energy and waste, re-connect people with nature and transform whole neighbourhoods. For more information visit www.groundwork.org.uk/east



THE RIVERPORTER COVERING THE NEWS OTHER PAPERS DON'T



Chapel Arts @ the Corn Exchange

Welcomes Harpist Ruth Holden

Ruth Holden is due to return for the season's second Chapel Arts concert on Friday 30th July.

This is the first chance for Ruth to return since a most enjoyable concert in 2019. She is a well recognised harpist, having spent 10 years with the Royal Shakespeare Company and the English Touring Opera and was harpist for the award winning musical 'The Phantom of the Opera', until the pandemic stopped all performances.

The concert will be held in the Corn Exchange

Riverport Café Bar from 7.30pm until 9pm. Tickets are available from ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives and cost £10. Due to current restrictions they are limited in number, so it is advisable to purchase soon to avoid disappointment. For full details of these and other entertainments please visit the Town Team website at: www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk

Also on each month . . .

CORN Exchange Presents

OPEN MIC NIGHT

From 7:30 to 10:30pm Starting 23rd July

Just turn up plug-in and play

Sessions held upstairs in the New Corn Exchange Riverport Bar staged area LET'S GET THE MUSIC GOING AGAIN

SCREEN ST IVES presents

8pm Thursday
15 July 2021
Doors open with licensed bar from 7pm



SUMMERLAND

GEMMA ARTERTON GUGU MBATHA-RAW PENELOPE WILTON TOM COURTENAY

LOVE. MAGIC. HOPE.



12A

Screen 1
Tickets Only
£5

Available online at screenstives.org.uk and in advance at the Corn Exchange. Book early as seating limited due to COVID restrictions

Sore losers?

The Riverporter has been made aware of leaflets, issued by the Huntingdon Conservative Party attacking recently elected independent County Councillors.

The leaflets were only distributed in the wards of these councillors and seemed to be a smear tactic, following the Conservatives losing overall control of the County Council. According to the popular Mayor of St Neots, Stephen Ferguson, one of the independent councillors, it may well have 'destroyed whatever slim chance of victory' the Tory candidate has in the coming by election for the St Neots East Ward that was vacated by Dr Nik Johnson the new Combined Authority Mayor.

The leaflets, we have seen, all have a common thread - to discredit the individuals for agreeing to work with the Liberal Democrats and Labour to run the County Council. Steve Count, the Tories Leader on the County Council wrote on his Facebook page: 'As leader of the largest group, I therefore reached out to the other groups, to suggest we try and work together under a shared system, as we did once before... The offer remains, collaboration rather than confrontation.' That offer doesn't seem so genuine now.

This may not be at first glance a 'St Ives matter', but we cannot but consider this an odd approach for the Tories to take considering that many of them including Ryan Fuller, their Leader, stood as an independent at the last St Ives Town Council elections and that the 'Independent Town Councillor' Rianna D'Suza stood as a Tory in May's District elections.

The leaflets against independent councillors Derek Giles (St Neots)

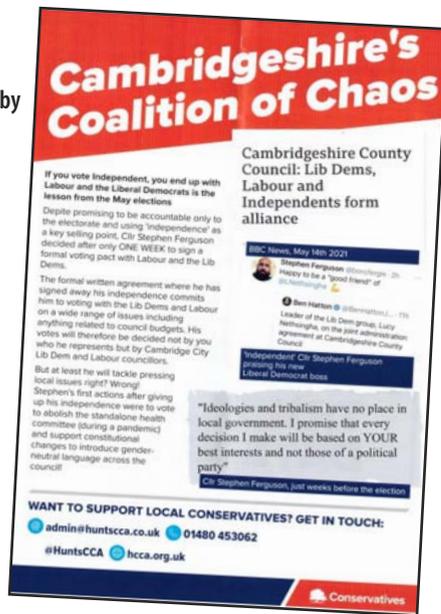
and Tom Sanderson (Huntingdon) also tried to discredit them for accepting roles at the County. Cllr Giles was criticised for accepting the post of Chairman and Cllr Sanderson for Chairing the 'Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee'.

The criticism included them accepting the allowances that go with those posts. Yet another irony because it was the previous Tory group that increased the allowances above those recommended by the Independent Remuneration Panel. Not only that, but they allocated all but one of these to Tory councillors and then reduced the allowances to opposition councillors.

Another unusual aspect of the whole affair seems to be that no one accepts responsibility for creating the leaflets, which have been criticised by many. When the Conservative candidate for the St Neots East seat was asked on a local radio station if he supported the leaflet, he denied any knowledge or responsibility for it.

We would love to ask Cllr Fuller if he had a hand in their production but, as he never answers questions from us we haven't bothered to ask him.

We can only assume that as he is the Leader of Huntingdon Conservatives and responsible for all



political matters, it seems inconceivable that he wasn't aware of their content.

The last comment on this must go to Cllr Ferguson who wrote: 'This morning Local Conservatives leafleted residents, claiming that I had betrayed them and criticised me for supporting gender-neutral language.'

In my election material, I explicitly said: "I sincerely believe that we achieve more by working together than through the constant confrontational bickering exhibited by most political candidates."

This is a principle that I stand by. I don't subscribe to this confrontational model of politics in which one can only agree with people of a certain political tribe.

Finally, I will never apologise for supporting equality for the LGBTQIA community. That seems a very strange thing to attack me on in Pride Month.'

Volunteer Groups Message Forum

If you are a member of a community group that wishes to let others know what you do, or needs specific help, or or just want to promote your organisation, you can email us at theriverporter.uk and we will include it on the Message Forum.

Volunteer sought

The Corn Exchange is seeking a volunteer with a trade or good DIY skills for basic maintenance and repairs. Approx. two hours per week on Tuesday mornings with the opportunity to be part of the Corn Exchange Community Team.

Email: manager@thecornexchange.org.uk or text 07483 868178

When planning a picnic

As the weather begins to change, and we can start meeting up with others outside. As the regulation ease we are going to want to get out and enjoy the beautiful sunshine. Hunts Waste Busters offer some top tips for picnicking with minimum waste.

- It is a good opportunity to use up leftovers, mix meats and veg with pasta or cous cous or into a salad.
- wrap sandwiches in reusable beeswax wraps or place in tupperware to avoid creating waste
- veg sticks are a great addition to any picnic and can be dipped in humous or a tasty pate. If you plan it well enough, you can make dips from scratch in reusable tubs too
- you could even make a pizza Stromboli, pizza rolled up when still warm. Delicious!
- think ahead, will you need any cutlery/plates/bowls? If so, think about what you already have at home. Standard cutlery works just fine, and if you don't have plastic plates, what about using tupperware instead?
- don't forget some fluids. If you can't buy drinks when out, think about taking reusable bottles, possibly just filling with water and taking cordial to add when there, giving a choice of flavours.
- if you might want a hot drink while out, remember to take your reusable cup with you. Did you know The National Trust offer 25p discount when you use your own cup?

Alternatively, take a flask with you.

- empty tupperware can be used to take home peels and cores for the compost bin
- remember an additional bag for any other mess that may be created.

The Countryside code
www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code, updated in April 2021, also has some great advice in how to behave when out and about, and the most important ones apply even more now due to the Covid19 virus. The most important aspect of this is leave no trace of your visit, take all your litter home with you; you brought it so take it back. This counts for your dog waste too, bag it and bin it – any public waste bin will do. If bins are full, find another, or take home. Care for nature, helping others enjoy it too! Leave rocks, stones, plants and trees as you find them. Animals can become trapped or be harmed by food containers, face masks and anything left behind. Be kind. Be considerate. Be the change. And enjoy our beautiful countryside.

For some further inspiration, check out www.hubbub.org.uk/litter-free-picnic-inspiration-guide

'Fastest hands in the West' for Ukulele Festival

Peter Moss - has been playing the uke since winning a major music prize at the age of 12, he is a virtuoso player and teacher with a world-wide following. I would say he has the fastest pair of hands in the West!

His technique is impeccable, and his grasp of musical theory deep and broad. Peter has a significant catalogue of video tuition work on YouTube, as most elite performers do. Like all good teachers, he has the knack of making it easy for his students. Peter will run a workshop dedicated to the Beatles' music, using four of their songs in four different keys, culminating in a harmony piece for those who like to put in the extra sparkle. Tickets for the day, which include the evening concert are just £12 and can be purchased at: ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives



SATURDAY 2ND OCTOBER

1.5 mile scarf for the COP26 Climate summit

The St Ives EcoAction Group is hoping to contribute a section to this project, and we are appealing to anyone who would like to knit, sew, crochet, weave or quilt a panel to join us.

When completed, the fabric panels can be left at the Just Sharing shop in the Free Church in St Ives before end of August, if possible. We will stitch them together before sending them up to Glasgow at the end of September and hope to have them on display somewhere beforehand.

The project is being run by Stitches for Survival, a group of stitchers, knitters, weavers, and crafters across the country. The scarf they aim to create will be made up of panels measuring 60cm x 100cm, which will be stitched together in September, and used to encircle the Conference Centre where the Summit will take place. They are asking that the panels, which can be of fabric, yarn or thread, are worked in green or blue (the dominant colours of our planet) and can be as plain or as decorative as you like. It should be remembered that the panels will be stitched along the shorter border, so any design or lettering worked into the panel will need to be in landscape.

Once the Summit is over the scarf will go on display around the country and will then be reworked into blankets for refugee communities, with some of the more creative panels being kept for an exhibition and ongoing campaigning.

Stitches for Survival have a Facebook page, and their website (www.stitchesforsurvival.earth) has all the information you need, and a very comprehensive Q and A page. For more details you can contact one of us through the St Ives EcoAction Facebook page.



having your say ...

Trainee Milly is hoping for a biscuit at tea break.



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

The Riverporter

Voted Best local newspaper of the year 2019/20 in the Cambridge Building Society's Community Magazine Awards

NEWS UPDATE

Where have our swans gone?

Usually with such a simple story readers may expect The Riverporter to come up with an amusing caption but as we looked at this story, we are not so sure that this is something to joke about.



During these sunny days our quayside is full of visitors and families enjoying the views and feeding the ducks, but our wonderful population of swans have disappeared.

Over the past few years the population has averaged 35 and even as many as 50 on occasion but we are now reduced to just the odd one or two. Interestingly the sudden disappearance occurred at the same time as council issued notices appeared, warning of aggressive swans. Which was nonsense but had been brought about due to one or two swans being a little too

pushy in trying to scrounge food and one or two people overreacting. In recent weeks, many visitors have been overheard expressing their disappointment at the missing animals.

Wot no Swans?

A swan deserted quayside complete with a council aggressive swan warning



Dear Erik,

EcoAction in St Ives is hoping to support a project to draw the attention of world leaders at the COP 26 climate conference in November to the dire situation the world faces while global temperatures rise, and we would like to engage as much help as possible from local crafts-people, and would be grateful for your support in publicising this effort.

Yours sincerely, **Ann Barnes**
No probs See page 2. Erik.

Dear Erik,

Thank you so much for your informative and entertaining publication. I walk past the hedge in Chestnut Road when I come from the shops. The householder or their agent cut the hedge to the ground and put in a new wooden fence. Now we are awaiting the regrowth of the hawthorn, wild rose, etc as at present there is only elder. If there is no regrowth will the householder buy some plants to compensate for cutting down the Council hedge?

Anonymous Wildlife Lover of St Ives

Dear Erik (and Heidi)

Springtime Staring and Pairing

There I was, this fine springtime morn,
Sprawling on my warming, sun-baked lawn.
What did I alighting spy
From the corner of my bloodshot eye?
I spied a pair of carrion crow alighting,
Hereabouts hardly an unusual sighting.

So, had they returned for some appetizing morsel, or to spear some delectable grub?
No, and now there's the rub:
For like an age unmoving, they stood beak half-open and face-on,
A consummate corvine carry-on.

In each other's company they would not flinch;
Not even an inch.

Ritual staring
Before enraptured pairing?
Carrion crow a-wooing,
Yet perfectly still and silent, here was no dove-like cooing.

'Til away they flew
To do, as they do.

Doberman

Dear Erik,

I'm a resident of Abbots Crescent and a regular reader of 'The Riverporter'. I just wanted to bring to your attention the imminent closure of B's Cafe & Bistro in Kings Hedges.

This is due to a huge hike in the commercial rent from the landlord and I wondered if it was worth producing an article to raise awareness of the issue? Becks, the owner/manager of B's, has done much to create a genuinely community feel to the cafe and it has proved invaluable to members of the community (especially those who are lonely or have suffered with the lockdown restrictions).

I have already written to Pasco Hussain and Ryan Fuller (am awaiting replies) to ask if the District or Town Council can do something to prevent the closure happening. I set up a Facebook post today on the St Ives page and there are already nearly 300 reactions in a matter of hours. It just seems such a waste when someone is trying to do something for the community spirit and we are supposed to be supporting local businesses.

Many thanks Neil Hopkins

Dear Neil, your letter arrived as we were going to press but hopefully we will report further in our next issue. **Ed**

Music On The Waits Cancelled

FEST had planned to hold 4 Music on the Waits concerts in July this year, but unfortunately now that the government has extended restrictions through to July 19th, they have been cancelled. Covid rules state only groups of up to 30 outside and we would not be able to ensure less than 30 people in our audience as it could include those sitting on the grass area or outside moored boats as well as the paved area, contravening Covid rules.



The NHS is breaking records

There can be no denial that our NHS medical staff have done a truly wonderful job under the most trying conditions these past many months and still they work tirelessly to look after our health, but I speak of the clinical and medical staff.

However the bosses and their political masters may not really be of the same mind... This past week The Riverporter received a pack of notes from a very concerned St Ives resident regarding the NHS releasing our medical records. The information we have received includes a copy of an article published in the Guardian newspaper, which writes...



'GP practices in England have been instructed to hand over their patient's entire medical histories with just 6 weeks' notice' A growing number of GP's have described the data grab as unwarranted, unparalleled, and possibly unlawful. Such was the short timescale for this that the only chance as individuals we had to opt out of this, we learn was the 23rd of June so we are already too late. What does all this mean?

Put simply it means that every interaction you have had with a GP since your birth including all the intimate details of your life disclosed in confidence are now at risk of being indirectly sold to corporations and will include patient identifiable information, the Guardian article goes on to accuse the government of using the distraction of the current pandemic to avoid noticing their actions. If you are seriously concerned over this, we understand that the following web site may be of interest. www.medconfidential.org/how-to-opt-out.

Appeal to local boaters....

This appeal appeared on a local Facebook page:

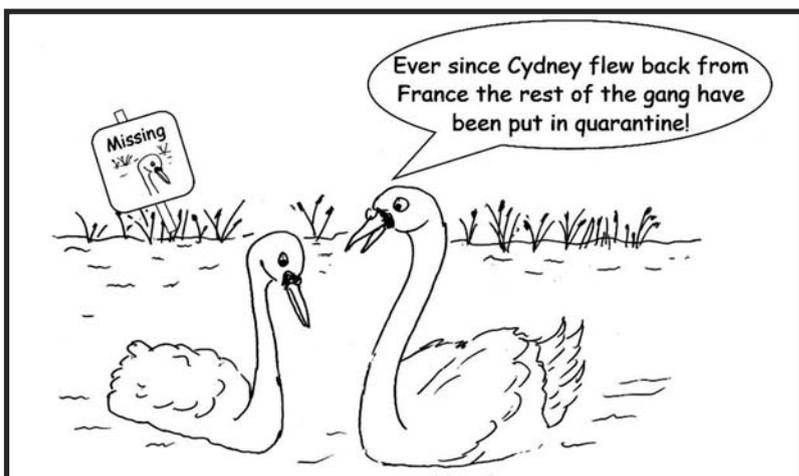
Hi Boaters we are after your help and assistance. You are aware of improvements that have been occurring at our Scout HQ on the river front with our new building.

We have had members of public trespassing on our HQ over the last couple of weeks with the hot weather. And have had several boats and paddle boards stolen. We have reported this to the police. We even caught a group of 16 - 18 year olds who had swum across and tried to take our big board, which was stored out of sight from general view, so they have had to look and rummage round. They ended up swimming off with zero fun, this occurred during midweek.

We have recovered most items, which have been dumped but still have one of our solid paddle boards missing. The board is white with black and turquoise colour pattern on top. Just putting a request out if anyone has seen anything lying around. It costs us a lot of money to keep and provide the youth with the ability to experience these water based activities.

We very rarely ask for anything. Please can you let us know if you see anything.

Thank you **2nd St Ives Sea Scout Group.**



HYPERION

Record Prices in our Fine Art Sale



After an Auction reaching an
International client base we saw a record sale with many prices
over double estimate!



Pair of 19th Century Bronze figures depicting Mercury
and Fortuna **Sold £750**

Omega Seamaster Professional Planet Ocean
Gents Automatic wristwatch
Sold £2300



While your consigning your items for our next Auction why not visit
our Courtyard!



Need a coffee break? Lorenzo's Coffee
Serving Coffee, tea, and hot chocolate. We also sell our coffee beans which
can be ground to your specification to enjoy within your own home

Dolci Crepes & Waffles
Hot Sweet and Savoury Crepes and Waffles
freshly made with your favourite filling or
topping



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

This is a paid advert. The Riverporter does not endorse any candidates or political parties.

A Victorian Curate by David Yeandle

Reviewed by Sandra Souter

Local author, David Yeandle's book 'A Victorian Curate' is a study of the life and career of the Rev. Dr. John Hunt (1827-1907) pictured right. The book illustrates the life of a clergyman who was the son of a Scottish tradesman and, though well educated, his lack of means meant that he struggled to gain curacies and later an incumbency in the Church of England.

In 1865 after several curacies in parishes in London and a period of unemployment, he managed to gain a curacy in St Ives' Parish Church under the incumbent Rev. Yate Fosbroke. He had answered a letter in the Guardian which said a clergyman was wanted for a few weeks at a remuneration of £1 1s a week. He describes the church as 'a beautiful building and had been recently restored.'

He had already published a few works and whilst in St Ives wrote a text 'A Clergyman Made Scarce' detailing his life and beliefs. David Yeandle has printed the text of this containing annotations by John Hunts' wife, a St Ives woman, Eliza Meadows Shepard Thorp. In it he calls St Ives a dissenting town with one church but seven or eight meeting houses and those were not small, many holding congregations of 3 or 4 hundred people, One of those 'meeting houses' being the newly built Free Church. He describes how the town was divided between the west and the east, the church and dissent, landed interests and interests of trade.



It's interesting to modern readers to realise how important religious views were and the regard held for clergymen in those days, and how much one's fortune mattered. John Hunt was quite a radical and his studies included anatomy and the dissecting of bodies, something that gained him national attention before he came to St Ives.

Although his opinions and sermons often created a lot of opposition amongst more conformist Anglicans it appears he was popular with his congregations, very much so in St Ives, where the people did not want him to leave.

After the Rev. Yate Fosbroke died the new incumbent Charles Dashwood Goldie, a very high churchman, clashed so much with John Hunt that Hunt left in 1866.

The book is an Open Book publication and the entire book is available to read for free on the publishers website, www.openbookpublishers.com

I recommend anyone interested in history and local history to give this book a read.

ADVERTORIAL

Proud to sponsor The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival



This year Ellis Winters are helping St Ives Town Team to put on their annual Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival from 16th to 19th September, which we believe will be even more important following on from the 17 months of Covid restrictions. There seems a growing consensus that the terrific success of the vaccination campaign will ultimately set us free again to meet one another and enjoy good music and entertainment.

The Festival, which has been going since 2015 has a proven record of providing four wonderful days of entertainment of the highest order. It attracts large numbers of music fans from far and wide and there is music for all ages and tastes.

Above all it is a family festival, which entertains a lively and enthusiastic audience and, if previous festival are anything to go by, there is often some sunny weather as well.

The way the Festival is run means that nearly every town organisation is affected. The venues contribute by paying the musicians, the Council give support, the churches offer facilities, attendees buy the unique T-shirts and most shops and cafés have an increased number of customers.

So we are delighted to help by offering sponsorship to the Town Team to ensure that, despite the problems of the past year, this year's Festival will be better than ever. After all what could be better than 23 excellent concerts, free to attend, in our charming town?



ellis&co winters