

The Riverporter

ST IVES AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER

Issue 95: 1 October 2021

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

There'll be music, sweet, sweet music and dancing in the street



Crowds came into town over the four days of The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival, taking advantage of the good weather to enjoy some great music.

The organisers, St Ives Town Team were delighted and relieved that the Festival was so well attended after all the Covid concerns.

Town Team Chair, Sheila Stones said 'The Team wish to thank the public for being so supportive, their enjoyment transmitted to the bands who responded by giving some really excellent performances.'

The public also showed their support by buying all the T-shirts and donating nearly £300 over the four days. Finally we wish to thank Ellis Winters for sponsoring the Festival, St Ives Town Council for the grant of £500 and all of the venues who paid for the bands, which has allowed us to cover our expenses.

The Town Team believe that the Festival brings around £100,000 of business to the town as hotels, restaurants, cafes and bars reported excellent business. Of course it is very hard to

confirm actual amounts as it is commercially sensitive information but most of the venues were delighted with the income generated and one reported that bar takings doubled over the four days. Most wish to take part again.

On top of this is the fact that many of those attending frequently eat out, stay on camp sites and book accommodation for the duration.

According to a member of the Civic Society the town was 'at it's best' on the Saturday, as the Farmers Market also took place alongside the Heritage Open Day events and the concerts on The Quay.

Plans are already underway for next year's Festival which will take place between 15th and 18th September 2022.

Photographs courtesy of Mike O'Brien

Calendar of events 2021

If you know of other events please email: editor@theriverporter.uk

OCTOBER

Saturday 2nd - The Old Riverport Ukulele Festival. Corn Exchange 10am.

Thursday 7th - 9th October - Booze in the Pews. The Parish Church.

Saturday 16th - The Illuminated Boat Parade Another FREE to watch event from 6pm. Details: www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk.

Saturday 23rd - Hunts Philatelic Society Stamp and Postcard Fair St Ives Corn Exchange 10am-3pm. Free admission. More info 01480 468037.

Friday 29th - Chapel Arts @ The Corn Exchange 7.30pm Daniela Rossi, classical guitarist. Tickets: www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives.

NOVEMBER

Saturday 20th - Christmas Lights Switch On. 5pm in Market Hill.

Friday 26th - Chapel Arts @ The Corn Exchange 7.30pm Featuring Soloman Smith and Chris Newman. An evening of coolness and groove. Tickets cost £10 and can be obtained at www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives.

COVERING
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AROUND

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12A

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Harpichord concert a real treat

Robin Walker's harpsichord concert in the Corn Exchange's Riverport Cafe bar last Friday proved a real treat for music lovers.

His programme included works by Dowland, Byrd, Purcell and Bach gave a fascinating glimpse of the music of the 17th and 18th centuries. In particular his rendition of Bach's Italian Concerto was faultless and left this reviewer thinking Robin (pictured right) must have 10 fingers on each hand.

Part of the Chapel Arts @ The Corn Exchange series, the next concert on Friday 29th October at 7.30pm features the wonderful classical guitarist Daniela Rossi. But hurry if you wish to see her as tickets are selling fast.

The final concert of 2021, in November, will see singer songwriter Soloman Smith, accompanied by the excellent guitarist Chris Newman, providing an evening of coolness and groove.

The series of concerts is set to continue next year and will take place on the last Friday of each month, beginning in January. The list of artists will be published soon. Places are limited and tickets, which cost just £10 can be obtained at: www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives.



A reminder that failure is an essential prelude to success A man of St Ives has died!

We learned this week of the sad death of Sir Clive Sinclair on the 16th September aged 81.

In reading this note in the national press I was surprised to find that many younger St Ivesians may have never heard of him and yet for so many he affected their lives.

But how so you ask?

If you stand on our lovely quayside and look across the river to the left, you will see the large building known as the Mill. These days the Mill is made up several beautiful apartments with spectacular views over the countryside and river but not so many years ago it housed the offices of Sinclair Radionics Ltd.

Clive was one of those men who had a head full of ideas for inventions but initially not a lot of money and things did not always run smoothly, but his ideas caught the imagination of others, and at one point in his life had a net worth estimated at £100 million.

As a kid growing up in the 50's and 60's in London, in my senior school days I recall the first time that we were issued Bic biro's instead of ink wells and nibs, but the main invention of the time was the calculator!

I was first introduced to this astounding device by my mathematics teacher who handed it around the class so that each of us could have a go. We marvelled at what we could do with this magic device, we were told that we could all have one of these but that we could never use it in class or take to exams because it was only a gadget and wouldn't catch on!

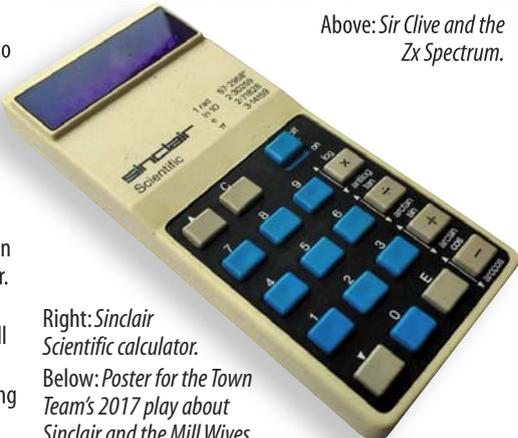
Fifteen years later as a student pilot I was still not allowed to use a calculator while navigating in the air in case the battery went. My first calculator was a Sinclair.

Sir Clive went on to invent the first shop available computer the Sinclair Spectrum ZX81, which opened all kinds of opportunities for games and word processing. Us Brits have an amazing history for successful inventing and Clive Sinclair's calculator and computer ranks up there with the jet engine, the internet, the telephone, television, and the light bulb (and the Oxford Zeneca vaccination). But, it seems, that having achieved these wonderful things they are destined to move abroad.

Clive was married twice and is survived by three children. The next time you are using a calculator just think the idea came from a man just over the old bridge. If you have memories of Sinclair and the times of Sinclair Radionics in the Mill please write in and let us know.



Above: Sir Clive and the Zx Spectrum.



Right: Sinclair Scientific calculator.

Below: Poster for the Town Team's 2017 play about Sinclair and the Mill Wives.



One of the 'Highlights' of the year is just two weeks away

Our fabulous quayside will be lit up on Saturday evening 16th October when the popular Illuminated Boat Parade returns, this time with a Halloween theme.

The organisers, St Ives Town Team with help from FESt and members of GOBA (Great Ouse Boating Association), are hoping that spectators will also join in by dressing in Halloween costumes.

The last parade had a Disney theme, which provided an excellent display of boats and Disney characters as the picture below shows.



The entertainment starts at 6.30pm, the boat parade begins at 7pm.

Is it a matter of priorities?

A comment by the Editor.

Last Friday at around 9.45pm I spoke with two police officers who were patrolling by the Victoria Memorial in The Broadway. I enquired if they would be putting a ticket on a car parked on the roundabout just four metres away.

To my surprise the officer replied that they would not be giving the car a parking ticket as they were not in town for that purpose.

I then enquired if they intended to issue tickets to the several taxis parked in Crown Street on the pavement, which constitutes a road hazard. I had just walked down this road with a crutch, due to a damaged knee joint and had to go over to the right hand side to avoid being hit by a car trying to pass the taxis, which was awkward and potentially dangerous.

The officer seemed to accept that these taxis were causing a hazard and said that the taxis may have permission to park half on the pavement from the local authority. He didn't know if they did have permission but declined to say if they would issue any parking tickets.

He did say that in St Neots another taxi company had had tickets issued when they had parked in the square without permission. I was surprised by these comments and pointed out the continued problems of illegally parked cars was of some concern to our readers.

I decided to find out what type of unlawful acts would be routinely ignored by officers by contacting Cambs Police. I also asked why officers did not know if taxis parked on pavements were parked illegally.

This was the response I received from Cambs Police.

Although we appreciate illegal parking is an area of concern for local residents, we must prioritise tackling the most serious offences, such as child abuse, domestic abuse, burglary, serious sexual offences and violent crime. When demand for our services are high, we often have to make some difficult decisions on what we can and can't respond to and although we take all reports of crime seriously, our focus must be on safeguarding the most vulnerable and bringing the most persistent offenders to justice.

I was equally surprised by this reply as it did not answer the question about the taxis at all and it implied that the officers I spoke to were there to deal with the important matters of child abuse, domestic abuse etc. rather than being there to ensure that Friday night revellers were behaving themselves.

I decide to enquire if the taxi company T&T Taxis had permission to park in Crown Street so I contacted HDC's Licensing department which replied ...

I am sorry to hear of your recent experience in Crown Street, it is unfortunate that the Police chose to take no action. I can confirm that the company referred to have no additional rights or permissions than would be given to a normal member of the public when parking or using Crown Street St Ives in any manner.

We will contact the company and give advice on this matter but as it is illegal parking, it is primarily for the Police or a parking enforcement officer to issue a fixed penalty notice.



having your say ...



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

Mayor Dr Nik to receive lost funds

The combined Authority Mayor, Dr Nik Johnson has been successful in getting nearly £19 million of the £45 million for housing that the Government withheld from former Mayor James Palmer back in March. This money will allow delivery of over 1,000 homes in the area.

It hasn't been all plain sailing for Mayor Dr Nik as news came that the iMET training centre at Alconbury Weald, opened by the former Mayor Palmer and MP Jonathan Djanogly in 2018 had folded with losses of £8m within two years of its opening. An article in Cambs Times blamed a lack of public transport for the failure, with students unable to get to the centre.

The lavish Innovation, Materials, Engineering & Technology (iMET) centre, financed through a grant from the now disgraced Greater Cambridge and Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has created a headache for Mayor Dr Nik Johnson as a sale price will only achieve around £3m. Speaking to The Riverporter, Mayor Dr Nik said the scheme was badly conceived from the start and it wasn't just the lack of public transport that was the cause of the failure. Ironically it is Dr Nik who is championing better public transport but it is inconceivable that no one noticed, for example, that the investment, according to a CAPCA report, only created 12 full time jobs at an average cost of £875,000 per job.

Another issue we raised with Dr Nik was about his call for St Ives residents to have their say about roads in the town, which we featured in issue RP87 in June. It is now three months since the consultation but as yet nothing more has been heard about this important matter. In fact Dr Nik told The Riverporter that the comments by those who contributed were still being considered by a 'committee', which Huntingdon District Council are managing and as yet he has not been informed of any decisions they may have come to.

As we approach six months since Dr Nik was elected it is clear that he is making his mark, however there are signs that his is not an easy road to travel as he tries to work with the other local authorities, some of whom may not share his vision for Cambridgeshire. Time will tell if his 3C's approach to the job (Compassion, Co-operation and Community) will work and engage all the stakeholders. We hope so.

Hi Erik,

Ref RP 94 Missing Banner

I guess there has been a general removal of banners in St Ives. Its notable several of the Incinerator notices have all gone. Look to HDC Planners for the culprits.

Regards David

Dear David,

Thanks for the tip. We did contact HDC's Planning Dept about the missing banner who told us ...

Good Afternoon,

Couldn't find a planning enforcement case on this so couldn't have been us.

We also contacted HDC's Op's Department who told us ...

Thank you for your e-mail regarding the removal of banners advertising the jazz festival.

We have made enquiries with our Street Cleansing teams who have confirmed that they have not removed the banners. Our usual practice is, if we do remove banners or signs, we will contact the company concerned to collect them from our depot.

I am sorry that I cannot assist you further but hope the above helps.

The lovely girls who run the Markets also said that they had not removed the banner so we are left with the thought that it must have been removed by an individual who, for some strange reason, doesn't like Jazz or Blues or the thought of lots of people coming to St Ives to enjoy it. We haven't given up hope though and as the area has several Street cameras, and we know when the banner disappeared, we hope that the CCTV people might be able to identify the culprit.

Of course if readers know who that person might be we would be grateful if they could let Erik know! Ed.

Dear Erik,

Vexingly we were obliged by a letter in your last issue to have Jason Ablewhite on our minds again. Using a 'mock Latin' phrase (Illegitimi non carborundum) your correspondent rightly describes himself as one who the b*stards cannot grind down.

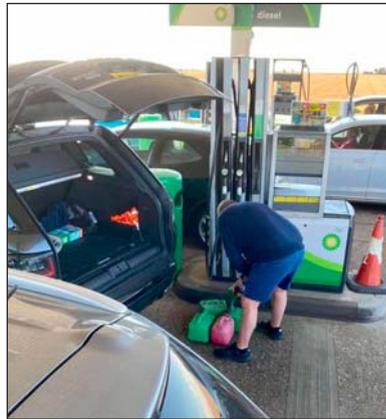
We must be grateful to him for his campaigning zeal for integrity in local government and the Police; likewise to the Blunty Toxic Waste protestors; and to all objectors who simply refuse to be ground down by the Establishment. Having to have JA and his many excesses in mind again made me think of him when this interesting item came up for auction at Roseberrys in London.



A Fon wood phallus, Dahomy, 19th century, 27cm. long
Provenance:....

Another not for grinding down

Anyone know this bum?



No panic buying here!
Just how many lawnmowers does he have?

Dear Erik,

In your last edition you asked 'Who do we trust these days?'

It's a hard one.

Certainly we should be able to trust the frontline/first responders in Fire, Ambulance and Police. No doubt about that.

Doctors and nurses as well. Outside of that it becomes more difficult. One correspondent wrote to me recently saying 'We need to be able to trust those with any sort of power or authority, and if they don't even have to answer questions, that trust disappears very quickly!'

Much of what she says has to do with the scrutiny and accountability of our elected councillors and officials such as police and crime commissioners.

Recent events in that field of governance have proved beyond doubt that the first two elected as Cambridgeshire's PCC's were an unmitigated disaster.

Let us hope, and trust, that the next will do better.

Immeasurably better.

Sincerely, Ms Laura Naude

IT'S WORLD ALZHEIMER'S MONTH



If you would like to learn more about dementia, why not book a free one-hour session at the Corn Exchange with a Dementia Friends Champion, trained by the Alzheimer's Society? The next two sessions are on Monday, 11 October 18.00-19.00 and Friday, 12 November 11.00-12.00
Please contact ann.lorman@btinternet.com to book your place.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER

Could you help with our fun Reminiscing and Love to Move sessions at the Burleigh Hill Community Centre on Monday mornings (10.00-12.00)? We are looking for volunteers who would be happy to sit and chat with our guests and support them when they do the seated exercises, giving the carers a little time to relax. If you would like to join our team of volunteers, please contact Susan: communities@norrismuseum.org.uk.

New Area Commander

Superintendent Adam Gallop is the new Area Commander for the south of Cambridgeshire including Cambridge, East Cambs, South Cambs and Huntingdonshire.

Adam's career began at Parkside Police Station 25 years ago and has seen him work in a variety of roles including neighbourhood policing, intelligence, public protection, covert operations and most recently in the Major Crime Unit (you may recognise him from 24 Hours in Police Custody!).

His focus will include:

- Arresting the most dangerous people in the community
- Responding to incidents and crimes efficiently to ensure swift possible outcomes
- Safeguarding vulnerable people



Accomplished German Ukulele artiste to attend Uke Fest

Elisabeth Pfeiffer is a solo ukulele player with a strong background in classical guitar will be attending The Old Riverport Ukulele Festival this Saturday in the Corn Exchange.

She studied at Lawrence University in the USA and HfM Würzburg, Germany, majoring in classical guitar. In 2013 she took up a ukulele and never looked back. Since then she has written three method books on strumming and picking techniques and fretting concepts. On stage she mostly performs solo pieces, but throws in the occasional song. Her repertoire ranges from Renaissance music to Jazz and Rock covers, as well as contemporary classical music.



Pestle & Mortar returned

Back in issue RP45, our 'Eagle Eyed' Editor Erik noticed that following the redecoration work on the outside of Lloyds chemist the famous pestle and mortar had disappeared from above the door.

Erik recently spotted that nearly two years later it is now back in its historic position.

Erik was watching ...

The COURTYARD

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