

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Appeal for witnesses

Police have said that a man is fighting for his life in hospital after being hit by a lorry in London Road last Monday.

Police were called at around 10.40pm on Monday evening, to reports of a collision involving an HGV and a pedestrian on London Road in St Ives.

Officers, paramedics, and the air ambulance attended the scene, and the road was closed while the incident was dealt with.

The man was rushed to hospital and remains in a critical, but stable condition. The driver of the

HGV remained at the scene and no arrests have been made.

The police are appealing to anyone who witnessed what happened, or who has relevant dashcam footage, to contact them as a matter of urgency - www.cambs.police.uk/report or call 101 quoting incident 510.

COVERING
THE NEWS FOR
ST IVES AND
AROUND

All the Fun of the Fair?



There was a surprising break with tradition as the historic opening of the Michaelmas Fair didn't take place by the Dodgems. In fact there were no dodgems at this year's fair. Mayor Pasco Hussain, pictured above, read the declaration permitting the fair to be held in the streets, a tradition that goes back centuries, so we are told.

The original Bumper cars were not meant to bump because they could easily fall apart, the thrill was to avoid hitting the other cars, and that's why they were called dodgems. Invented in America in 1920 they were originally made of tin. Operators often had to hammer the cars back together after each day. Propulsion usually involves a pole in the back of the car running up to a ceiling that carried an electrical current but the newest bumper car rides run on batteries.

Isaac Newton's Third Law of Motion states that for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. That's a fundamental quality of bumper cars and the reason you get a jolt - but not too big of a jolt because the energy from the impact is absorbed in the bumper around the car.

The heavier the car, the bigger the jolt, so get ready for a bigger reaction if you ram a car with two people or an adult in. The initial fun that children had back in the early part of the 20th century with bumper cars remains to this day. That is until now in St Ives.



TOWN CENTRE GETS UKED!

Over 150 Ukulele players enjoyed the first ever Ukulele Festival in the Corn Exchange on Saturday 2nd October.

The Festival, the brainchild of Barry Reeves and Will Cowell, was organised with the help of the Town Team and provided a whole day of entertainment.

It started with a Flash Mob session alongside Oliver Cromwell, as this picture shows, and players came from as far away as Manchester to take part.

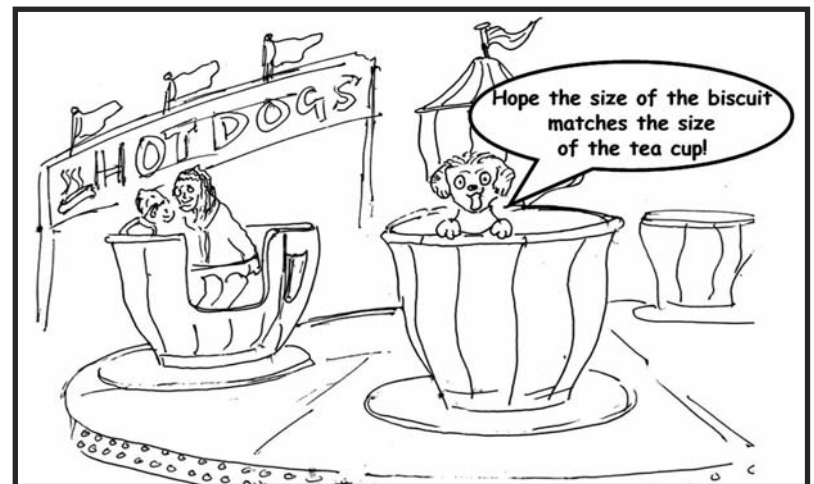
The day gave ukulele groups an opportunity to play to an audience and attendees could improve their techniques by attending the four workshops held by professional players who later provided some of the very best in ukulele entertainment to round off the day.



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY
The Team have learned a lot from this year's festival and are planning an even better one next year to be held on 15th October 2022.

MAYOR PASCO PRAISES MY COLLEAGUE RON

Talking to *The Riverporter*, the Town Mayor was keen to show his praise for the vision and hard work done by my joint Editor Ron Westrip at the Corn Exchange. Mayor Pasco had been delighted to formally open the Ukulele Festival and was really impressed with the improvements including the wonderfully comfortable Riverport Café Bar. Ron has been instrumental in transforming the Corn Exchange into an effective venue during lockdown.



Be quick if you wish to see Daniela

The brilliant classical guitarist Daniela Rossi returns to St Ives this month.

Part of the Chapel Arts @ The Corn Exchange series, her concert on Friday 29th October starts at 7.30pm and features two works dedicated to Daniela.

The first is by British composer Vincent Lindsey-Clark, *The New Foliage* and the second is *Rumores de Perales* by Canadian composer Jeffrey McFadden.

Daniela will also be playing *Suite Americana* by Vincent and works by Francisco Tárrega (Spain 1852-1909), considered to be one of the finest guitarists ever, and by Giulio Regondi (Lyon 1882-London, 1872) a contemporary of Chopin.

But you will need to hurry if you wish to see her as places are limited and only a few tickets remain.

The final concert of this season features singer songwriter Soloman Smith and will be a great way to start the festive season listening to his thoughtful songs of the moment accompanied by the brilliant playing of St Ives based guitarist Chris Newman.

The series of concerts is set to continue next year and will take place on the last Friday of each month, beginning in January.

Tickets cost just £10 can be obtained at: www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives.



Mayor presents award to family business

St Ives Mayor, Pasco Hussain was on hand to present an award to LH Jones last week to signify 75 years that this local business has been trading. It all began in 1946 when Laurie Jones and his wife Nora converted a wartime landing craft into a houseboat on the banks of the Great Ouse on the meadows at Hartford. Despite the floods of 1947 they rented a cowshed, previously used as a fire station, and established a business hiring out punts, converting lifeboats and building other assorted river craft. In 1958, the family acquired a disused gravel pit alongside St Ives Lock and built a workshop with living accommodation and established moorings.

From this humble beginning, Jones' Boatyard, a third generation family business, is believed to be the oldest inland marina, brokerage and chandlery in the country. This is still the site of the business today. Back then Laurie designed and built motor cruisers assisted by son Mick. Later, throughout the seventies, Mick became a boat builder in his own right and his skills can still be admired in three craft – now classics – Tangle, Fair Wind and Eastmoor.

In 2005, Mick's sons, Ben and Sam, became the third generation to join the yard.



Pictured: from left to right, Ben Jones, Mick Jones, Mayor Pasco Hussain, Sam Jones, Carol Jones and Chris Morgan who organised the award.

Below: Mick Jones receives the award from Pasco in the Chandlery.



The Mayor said he was delighted to be able to give this award to such a great local business and to Mick in particular for his generous support for the Town over many years.

He recalled how, many years ago, his car had ended up in a ditch due to an icy road and it was Mick who had helped pull his car out.

Mick's sons, Ben and Sam, are continuing to take the business forward and have recently added a separate marina just below the lock.

This has been done sensitively with landscaped banks planted with characteristic riverside flora that now attracts a wealth of wildlife.



Snowmen set to return

Corrine Harwood of La Muse, whose started the Snowman Festival over 8 years ago, has confirmed that these popular characters will appear throughout the town, once again, starting on Saturday 13th November.

Children will be able to follow the Snowman Trail to stand a chance of winning prizes. Businesses are being encouraged to join in and as Corrine says, *This year more than ever before we need something to cheer us up and get everyone in the mood for the best ever Christmas.* Corrine went on to give a big THANK YOU to Ellis Winters for sponsoring the Festival again.

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Rowe



Friends, family and many St Ives residents took to social media last weekend to offer their congratulations and best wishes to one of our town's recent mayors, Dan Rowe who married his fiancé, Amy. Dan was Mayor of St Ives in 2019 and Amy was Mayoress. Dan is still a Town Councillor and with Amy they continue to support several St Ives organisations. *The Riverporter* wishes them every happiness.



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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

COUNCIL NEWS

Council appoint Locum Town Clerk

St Ives Town Council have appointed a Locum Town Clerk for six months as a result of the continued absence of Alison Benfield through ill health. Nicci Sewell (pictured) took up the post at the beginning of October and officiated at her first Full Council meeting last Wednesday.



It looks like it will be a busy period for the Council looking at the agenda, which included reports on the Neighbourhood Plan and the Jubilee Celebrations which will take place over the extended Bank Holiday weekend from Thursday 2nd June until the following Sunday 2022.

Big Budget set aside for celebrations

The Council have set aside a budget of between £19k and £29k, which will allow the 42 Engineers to exercise their Freedom of the Town on Saturday 4th June, which is likely to be the main day for activities organised by the Council. The paper shows that in 2018, when the Engineers were awarded the freedom of St Ives, it cost taxpayers £17,000 for the privilege!

At this stage suggestions for the celebrations range from street parties to a river festival and a 'Blg Lunch' event in The Broadway. It is hoped that community groups will get involved.

Digital Information Screens get go ahead

The Town Council also discussed a proposal from HDC for two Digital Information Screens to be installed in St Ives. Councillors were told a decision had to be made straight away and they chose locations at the top of Bridge Street and by the Bus Station. Although other locations were suggested time was against a considered opinion. It is not uncommon to insist on decisions being made quickly, ostensibly to secure the funding, but there is some concern that this is a ploy to prevent serious discussion and assist the proposers to get the result they wish.

The Riverporter assumes that the funding for the screens, along with the new waste bins and proposals for Parklets, come from the Districts 'Prospectus For Growth' proposals to transform the Town Centre. These proposals received considerable criticism and as yet the full scheme has not been presented to residents.

Posthumous Freeman of the Town award

The Town Council have been considering the bestowing of a posthumous Freeman of the Town to the late Councillor John Davies. The verbal report given at Wednesday's meeting suggested that there may be some difficulties with this suggestion. Other options are being considered.

Council apologise again and again ...

Planning is something that often causes problems and this week was no exception. First up: the Full Council considered a report by their Appeal Panel of a formal complaint made by Engineer and Planning Agent Peter Townsend of PJT Associates.

The Appeal Panel found in favour of Mr Townsend and his client and made recommendations including apologising to them. However Mr Townsend wasn't happy with the report which he said 'left many questions unanswered and until they are I consider my complaint unresolved'.

The Council apologised again and agreed to consider all of the seven points. However that wasn't the end of the matter as the Council had inadvertently published the name of the applicant, which was a breach of the Data Protection Act, and despite correcting the error was forced to make another apology.

Erik wondered if the Council might consider issuing an apology coupon to give weight to its apologies. A sort of loyalty card in reverse. Perhaps all councils could adopt it!



Planning Committee go Conkers

21/02143/TREE
David Brettell
19 Wilson Way
St Ives
PE27 6TG

T1 - Horse Chestnut Tree - Remove due to large amounts of sharp conkers landing in garden posing health and safety risk to children living in the property. Replant a new tree in its place.
19 Wilson Way
St Ives

Following the Full Council meeting the Planning Committee considered several applications including this one (left). It prompted this comment from a reader.

Since when did conkers, albeit in their shells, represent a health and safety hazard to children? Has the world gone mad? Fortunately common sense took hold and councillors refused the application. It will go back to HDC for a final decision ... so who knows?

Dear Erik,
Subject: Parking Ticket?



There is nearly always a car parked where Elm Drive meets Ramsey Road - it is illegal and dangerous. Will this car get a ticket?

Name withheld

Probably not, see RP95 article Is it a matter of priorities? Erik

Dear Erik,
Subject: Inconsiderate Contractor blocking the pavement!



A house in Wheatfields had the drive changed to block paving. The footpath was shut for three days while the concrete was dug up. Then the blocks were delivered - onto the footpath - which was then closed for a further three days. Surely the blocks (with lighting) should have been in the road. Please think first!

Cally

Dear Erik,
Subject: 'Big bum'

Following on from your article about 'big bum' (right) seen filling 4 cans with fuel. Sadly this shows the worst side of us, not caring about those whose needs may be greater. If he wants assistance from the emergency services, I hope they have sufficient fuel to reach him!



Peter

Dear Erik,
Subject: Rubbish by the Anglers Rest

I believe some of your correspondents have been concerned about this continuing eyesore. I can report that three groups, the Civic Society, Friends of Holt Island Nature Reserve, and the Great Ouse Valley Trust - are piling on the pressure in the Planning Enforcement Department at HDC, who are not exactly working speedily.

Name withheld

We believe a planning enforcement Section 215 notice may be issued. It is not clear yet whether the recent planning approval of Manchester House will result in an improvement here. Ed.

Dear Erik,

Strolling along West Street just opposite Globe Place car park the other day I couldn't help glancing through a glazed front door to discover what must be years of flyers etc. piled up just inside.



Isn't this a health and fire risk hazard? Perhaps some one has passed away inside?

Luka That

Dear Erik

Further to the question (Issue 94) 'Who do we trust these days?'; it might be easier to consider who we can't trust. Top of the list must surely be the ubiquitous 'spokesperson' who can say what they like but can't be held to account simply because we don't know who they are. Perhaps if we were to start asking 'Who are you?' we might start getting some honest answers.

But I won't be holding my breath. They will most likely say 'Sorry, I can't tell you that'. Grrr.

All you can then do is take it higher, press on with determination, and not give up until you have the answers, and the truth, you're looking for. Sometimes it can be easier than you'd first think!

Illegitimi non carborundum

Trust continues to be an issue

In the last two issues of The Riverporter there has been reference to trust and accountability of elected representatives and officials. This has also raised its head nationally with the tragic killing of Sarah Everard by a serving police officer, someone most of us used to trust.

Of course this horrific outcome cannot be compared to someone not being able to get a reply from his or her local councillor, or feeling that they cannot get any justice from their local council, but how did we get to this position where many people do not bother to get involved. Well the answer is that we got here gradually.

Our institutions and especially politicians who ignore genuine concerns, no matter how trivial, have fostered an attitude that 'it's just not worth it' and this has led to more serious issues such as women not reporting being raped.

The ignoring of genuine concerns for some time has consequences and that includes the feeling that those in authority seem unaccountable for their actions and much harder to reach. Has the Data Protection Act, whilst full of good intentions, made things worse? Genuine requests for information are often useless when all names are redacted. Ed.

HYPERION

Entries Invited for Next Antiques & Interiors Sale Saturday 23rd October



Results from our Antiques & Interiors and Fine Art Sale



Aynsley Fruit and gilded part Tea Set
by D Jones & N Brunt
Sold £550

Set of 3 19thC Graduated Majolica
water jugs with Iris and floral
decoration and weave handles
Sold £750



Omega Seamaster Professional Planet
Ocean Gents Automatic wristwatch with
Box and papers calibre 2500
Sold £2300

We are also Accepting Entries for our Winter Fine Art Sale on the
4th December with a Large collection of Fine Art, Silver, Jewellery
and Militaria

Hyperion Auctions, The Salerooms, Station Road, St Ives PE27 5BH



www.hyperionauctions.co.uk



01480 464140

Dementia Friendly Group visit Hamerton Zoo

At the beginning of the month the Dementia Friendly Group went to Hamerton Park Zoo for a lovely day out. It was made possible by a donation from Val Hart, which was in memory of her husband Tony who sadly passed away from dementia. It was the first visit for many and it was a nice sunny day with a variety of beautiful animals on show which looked happy and clearly enjoyed a high level of care.



We drifted apart whilst looking at the various creatures on display, but reunited at the café for lunch and some singing... 'these are a few of our favourite things'! prior to boarding the coach back to St Ives. There was lots of laughter, great company, and a thoroughly good time was had by all.



Calendar of events 2021

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

OCTOBER

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, guitarist.

Saturday 30th - St Ives Comedy Club The Corn Exchange 7.30pm

Tickets: www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents.

NOVEMBER

Wednesday 10th - Lecture, A Tour of Big Ben - The Arts Society, Huntingdonshire. St Ives Corn Exchange 2.30pm. Guest Fee £5. Info: huntsarts.org

Saturday 13th - The Snowman Festival starts. Snowmen appear in shops and start of the children's Snowman Trail.

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. www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives.

ADVERTORIAL

Five reasons on why you should sell first:



1. Avoid missing out on viewing your dream home

While getting your property on the market before you buy may feel like a leap of faith, it makes sense. If you like a property you've seen advertised, it's likely in this market that another buyer in a position to move forward with the sale will also like it.

2. Sellers will take your offer seriously

In a market where there's a shortage of stock, like there is in St Ives, it's important to show sellers that you are committed and motivated to move. Competition to secure the perfect property is fierce and to be considered as a buyer when you finally find your perfect home, you need to be able to proceed.

3. Avoid rushing to sell and having to accept a lower offer

If you do find your dream home in a market as competitive as this, you might be tempted to submit a high offer in order to secure it. The clients that are not prepared are often end up rushing and don't have time on their hands. This also tends to result in them accepting a lower offer on theirs.

4. Get an accurate budget for your next purchase

With properties achieving record values at the moment, by selling first not only puts you in the strongest position to buy, but will also provide you with an accurate budget for what you can afford to buy next.

5. There's everything to gain

If the scenario arises where you have an acceptable offer on your sale but are yet to find a property yourself, your estate agent can help. It's their job to manage your buyers' expectations around timings, reassure on your seriousness and encourage patience; which in a market where good quality housing is at a premium, should not be too challenging.

If you need any advice on selling call our office on 01480 388 888

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