

The Riverporter



ST IVES AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER

COVERING THE NEWS FOR ST IVES AND AROUND

Issue 141: 18 August 2023

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Is this is beyond a joke now?

Vehicles are still regularly getting caught in the car trap at the junction of Station Road and Harrison Way despite signs warning of the danger. Is it time to do something more to stop this?



Ever since the car trap opened it has regularly had vehicles stuck in it. This has provided considerable expense for the victims and, more often than not, amusement for onlookers.

We at *The Riverporter* cannot claim to be innocent in this matter as the article (right), printed in our 1st April 1668 edition, shows.

On-line comments range from 'They should go to Specsavers' to 'Feed The Trap'.

Last week a town Facebook page put the above picture as it's new cover picture. It was chosen by readers despite many images of the famous bridge, the river and Cromwell's statue being suggested.

Social media pages often provide an opportunity for some people to make abusive remarks, but occasionally offers some humour, as the image below shows.

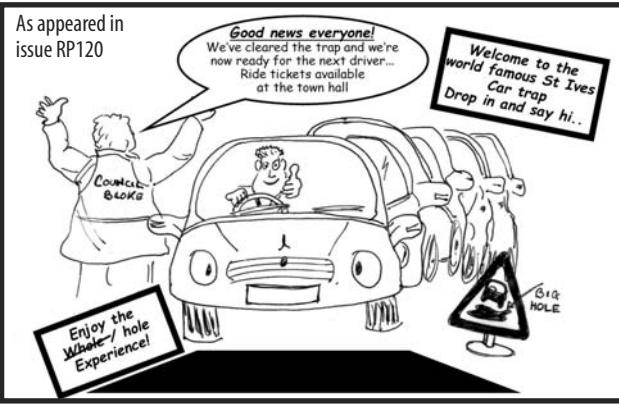
Time for the Council to step in?

However we now feel that it is time the County Council did more to prevent it happening before they receive a claim from one of the victims.

With so many people getting caught out it would be difficult for the County Council to argue that the

signage was adequate. One visitor, having attended a funeral in St Ives, missed the signs due to a bus being in front of them. Surely it is time to find another way of stopping this from happening if only to stop the disruption to the buses each time a car is stuck, and to prevent unfortunate visitors from having a poor experience in St Ives.

Last October *The Riverporter* suggested that this now infamous attraction might make the Council some money (see below right). We hope it doesn't cost them money instead.



Further concern for the New Guided Waggonway

At a recent town riot, residents again raised the issue of the Guided Waggonway and its hazardous track to Cambridge. Concern was expressed over the use of cart traps that prevent smaller vehicles from using the Waggonway. These trapped carts and numerous upside-down sheep are creating major delays in deliveries to Cambridge, and commuters to the local serfdoms and land owners are considering holding a series of town riots in protest. However the Mayor, Phil Whittington-Pope, has asked for papers to be sent to ACAS for dispute resolution.

DIARY OF EVENTS

AUGUST

Music on The Waits. Every Sunday 2.30pm until 4pm. Free. 20th - Musical Amigos, 27th - Acoustics Anonymous.

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 9th - Saturday 16th - Knitted Bible Stories Exhibition. A fun and fascinating exhibition at the Free Church. Free entry.

Sunday 10th - The official opening of the bandstand. Free entertainment with Split Whiskers and The Lightwaves, starts midday.

Sunday 10th - The Ouse Valley Marathon. Through the town centre.

Thursday 14th - Sunday 17th - The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival. 25 Free concerts over four days in a variety of venues. See the programme at: www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk

Saturday 16th - Huntingdon and District RAFA Branch Band Concert with the Huntingdonshire Concert Band. Free Church 7.30pm. Tickets £12 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/cxevents or from the Corn Exchange.

Saturday 16th - Heritage Open Day. There is fun on Holt Island and the opening of The Muddy Hoard exhibition at the Norris Museum. Civic Regalia on display at the Town Hall and interesting buildings to explore.

Sunday 17th - The Best of Broadway and The West End. Neil Richardson and Mark Burton at 2pm in St Ives Corn Exchange.

Friday 29th - Chapel Arts concert with the Tapestry Singers. Contemporary and period music sung - a cappella style. The Corn Exchange 7.30pm. Tickets £10 from the venue or at www.ticketsource.co.uk/cxevents.

OCTOBER

Friday 6th - Chapel Arts concert with Danilo Vignola. Flamenco music played on a Ukulele by this passionate Italian. The Corn Exchange 7.30pm. Tickets £10 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/cxevents or from the Bar.

Saturday 7th - The Old Riverport Ukulele Festival. The Corn Exchange 9.30am. An all-day Festival with workshops and performances.

Monday 9th - Wednesday 11th - Michaelmas Fair. In the town centre.

Saturday 14th - The Illuminated Boat Parade. Another FREE event to enjoy from The Town Team and FEST. Watch the 'parade' of boats illuminate the river with a theme of 'Musicals'.

Friday 27th - Chapel Arts concert with Lexie Green and Johnny 'Magic Boy' Wright. The Corn Exchange 7.30pm. Tickets £10 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/cxevents or from the Riverport Café Bar.

NOVEMBER

Saturday 4th - Fireworks in Hemingford. London Rd, St Ives from 5pm.

Saturday 11th - Handel's Messiah. St Ives Choral Society. 7.30pm St Ives Free Church.

Sunday 12th - Remembrance Sunday Parade. Market Hill 10.30am.

Monday 13th - Snowman Festival Trail starts.

A chance for children (under 12 years) to win a prize by completing the Snowman Trail available at participating stores.

Friday 24th - Chapel Arts Concert with Kim and Lee. Eurovision winner Kimberley Rew (Katrina & The Waves) and Lee Cave-Berry. The Corn Exchange 7.30pm. Tickets £10 www.ticketsource.co.uk/cxevents.

DECEMBER

Saturday 2nd - Mayor of St Ives Charity Concert with the RAF Wyton Band. The Free Church 7.30pm.

Saturday 9th - ArtsFest. Art, crafts and gifts for Christmas. The Corn Exchange from 10am. FREE entry

Saturday 16th - Sunday 17th - Two-day Santa and Snowman Festival. Games and craft activities plus a FREE Santa's Grotto. The Corn Exchange from 10am.

PLEASE NOTE: As yet we have been unable to establish if there will be a Christmas Lights Switch-on event this year. This usually takes place on a Sunday in November.

Parish Hall uncared for?



One of our readers has sent us this picture which shows tall weeds and grasses enveloping and choking the whole area; and weeds reaching up to the top of the wall on the public pavement.

According to the reader ... 'this is an utter disgrace and an affront to the churchgoers of All Saints' and to the people of St Ives, unloved and uncared for by the Vicar and the members of the Parochial Church Council, as have been the building fabric and interior facilities of the Parish Hall over the past 10 years. The Parochial Church Council should hang its collective head in shame.'

Residents VENT their anger - or is it just a lot of HOT AIR?



A few days ago Richard Cooper posted this picture on a local Facebook page and asked the question ... *How did a vent get placed where the sign is?* As you might expect this generated a few responses including ...

the obvious 'Someone probably drilled the wall I reckon, then stuck the plastic vent on the outside.' **to**

The amusing 'What came first, the chicken or the vent?!" **and ...**

'That mural now depicts how the St Ives riverport used to be the UK's major air vent delivery port in its heyday' **and**

The practical 'Someone will have to paint the vent to fit in!' **and ...**

The exasperated 'Words fail me!'

Some unkind person suggested that it (the mural) should be removed as it wasn't needed. Several people were not sure if the vent was there before the mural.

The Facts

Fortunately *The Riverporter* can answer some of these questions.

So, the mural was put up in 2014 by the Town Team, when the Town Council approved the naming of the Town's conservation area as The Old Riverport. This caused some confusion as some people thought the town had been renamed. To give St Ives the byline of Old Riverport was to recognise the important part that the river had played for centuries. There is no evidence of a port, as such, but the fact that a large proportion of the population made their living from it and that hundreds of barges moored here, with trade flowing at a greater tonnage than other towns, including Cambridge, St Ives was clearly an important river town with an area called 'The Quay'.

Herbert Norris, the local historian, namesake of the Norris Museum wrote in 1888: 'St Ives was formerly the centre of a great river traffic. I have seen the river so covered with barges, that boys could walk across the river, near The Quay, on their tops.'

The picture, by famous illustrator, Cecil Tresilian was 'discovered' on the lounge wall of Mrs Wilson, whose family were printers. It had been on a calendar they received and is the only known copy, which depicts The Quay sometime before 1930 when the top two floors of the Chapel were removed. We can confirm that the vent is newer and was put in earlier this year by the new owners of the building. They have converted the upstairs offices to flats and no doubt the vent is in a kitchen or bathroom. The sign was replaced last year but sadly the Town Team were not warned about this addition to it.

Painting over the vent has been considered, but that may cause more problems and now it has become yet another curious feature in St Ives. Incidentally The Old Riverport title has become synonymous with St Ives after 9 years of use and more and more businesses use it. The Old Riverport is unique and the only one in the world. Try googling it!

YMCA Assistant Manager assaulted

As we reported a fortnight ago the YMCA stopped trading last Saturday 12th August. But sadly for them their final week was marred by an assault on the Assistant Manager Rae.



Staff at YMCA dressed 'appropriately' as the Village people on their last day.

The assault took place at around 5.45pm as the store was shutting, when four people, three men and a woman, attacked Rae causing injuries, including a black eye (see below).

Fortunately there were 8 witnesses and the police were soon on hand to arrest the perpetrators.



One of the attackers had previously been barred from the shop for shop lifting and this is thought to be the reason for the attack.

The Police told *The Riverporter* that a Terry Dymoke, 33, of no fixed address, and Ashley Williams, 38, of Burgess Walk, St Ives, have both been charged with common assault and assault by beating.

Emma Coppolaro, 44, of Fox Grove, Godmanchester, has also been charged with actual bodily harm and is due to appear at Cambridge Magistrates' Court on 17 August. A 37-year-old man from Fenstanton was also arrested on suspicion of assault and bailed until 7 November. We understand they were released and on Tuesday were seated on the benches outside the Free Church.

The police also reported that a man in his 50s received injuries. Rae did not want to press charges but the Police prosecuted as they recorded the incident on their body cams.

The week ends better

On the final day the staff lightened the mood by dressing up as the Village People, no doubt singing along to the YMCA song.

As we reported the YMCA is looking for alternative accommodation and currently a couple of places are being considered. Don't hold your breath though because lease contracts can take ages to complete.

We might soon know the opening date for IVO, the Loungers restaurant that will be moving in to these premises.

Bridge Street like a scene from Les Mis



A week last Wednesday anyone going into Bridge Street late that evening or early the next morning would have seen the street barricaded, *Les Mis* style. It is thought that some late revellers had fun making the barricade with the boxes left outside the Mountain Warehouse store for collection the next morning. Whether they, or someone else, wrote **Just Stop Oil** is not known. It didn't take too long for comments to erupt on Facebook including:

'that ain't stopping anyone unless you drive around in a bubble of caution.'

'At least it's a peaceful protest!' **and**

'Let's hope nobody on Bridge Street needs an ambulance or fire brigade. Not very smart are they.'

Erik doesn't play ball with assistant Milly.



having your say ...

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

Dear Erik,

Subject YMCA

I know that so many people will miss the YMCA shop. It's wonderful range of items from clothing, furniture and electrical items provided relief for many people struggling with everyday life. The staff always did an amazing job, checking stock yet to be displayed, etc.

Let's hope that they quickly return to town. How many more food and drink places does St Ives need? Is someone trying to kill the town stone dead, i.e. the market and shops?

Charity Buyer

Dear Erik,

Jazz in the Old Riverport

Ah! It's the soft jazz and blues

That ignites the fuse of many a musical soul,
The listless blends of musical trends
And the dancing chords that unfold.

It's the soft airs of piano

The heartbeat of drums

Humming of bass guitar blends,
The midnight express of the sax's excess,
That the voice of an angel transcends.

It's the half light of moon

That glows from the stage,

Applause for the solo extremes,
Inspiring the mood, the audience exude.
Whilst living through one of their dreams.

Chris Morgan

'Poetry Folk Night'

Every 2nd Tuesday

@ The Corn Exchange

Dear Erik,

A thank you

Today (11th August) I was struggling to carry my vegetables back to my car (breathing problems due to CFS). A total stranger offered to help and I just want to thank him, it really helped me.

Caroline

Dear Erik

I want to tell you about a rude and unhelpful individual apparently working for HDC on our town's Monday market.

I am a town centre resident who has a designated parking space behind the town hall. In order to get out I can only go along Birt Lane, behind the Ollie Cromwell and along The Quay or go via Market Lane, by the Golden Lion into Market Hill.

On Market days a steward would normally let me carefully exit through the cones. Last Monday a delivery vehicle was blocking the route out via The Quay, so I had to leave via Market Hill.

However a man in his Hi-vis jacket stopped me coming out of Market Lane and standing in front of my car, bluntly refused to let me leave town. He even made me reverse back saying I can't any longer leave that way. Often due to deliveries to the Ollie or the Golden Lion this is the only way in or out.

How would emergency vehicles get to Wellington Street or the Quay if this route is blocked?

Post office vans travel freely back and forth and there is access for the businesses behind the Town Hall, but apparently no such provision for residents!

A jobsworth victim

The Riverporter

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

OTHER NEWS

Nuts Bistro voted one of the best places for afternoon tea in Huntingdonshire

The Hunts Post asked their readers who serves the best afternoon tea in Huntingdonshire.

According to the paper, 'votes ran into the hundreds' and it turns out that Nuts Bistro in Station Road, St Ives were voted the second best place in the District for a tea.

Placed first was The Willows in Brampton and Carriage's of Cambridge in Fen Drayton came third.

image: Newsquest

Co-owners, father and daughter duo Keith Taylor and Sarah Walters, told the Hunts Post that they were 'so chuffed' to have been announced as runners-up and stressed that they wouldn't be where they are today without their 'amazing' customers.

The family-run business serves a traditional afternoon cream tea featuring classic scones, jam, clotted cream, homemade mouth-watering cakes and sandwiches, however no cream tea needs to be the same, with an ever-changing specials board and freshly made delights, there is always something new on offer to keep customers coming back for more.

Sarah and Keith jumped at the chance to take over Nuts Bistro 18 months ago, and haven't looked back. Along with their staff, they serve with a smile in a welcoming environment where all can feel at home.



Garden waste collection suspended

Garden and bulky waste collections will be suspended across Huntingdonshire next week as the District Council responds to a five-day strike by employees who are members of UNISON. The country's biggest public sector union has called the strike after claiming the council is failing to take their pay grievances seriously.

UNISON said: 'No one ever wants to go on strike. But these workers are being left with little alternative. They know local government staff in other parts of England and Wales have been offered more. Huntingdonshire's employees aren't asking for the moon. Just a fair pay increase that better reflects the rising cost of rent, food, fuel, energy and pretty much everything else as the cost-of-living crisis continues to bite.'

Cllr Martin Hassall, Executive Councillor for HDC's Corporate and Shared Services, said: 'We have made the commitment to rewarding staff fairly, and offering other benefits, whenever we are able to do so. Currently we are waiting to hear if our pay proposal is accepted, but if industrial action does go ahead, we have plans in place to minimise disruption to our frontline services. While we believe the majority of our services will be unaffected, some services may have to be prioritised at the expense of others and we would ask for the public's patience.'

The strike starts Monday 21 August and will run until Friday 25 August.

Green bin charge to go ahead

Last week the District Council held a debate about proposals to charge for green bin collection. The vote taken at the Scrutiny Panel meeting on 10 August, called in by the Conservation opposition approved the charge by 12 votes to 7. The charges will start in April. The Council maintain that it would have a £1.4million deficit without the charges and as it is not a statutory service many authorities charge for this. They also claim that encouraging more people to compost at home will be good for the environment with fewer bins collected reducing the CO2 produced from bin lorries.

HIGHLIGHTING THE BANDS

playing at this year's Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival

Rich Young

Rich describes himself as a singer, songwriter, musician, producer, raconteur, OCD archivist and one-time tortoise smuggler - so he's been around!



Acoustic based, he plays Americana/blues/rock 'n roots. He also plays boogie piano and is just as happy playing covers as well as original material. Rich recently released his 8th solo album of original material called 'Lamplighter' and hopes to have Tim Slater playing electric guitar appearing with him.

You can see Rich at The Oliver Cromwell on Saturday 16th September at 4pm

You can see the full programme at www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk

T-Shirts on sale NOW!

The Town Team will be selling T-shirts and handing out the programmes this Saturday at the Farmers Market from 10am. To ensure you can get yours call in. T-shirts cost £10 and are also on sale at the Corn Exchange, Nelson's Head, Floods Tavern and the Haywain.



**Entries Invited for Our Next
Antiques & Interiors Sale
on Saturday 2nd September**



Sold In Our Last Interiors sale

Large collection of 19thC Chinese Blue and White Willow pattern tableware with gilded banding

Sold £1500



Persian Red and blue ground rug 180cm in Length

Sold £500



Auerhahn 800 Silver & Inox Silver set of Cutlery

Sold £750



Ladies 9ct Gold Charm bracelet

Sold £550



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



HUNTINGDONSHIRE CONCERT BAND PRESENTS

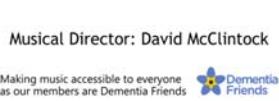
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Musical Director: David McClintock

Making music accessible to everyone
as our members are Dementia Friends



**ROYAL AIR FORCES
Association**
The charity that supports the RAF family



TICKETS £12 AVAILABLE FROM:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents
The Corn Exchange or call 01480 496955

ST IVES FREE CHURCH

Market Hill, St Ives PE27 5AL
Saturday 16th September 7.30pm – doors open 6.45pm

www.hcband.co.uk

Huntingdon and District RAFA branch Charity no 1070489

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FRIDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 7:30PM

ST IVES METHODIST CHURCH

THE WAITS, ST IVES, PE27 5BY

TICKETS £10

FOR TICKETS CONTACT F.M.FISH@BTINTERNET.COM / 07774 777006

ST IVES CORN EXCHANGE

COUNTRY Night

SATURDAY 26TH AUGUST 2023

ST IVES CORN EXCHANGE
DOORS OPEN AT: 7:15PM
MUSIC BEGINS AT: 8:00PM

FEATURING

COUNTRY BOUND 5 PIECE BAND

TICKETS: £18
TICKETS AVAILABLE
AT THE VENUE OR
ONLINE

Buy tickets at www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents
or call 01480 496955

www.thecornexchange.org.uk

