

# The Riverporter

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

## Police & Crime Commissioner's remarks upset ex councillors

**I**n *The Riverporter* last May we mentioned disappointment that, although invited, no District or County Councillor, nor the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), had been in attendance to answer questions from the public at St Ives' annual Town Meeting.

We are pleased to report that Jason Ablewhite, our Police & Crime Commissioner did attend last months Town Council meeting and spoke during the period set aside for public participation. Sadly this meeting clashed with a mediaeval lutist concert in the Chapel and a seemingly important World Cup semi-final, so it's not surprising that no members of the public attended. However *The Riverporter* can report that Mr Ablewhite took the opportunity to reflect on his career to date, saying that when a Town Councillor he had been responsible to 17,000 residents and when Leader of HDC this had expanded to around 180,000. Now as PCC he was responsible for over 800,000 people. He went on to say that he hoped to create a better relationship between the PCC's office and strategic partners. He said that some of the councillors who had retired in May had not done the Town any favours and that not working together previously had cost the town some investment. On a more positive note he said how pleased he was with the make up of the current Council and he believed this Town Council and

the PCC could now work effectively together. In response the Town Mayor, Tim Drye, thanked the Commissioner for his comments and looked forward to working together in the future.

### Questions raised

The Commissioner's comments did raise a number of questions, so *The Riverporter* contacted the Commissioner's office to seek clarification on some issues, such as which strategic partners the PCC's office has been unable to develop a relationship with? Why? And how could he improve it?

We also wanted to know which ex councillors, in Mr Ablewhite's opinion, had caused lost investment for the Town.

The reply when it came offered no clarity on any of the points we raised. Catherine Kimberley, the PCC's Communications and Engagement Manager wrote:

**'The Commissioner has asked me to reply that he attended the meeting and made the comments because he is entitled to do so'.**

We were intrigued by this criticism of the councillors who had recently

retired, for there were some notable people among them. Three of the six who have left were former Mayors and two of them, Cllrs Dobson and Townsend, had been Mayor on more than one occasion and had each given around twenty years service to the town. Cllr Jackson who was Mayor in 2015/16 was very active helping develop the award winning Holt Island nature reserve and campaigning on behalf of Dementia awareness, which he continues to do since stepping down from the Council. Cllrs Dobson and Townsend were extremely active and remain so. Ian Dobson by helping to run the Corn Exchange and Debbie Townsend as a school governor and Trustee of the busy Huntingdonshire Volunteer Centre based in The Free Church.

### Opinions sought

We asked Ian and Debbie if they had any comment to make when they heard of Mr Ablewhite's remarks.

Debbie said that she was 'dissapointed with Jason's comments. The Council had made every effort to work with HDC and that the PCC had been invited to attend Council meetings since his election but had

### THE Chapel Arts Season 2018

A series of concerts and events in the Chapel on St Ives Bridge

From Debussy to  
Titanic with  
harpist

**Ruth Holden**

**Sunday 12th  
August 6pm for  
6.30pm**

Places are limited - Tickets £10  
from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives) or The Corn Exchange.  
For details [www.theoldriverportstives.co.uk](http://www.theoldriverportstives.co.uk)



declined.' (reportedly the Commissioner told St Ives clrs they could attend his surgeries if they wanted to speak to him.) Debbie said 'these comments have more to say about Mr Ablewhite's attitude than that of the Town Council.'

Ian Dobson was more forthright and told *The Riverporter* ...

'HDC in general and Mr Ablewhite in particular do not work with town and parish councils that do not bend meekly to their will. For them genuine consultations and working cooperatively are alien concepts.'

Two years ago the newly elected HDC leader, Robin Howe, came to a Town Council meeting. Like a second Neville Chamberlain he promised a Master Plan for St Ives of all the Stakeholders. In a short time Cllr Howe resigned and the subject of the Master Plan vanished. No coincidence there!

I and other Town Councillors tried our hardest to get discussions started, but nothing at all came back from HDC.

All of the fault and blame for non-cooperation is to be laid at HDC's door.

What possible reason could I and others have had for wanting to be coy or obstructive? St Ives people were cheated out of £1 million of

environmental improvements in 2009 because the Conservative HDC Cabinet could not stomach an alternative plan that had the support of all Stakeholders in St Ives; it even had the support of HDC's own Officers involved in the consultation.

If the Master Plan is ever revived by HDC, everyone will be able to judge what level of genuine participation is permitted to the Town Council and to the people of St Ives.

What Cllr Ablewhite said about identifiable, past Town Mayors and Councillors and what the Mayor permitted him to say without sanction is beyond the pale, but regrettably in character. The rules for Public Participation at Council meetings state clearly: The Council will not permit public speaking that is abusive or libelous, relates to a specific or identifiable person, that involves personal or prejudicial issues ...'It appears that the Mayor and Town Council are giving Cllr Ablewhite carte blanche to recreate the mayhem of 2006-2009.'

### Mayors comment

When asked about the remarks made by Mr Ablewhite, the Mayor said he preferred they should not be reported as he was concerned that such remarks might 'rake over old coals', preventing 'current issues to be addressed straightforwardly'.

*The Riverporter* is only reporting the news, however we cannot avoid making the obvious observation that it appears that Mr Ablewhite is the person raking over old coals.

## How great to see the river so busy again!

*Our beautiful stretch of the river is busy once again, as it was 120 years ago when still a thriving riverport (see below right). Now it is bustling with tourist boats and visitors. This years lovely summer is seeing our riverfront a hive of activity and it's all set to continue with events such as Music on The Waits, the Chapel Arts Season, The Old Riverport Jazz and Blues Festival and soon the Flea on the Quay. Of course, our riverside bars and restaurants all add to the atmosphere.*



*The Swans were surprisingly cooperative too.*



To contact *The Riverporter* email: [editor@theriverporter.uk](mailto:editor@theriverporter.uk)

# CHILDREN'S MESSAGES FOR THE FALLEN



**T**own Council Mayor's Cllrs Luter, Jackson, Townsend, Pope and Drye, who served over the Centenary years of the First World War (2014-18), were set a really difficult task recently.

Yes, even more difficult than being Mayor – it's not as easy as it looks you know!

The British Legion wanted us to select two messages from the seventeen selected from three local schools. The theme set for the children was to compose a 'thank you' in the form of a poem or a prayer, or perhaps simply in just a few words, to the generation that gave us so much in the form of the ultimate sacrifice 100 years ago.

There was a particular reason for this request. The St Ives (Hunts) & District Branch of the Royal British Legion and the Women's Section attended the 90th anniversary of the RBL 1928 great pilgrimage to World War One battlefields for thousands of its members. The GP90 Event was held on 5-8 August during which approximately 1,500 RBL Standards were presented at the Menin Gate, Ypres, on 8 August in a ceremony attended by HRH Prince Charles and the Belgian Royal family.

Our St Ives RBL representatives presented two wreaths, one for the main branch and the other for the women's section, each adorned with the message from our St Ives school children. The messages chosen by our Mayors were as follows

**Main Branch Wreath:** Dear Lord . . . We would like to thank you for the Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen who protect us. All of us have freedom because of their sacrifice. Remember those who have died or been hurt in war. AMEN. George Heather, Abbots Ripton CofE School.

**Women's Section Wreath:** Let's not forget the heroes of yesterday but, let's be inspired by them and let's be the heroes of today. Joshua Burgess, Thorndown Primary School

Both children received a visit at their schools from Monica Thompson and Mike Robinson from our RBL and presented with a Certificate of Thanks plus a Book Token as an appreciation of their obvious respect for those who fell for us. What a heart-warming gesture from across the generations to ensure that our loved-ones will truly never be forgotten.

**Postscript:** In conjunction with the Norris Museum's display project for October/November the RBL also now plan to display all 90 messages contributed by the children from the schools. So, every message will be recognized.

Ian Jackson Former Town Mayor

## More from Heidi our Environmental Correspondent

Whoopie! It's the strangest things that can warm a girl's heart. This morning I peaked through the curtains to see a welcome sight for any boating babe - the annual return of the weedeater! Such a powerful machine, such handsome operators (steady Heidi - Ed), so useful.

This lovely warm weather stimulates not just me but also the water weed flourishing in the clear water. This can easily clog up a girl's prop (there you go again Heidi, watch it - Ed) leading to much inconvenience

and embarrassment. I always have to ask for assistance . . .

How are you getting on in the heatwave? It doesn't take much to overheat me as you know!



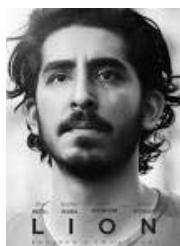
Byeee for now - off for another dry white wine with soda and loads of ice - Heidi's answer to everything. Heidi x

## Screen St Ives

An independent community cinema in the Corn Exchange

Films are screened on the third Friday of each month in the main hall (Screen 1) and on the first Thursday in the month in the upstairs Tony Burgess Room (Screen 2).

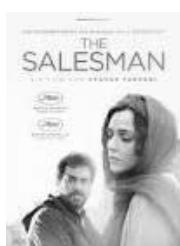
Doors open at 7.30pm and films start at 8pm. Refreshments are available before the screening. All tickets cost only £5, and are available online or in person at the Corn Exchange, St Ives.



### Screen 1: Fri 17th Aug LION

(Director: Garth Davis, UK/Aus/USA 2016, 1h 55m)

A small Indian boy gets lost in Calcutta (now Kolkata), miles from home. Following terrible experiences, he is sent to Australia for adoption by a loving, generous family. 25 years later and troubled by his past, he returns to India to search for his birth family.



### Screen 2: Thu 6th Sep THE SALESMAN

(Director: Asghar Farhadi, Iran 2017, 2h 1m)

An Iranian couple suffer a crime in their new apartment. They are actors rehearsing for Arthur Miller's play 'Death of a Salesman' and the complex threading of fictional storylines and real-life relationships builds to a gripping conclusion.



On Saturday 28th July the Norris Museum celebrated a year since the building was refurbished with a range of activities, including face painting, crafts, demonstrations, and medieval spinning.

A band of roaming minstrels toured the town playing music from yesteryear. About 300 people enjoyed the celebrations.

## Field Lodge Care Home Summer Fete

**Saturday August 18th 1 - 4pm**

We look forward to welcoming the community to our Fete

**Shetland Ponies • Bouncy Castle • Tombola • craft stalls • BBQ and more**

Field Lodge Care Home London Road, St Ives.

## Sheep Worrying and campfires

This warm weather has encouraged many more people to relax in the great outdoors but this has created some safety issues. Concerns have been raised about dogs, let off the lead on Hemingford Meadow, worrying the sheep grazing there and campfires being left alight and unattended on Nobles Field. Please be aware when out and about and report any such incidents to the authorities.

## The Sutton Masque were back in town

There's always something good happening in St Ives. We are lucky to have so much music and fun happening in all our great bars and restaurants. Last week saw the Morris men and women from 'The Sutton Masque' back in town complete with their amazing owl mascot named 'Mage'. Our Erik couldn't resist running off to say hi and joined in with the fun (Erik reckons anyone that wants to dance in the street and play with sticks is okay with him).

We asked the group what brought them back into town so soon after their last visit? It appears to have something to do with their love of the Oliver Cromwell pub.



having your say ...



## Dear Erik PAWS FOR THOUGHT

Get it off your chest, email Erik at: [editor@theriverporter.uk](mailto:editor@theriverporter.uk)

### Dear Erik

I had to put paw to paper and complain about the noise. On Friday 3rd August just after midnight a huge truck belonging to the Lanes Group pulled up outside my house on the Quay, it did an eight-point turn and then all hell was released....

The driver left the engine running until 3 am on Saturday morning pumping goodness knows what out of the drains. My two front rooms quickly filled with exhaust fumes (very unhealthy for a fat cat like me!) and my mum tried to call the number on the truck but no answer of course.

It was one of our lovely hot nights and I really needed the windows open. Surely the Lanes group should know that we now have residents living here, and how about the poor people on the visiting boats moored along the Quay for the night? They were certainly off quick the next day... So come on council 'Let's have some common sense!'

Your cousin 'Charlie' the fat cat.



### Good one lads

That darn tree has been stuck under the bridge for ages and despite calls to the Environment agency and pointing it out to the rivers clippers only a week ago this huge tree trunk had remained lodged much to the annoyance of many small craft that have happened upon it by chance.

But now two enterprising brothers Jack and Daniel have jumped to the rescue, saw in hand, they have got the job done and the channel is open again and no doubt that tree will keep dad in firewood for a while too.

### Erik first with the news again!



We often get comments from residents who live near the Broadway and adjoining Ramsey Road area about the extreme speeds and noise of 'Boy Racers' as they are described. The drivers seem to delight in showing off their sound systems and acceleration. It is little surprise then that we came across this BMW parked halfway up a lamppost! Onlookers were quickly discussing how the driver had managed to do that!

Well our intrepid reporter ERIK certainly lived up to his reputation of sniffing out the news as he actually saw the incident. According to Erik the driver lost control and overturned the car which

was stopped from somersaulting along the road by the lamppost.

The young man involved seemed equally non-plussed as he said he was only doing 20mph, which was just as well as according to the sign in Erik's picture left there is a 20mph speed limit.



### Well done team NCS

Teenagers undertaking this year's National Citizens Service were found working together around town last week entertaining locals with a display of Bollywood style dancing. We caught up with them down on the Quay preparing another impromptu performance to raise awareness and funds to help defeat eating disorders. National Citizen Service (NCS) is open to all 16 and 17-year-olds in England and brings together young people from different backgrounds and helps them develop greater confidence, self-awareness and responsibility. Well done team, we're proud of you.



### Abaht t'at

The Editor received a message, almost as soon as the last issue came out, from Alan Davies who wondered if this picture (above) could be of the Mayor's missing hat?

We checked with the Mayor who said indeed it was and apparently it had made its way to the Veteran's Breakfast up at the Haywain, followed by a trip to the Engineer Games in Scotland.

The first the Mayor knew about it was when he visited the Veteran's Breakfast and introduced himself, only to be told that they knew who he was because his cap had been the month before!

It wasn't long before more sightings were noted such as this one on the left.



### REASONS TO BE SHUT PART 10

It's the new secret HQ for councillors suffering from 'Condipendence'  
Why's that?  
Well it'll be closed forever now  
What's that then?  
It's a rare condition where sufferers think they are independent but they're told what to think so they slowly go barmy!

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*Mike Ellis of Ellis Winters suggests a practical guide to decluttering.*



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The lack of space in modern homes means we are constantly looking to declutter whether we're moving house or not. A recent study claimed individuals own more than £2,500 worth of items they no longer need that's a whopping £70.4 billion nationally. Almost three-quarters (68%) of people say that having belongings they no longer need makes them feel stressed and disorganised.

### Here are a few "do's and don'ts" of decluttering:

**DO:** declutter one room at a time, this way you'll see clear progress as you tackle and complete one task at time. It avoids getting overwhelmed.

**DON'T:** be too nostalgic, be completely honest with yourself about what items you really need.

**DO:** try the wardrobe hanger experiment, turn around the hooks on all the hangers in your wardrobe, once you wear an item, turn the hanger back the other way. After three months get rid of any clothes on

hangers still hooked on the wrong way, you don't need them.

**DON'T:** keep clothes you never wear.

**DO:** ask a friend to come to help, they will give you an objective opinion on what they think you do and don't need.

**DON'T:** keep something you think you'll use tomorrow when you know that you won't.

**DO:** ask a relative if you can store boxed items at their house just while you're moving, your house will then appear clutter free.

**DON'T:** overfill cupboards, buyers look in them and the last thing you need to do is draw attention to the lack of storage.

After decluttering, invest in wall shelving units and style the things you hold dear artfully on a shelf, this gives your so-called clutter a new lease of life and from a practical point of view, shelving draws the eye upwards, which creates the illusion of a larger space.

The St Ives Old Riverport

# Flea on the Quay



Collectables- Curious items- Crafts- Objet d'art- Antiques

St Ives Town Team are to organize a Sunday Flea market to be held on the beautiful St Ives Quayside from this September 9th

## Stalls Available

The initial proposal is for a maximum of 15 stalls on every other Sunday morning from 10:30am to 3:30pm

Each stall will be a 6' table and items for sale should be easily displayed either on or under that table (no very large items)

The fee per table is £10.

If you would like to be part of this exciting new St Ives town event please complete one of our entry forms available in the Corn Exchange and send to ... **The St Ives Town Team,**

**3 The Quay, St Ives, PE27 5AR**



ADVERTORIAL

## PREPARING YOUR HOUSE FOR SALE

*Mike Ellis of Ellis Winters suggests a practical guide to decluttering.*

Buyers like to see clean and tidy houses, they are more likely to buy if they can imagine themselves living with the current owners furniture and the 'clutter' that's around.

Good luck with the clearing away and take solace in the fact that your house is likely to sell quicker once you have decluttered.

**For practical help and advice on the best way to present your house for sale call us on 01480 388 888**



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