

The Riverporter



SAVE THE PLANET - READ AND PASS ON

COVERING THE NEWS FOR ST IVES AND AROUND

Issue 170: 25 October 2024

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

St Ives - Best in Britain

St Ives In Bloom have done it again and was awarded another Gold Medal and named the **BEST BLOOMIN' LARGE TOWN IN BRITAIN** at last Mondays National Award Ceremony in Manchester.

This amazing result is the culmination of years of hard work by many volunteers.

Competing against the very best towns from the other regions in England and Wales, the judges said St Ives In Bloom (SIIB) stood out for its conservation efforts at a local nature reserve, thoughtful planting in the cemetery's contemplation garden and a commitment to making the community allotment a go-to area for residents.

Engagement with young people was also praised. The judges, who visited the town on 31 July (see RP 164), mentioned the collaboration between SIIB, Spring Common Academy and the Norris Museum on a project that epitomised the Bloom's 60th anniversary theme of friendship.

Students from Spring Common Academy designed and created a flowerbed and planters by the Museum, friendly for both people and pollinators. Children were helped to pot on their chosen flowers, cut out wooden bees and flowers to paint, as well as showing them a beehive with its honeycomb. They also helped construct a bridge of friendship, while a local crafters group made a knitted daisy chain and some smiling bees.



Pictured receiving the Best in Class for the Large Town Category across all the Britain in Bloom (BIB) regions are left to right: James Cordingly (BIB judge), Josh Crang, Sarah Banks-Crang, Philip Davies (Chair SIIB), Kerry Maguire and Ray Beckwith (BIB judge).

Phil said *'We are truly excited that this shows the quality of our achievements. It is the culmination of a year of hard work for the St Ives In Bloom volunteers, with support from many of the local businesses, other volunteer groups, the town council grounds team and all our friends around the town who support us.'*

A FITTING MEMORIAL

Just as the result was being announced in Manchester - at Huntingdon Crematorium - relatives, friends and colleagues were attending the funeral of Colin Saunderson, a long standing St Ives In Bloom member.

His efforts over the years contributed massively to SIIB's successes and this good news turned a sad occasion into one of thanks for a life well lived and a fitting memorial for Colin, who would have been delighted by this success for St Ives.

All the fun of the fair



TONIGHT Friday 25th October
4 WINDS SAX QUARTET



With a programme ranging from the Baroque to Bebop. Latin rhythms abound in pieces by Piazzolla and Albeniz, alongside more soulful melodies, and the most famous jazz tune of all time - Take Five. Doors open at 7pm. Concert starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £10 on the door or from www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents



DIARY OF EVENTS

If you wish to inform us of your events please email: editor@theriverporter.uk

NOVEMBER

Saturday 2nd - Craft Fair. Saints Crafters Free Church 9:30am-FREE ENTRY.

Sunday 3rd - Sound Bath, The Corn Exchange 10.30am till 11.30am.

Booking: bookwhen.com/soulcentredsound

Wednesday 6th - Engage Talk - Conserving St Ives - 2pm, Library

Thursday 7th - Kate Rhodes Creative Writing Workshop - 10:30am at St Ives Library. £6 per person, book at the Library.

Sunday 10th - Remembrance Parade.

Saturday 16th - Christmas Lights Switch-On

Saturday 16th - St Ives Choral Society 50th Anniversary Gala

Concert. Free Church, St Ives 7.30pm Tickets available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-ives-choral-society

Saturday 23rd - ArtsFEST - St Ives Corn Exchange 10 am to 4 pm.

Thursday 28th - The Haigh Trust Draw during the Darby and Joan Club Christmas lunch at the Corn Exchange, at 3.30pm.

Friday 29th - FREE Lunchtime concert Phoenix Players of St Ives 1.10pm at the Free Church. Mozart, Meyebeer and Coleridge-taylor.

Friday 29th - Chapel Arts concert with Chris Newman & Humfry Finkel Corn Ex. 7.30pm. Tickets £10 w www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents.

Saturday 30th - Craft Fair. Saints Crafters at St Ives Corn Exchange 9:30-3:30-FREE ENTRY.

DECEMBER

Sunday 1st - Sound Bath, Corn Exchange bookwhen.com/soulcentredsound

Wednesday 4th - Engage Talk - An Introduction to Leatherwork with Paul Smith - 2pm, St Ives Library

Saturday 7th - Craft Fair. Saints Crafters, Free Church 9:30am-FREE ENTRY.

Saturday 7th - St Ives Community Choir concert Free Church at 7.30.

Saturday 14th - Santa Arrives at the Quay by boat

Saturday 14th/Sunday 15th - Santas Snow FEST St Ives Corn Exchange.

JANUARY 2025

Saturday 18th - COSI Scottish Themed Winter Concert 7pm at the Free Church. Tickets £10, under 16s free, on the door or from www.ticketsource.co.uk/chamber-orchestra-of-st-ives. Program includes; Scottish Symphony by Mendelssohn and Coronation Scot by Ellis.

Left: The Mayor Pasco Hussain reads out the declaration to start the annual Michaelmas Fair, watched by councillors and fair organisers, who paid tribute to Muriel Moore (right) for her support over the years.

The tradition of throwing pennies for schoolchildren to collect was different again this year. Due to inflation two pence pieces had now become 10 pence pieces. Mind you the price of rides has soared even more in recent years.



Age and Dementia Friendly Awareness Day a success

There was representation from over 25 organisations, including local branches of Age UK, The St Ives Dementia Friendly Community Group, The Police, u3a and The Acorn Cancer Support Group.



The day was organised by Roger Kuch and Agi Peach from The St Ives Dementia Friendly Community Group, and Jane Jenner, St Ives Cares project co-ordinator.

The event was opened in The Corn Exchange, by the Mayor of St Ives, Cllr Pasco Hussain.

There were talks on, supporting activities for people living with dementia and their carers, crime prevention and scamming. There were singing demonstrations from the 'Memory Lane Singing Café' and exercise and games demonstrations from 'Love to Move' and 'Active for Health'.

The hall was buzzing with music, singing and dancing, with professionals and volunteers on hand to help people realise the amazing support we have in the town.



Fantasy filmed in St Ives

Volunteer filmmakers based in St Ives are bringing a world of magical spirits, candlelit taverns and desperate sword-fights to the screen. **Ren: The Girl with the Mark.**

Working with a crowdfunded budget that would pay for only a few seconds of Amazon's The Rings of Power, their first episode has almost

10 million views. The group will be attending Bilbao Seriesland in northern Spain, a festival of digital content, where Ren is nominated for six awards.

Ren is filmed at Burleigh Hill Farm in St Ives. The farm's grain store, medieval barn and fields have been transformed into such settings as an



underground market, a bleak battlefield, a razed town and a shadowy tavern.

Ren can be found at renthegirlwiththemark.com The Riverporter will be interviewing the cast in November.

How - for sale?

The How, former home of Rex Wadsworth on land overlooking the Great Ouse Valley, is up for sale.

Agents Bidwells have been appointed on behalf of the Receiver to market the Grade II listed property, a now part-derelict, seven-bedroom Victorian designed house. Its Grade II categorisation is defined by Historic England as a building 'of special interest, warranting every effort to preserve it'.

Controversial building work on the 4.2 hectare plot has been stop-go. The How Development Company 2 Ltd., developers of the new build houses, went into administration in May (RP160, June). Kroll Advisory Ltd, were appointed Administrators. The How Development 3 Ltd., responsible for the main house, went into receivership earlier in the year due to action by a bank creditor. The How Development 1 Ltd. is still registered as active.

A confidential report issued by the Administrators in July appears to show the initial plan was to get the development completed and properties sold to meet outstanding debts, which seemed to exceed £5m.

Administrators reserved nearly £500,000 to pay contractors for necessary works so that the development could continue, thought to be groundworks, demolition of the burned-out houses destroyed by fire and site clearance. Administrators also appear to have entered into an agreement with a specialist finance management group who have been awarded Secure Creditor Status and given first Debenture status, a claim on assets ultimately realised.

Administrators are making no comment on the current status.



The How, with new houses of the development in the background.

The Riverporter did manage to speak to Richard Rowland, who currently lives in the house, which is separate from the How Development.

Although not a director he is a shareholder and Mr Rowland told The Riverporter that of the 19 houses being built, 14 have been sold. He also said that the two houses that caught fire were uninsured and they need to be rebuilt. Mr Rowland had been arrested on suspicion of starting the fire, although he was

released without charge when doorbell footage showed he was elsewhere.

Seven of the houses are finished with buyers due to move in soon and Mr Rowland hopes that eventually, when the site is finished he will get back the money he has lost so far. The future of The How house is less certain despite it being up for sale, as it seems unlikely to be bought in the current state. Mr Rowland expects that it will become flats.

Snowman Festival 24 begins 16th November



The Snowman Festival returns, and once again there is a Shop Window competition and the best display will win £200 in cash!

The Snowman Trail will be on again, where children, accompanied by an adult, collect stickers by visiting the shops on the Trail, to try and win one of four Townrow vouchers worth £50. Trail maps will be available from La Muse and other participating stores.

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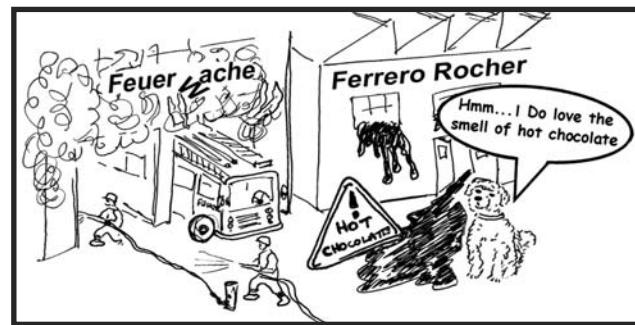
Mayor sends message of friendship

St Ives Twin Town of Stadtallendorf, Germany hit the news as its fire station was destroyed by fire. Its state-of-the-art fire station, completed last year at a cost of tens of millions of euros was destroyed by a fire



that had started in a vehicle. Members of the local volunteer fire brigade battled the blaze, as 10-metre flames leapt from the station's roof. No one was injured although 10 fire engines were destroyed. Relief at the lack of casualties quickly gave way to incredulity that the building had no fire alarm as it was classified simply as a building holding equipment.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor of St Ives sent a letter to the Mayor of Stadtallendorf, Christian Somogyi, expressing the Council's concern and said that this incident had motivated them to reinforce the towns 30+ year friendship, possibly with visits in the coming year. Stadtallendorf is the home of the famous Ferrero Rocher chocolates.





Erik prepares for Halloween



Having your say ...

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

Dear Erik,
Please could you include a few words about our forthcoming Rotary Winter Fair in your next edition of the Riverporter.

Our Rotary Winter Craft Fair takes place on Sunday 27th October in St Ives Corn Exchange from 10am to 3.30pm.

Please come along - we will have over 30 stalls of local crafters brimming with gift ideas!!!

Fiona Stocker,
President, The Rotary Club of St Ives.

Dear Erik,
I don't know if this is something you can help me with but on two occasions I have seen notifications of roadworks to be carried out on Needingworth Road, near McDonalds, for a pedestrian crossing to be installed. The last notification in June this year, appeared in the Hunts Post. To date nothing has happened to install the pedestrian crossing and I have not been able to find anything about it online, therefore it would be much appreciated if you are able to look into this and find out if we will get a crossing, as it can be quite difficult to negotiate the traffic in that area.

Thanking you L Munro

We have been in touch with the authorities and will let you know if we get an answer.

Dear Erik,
After reading your article on Colin Saunderson I felt that I must make a comment.
Where have all the Characters gone? Colin was certainly a Character. He was an asset to our town and he will be sorely missed. As you said Colin was one of a kind.
Beat wishes Angie (Walters)

Dear Erik,
What a shame!
I recently heard that Dobbies was due to close at the end of the year. Whenever I go in it is always busy, especially the restaurant. It is a great place for people of all ages to meet, a real hub of the community, but a sign of the times that it is closing; rumour has it through the extortionate rent demanded by the landlord. There are diggers already on the site so more rumours that houses will eventually be built on the land.
In the meantime I would like to thank the staff, who have always been helpful, as they seek new employment. Who said hard work pays? Let's hope for the sake of our communities that a similar business comes along to provide that community hub; preferably on a bus route between Huntingdon and St Ives for those of us that buy plants but don't drive! K Wilson

Broadway teething problems?

As work on the Broadway comes to an end there have been one or two problems to solve. The first was about access for emergency vehicles during the Michaelmas fair where temporary ramps of tarmac were used to cover the path that juts into the road (see pic below).



There is some concern over the planters (see right). St Ives In Bloom say they do not have the resources to look after them and we hope the containers are the self-watering type, otherwise they will need constant watering.



Another comment is - *that it might have been nice to see a couple of trees included.*

One good piece of news for the area is that although Simon Hepher has announced his retirement and the closure of the shop his father started in 1952, it will remain a Euronics electrical supplier as Adams Cooke & Pearce from Huntingdon are taking over the business from the beginning of November.

The Riverporter

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

OTHER NEWS

The HAIGH TRUST DRAW

The Draw is an annual event where eligible residents enter a draw for a share of the dividends from the Trust. The Trust was started in 1961 by Mr C Haigh, who was a town councillor and Mayor, with 440 shares in the Eastern Assam Tea Company. This year's Draw will take place at the Corn Exchange on **Thursday 28th November at 3.30pm** during the Darby and Joan Club Christmas lunch. Persons eligible to participate must reside in the Parish of St Ives and be aged over 65 years. All applications must be submitted to the Town Hall prior to the event.

Where does 'Hobson's Choice' come from?

Find out by attending the screening of Pure Clean Water on Thursday 31 October at 7.30 pm at St Ives Corn Exchange. The film focuses on the precious chalk streams, which have historically provided Cambridge with its water, but due to over-abstraction are drying up. The discussion panel comprises Dr Paul Leinster CBE Chair of Water Resources East, Phil Rothwell, Trustee of Great Ouse Rivers Trust, and Charles Dalleywater, Chair of the Alconbury Flood Group. Tickets available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents or from the Corn Exchange.

Sultan Tandoori's Chef Crowned Best

Chef Badsha Miah has been honoured with the prestigious **Best Chef of The Year 2024** title at the 15th annual Curry Life Awards. The glittering awards ceremony, held at the London Marriott Hotel Grosvenor Square on October 13, saw Sultan Tandoori's team receive this coveted accolade from GB News presenter Camilla Tominey (left) and Lord Karan Bilimoria CBE, founder of Cobra Beer (right). Also pictured are (centre left to right) Sultan MD Shahin Miah, Chef Badsha Miah and Sultan owner Mr Muhid Ali.



This year's awards celebrated excellence across the UK's multi-billion-pound curry industry. The rigorous selection process involved customer nominations, site visits by the awards team, and anonymous judging, making Chef Miah's win all the more impressive.

Still time to comment on local road plans

You can do so at the Corn Exchange in St Ives on 5 November between 9am - 2pm.

Will there be Tory candidates next year?

It would appear that Kevin Reynolds, currently a Conservative County Councillor for St Ives South & Needingworth will stand in next year's County Council elections as an Independent.

Uke Fest's best Steam Punk

This year's annual Old Riverport Ukelele Festival, run by the Town Team, proved extremely popular with hundreds of ukulele players attending. The 4th October Festival sold out in April and the organisers are considering holding an extra event in spring. The winner of the best dressed punk was Jim Smith from Warboys (right) whose brilliant costume and shoes were particularly impressive, according to Ukelele Simon, the star of the show, who selected the winner. When presented with the prize, a brand new MAIA Ukelele, Jim said he was so happy to have won, as he had been diagnosed with Pancreatic cancer nine years ago and never expect to be here now.



A Community Website for the People of St Ives

- Businesses in St Ives
- Community Groups
- Local Events
- Latest News



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www.thestiveshub.co.uk

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**Perfect Days**

Thursday 7 November 2024 at 7:30pm
 Doors open 6:30pm. Tickets £7
 Director: Wim Wenders, 125m, Cert: PG
 Synopsis: A Japan and Germany co-production, the film follows the routine life of Hirayama (*Kōji Yakusho*), a public toilet cleaner in Tokyo where he feels content with his life as a toilet cleaner. Outside of his structured routine, he cherishes music on cassette tapes, reads books and takes photos. Through unexpected encounters, he reflects on finding beauty in the world.

The Holdovers**The Holdovers**

Thursday 5 December 2024 at 7:30pm
 Doors open 6:30pm. Tickets £7
 Director: Alexander Payne, 133m, Cert: 15
 Synopsis: A Christmas comedy-drama film directed by Alexander Payne and written by David Hemingson. Set in late 1970 and early 1971, the film stars Paul Giamatti as a strict classics teacher at a New England boarding school who is forced to chaperone a handful of students with nowhere to go on the Christmas break. Da'Vine Joy Randolph portrays the school cafeteria manager, and Dominic Sessa plays one of the students who stays on campus.

Ticket at screenstives.org.uk or in the Corn Exchange

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Here at The Courtyard, we feel incredibly proud of our work and supportive local community.
 Thank you so much to you all for your kind words and continued support.