

The Riverporter

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

‘People of St Ives passionate about helping town thrive’

On Monday evening around 28 people representing local businesses, community groups and the Town Council attended an exploratory meeting at Slepe Hall Hotel to discuss ways to improve St Ives town centre.

The initiative is the idea of local businessman William Scantlebury, who runs a business networking group and whose members want to see the town thrive.

Having made contact with many town organisations, including the Town Team, Festival Events St Ives, The Corn Exchange, St Ives Town Initiative and the Town Council, William invited these groups along with business representatives to discuss what might be done to improve footfall, attracting more people to spend their time and money in the town centre.

Using data collected from the Town Team's recent survey, plus comments from local Facebook posts about the issues affecting the town centre, delegates discussed potential ideas that might be implemented.

It was recognised that it might be possible to achieve more if all organisations involved could work together, making the most of limited resources and supporting a coherent plan of marketing to attract more visitors.

The meeting also discussed steps that need to be taken to make those improvements highlighted in the surveys, including parking issues,

cleanliness, accessibility and how to attract a wider range of shoppers. William thanked those who attended saying 'We shared a lot of great ideas and had some good discussions. It is clear that the people of St Ives are passionate about helping the town to thrive and want to see it succeed.'

We have 19 people who have volunteered to join the working group, which is great news and I will be contacting them soon to arrange the next meeting where I hope to start making some initial moves towards a whole town plan.'

HDC are due to start work on the 'Prospectus for Economic Growth' in St Ives and it is hoped this group will be able to influence its ideas.

William continued 'I will keep HDC informed of our progress so that we are completely open and transparent in our work in the hope that when the time comes we can work with them towards a shared goal.'

William thanked Slepe Hall for the use of their room and the Town Team for paying for the teas and coffee.

If you wish to contact William with your ideas you can do so by emailing him at:

info@riverportbusinessclub.co.uk



The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival

The programme for this year's Festival is now complete with 24 FREE concerts, a harmonica workshop and a jam session where you can try out your musical skills. Among the five new bands to the festival is Val Sinclair (above) and her band Turquoise, who will be performing a range of blues, funk, swing and smooth jazz at The Dolphin on the Sunday afternoon.

Another new event is a charity sing-along concert as the last event of the Festival in The Lounge on Sunday evening. Thanks to the Lounge and the bands, the Tomb Raiders and The What's That Band, their fees will go to the British Heart Foundation charity and we hope the evening will be a good way to join in and collect for a good cause.

The Programme (may be subject to change)

Thursday 19th September

Oliver Cromwell Jazz Tones • Di Rita's Peter Shepherd Duo • Nelson's Head Freddie Hall Band

Taproom Hensley Newman Trio

Friday 20th September

Haywain Stone Cold Stumble • Slepe Hall Hotel The Goods • Dolphin Hotel Savoy Jazz Men
Floods Tavern The Gravy Train Trio • Golden Lion Barefoot Doctors • Royal Oak Benny Guitar Smith

Saturday 21st September

Market Hill Cambridge Jazz Youth Band • Corn Exchange Jam Session • The Quay St Neots Big Band
Oliver Cromwell The Black Velvet Band • Floods Tavern The Jamie Roe Band • Golden Lion Split Whiskers
River Terrace Café Dickie De Vere & The Dorchester Mavericks • Ivy Leaf Club John Verity

Sunday 22nd September

Bridge Chapel Harmonica Workshop with Steve Lockwood • Ivy Leaf Club Steel Union
Slepe Hall Hotel Django's Tiger • Dolphin Hotel Val Sinclair and Turquoise
Nelson's Head Rhythm & Blues Band • Seven Wives Steve Lockwood Band • Amoré Martin Kemp Trio
The Lounge Tomb Raiders • The What's That Band - Charity Concert

2nds sniff out win at Shelford



St Ives 2nds narrowly won away to Shelford V 19-17 to stay top of their table while the Bulls 1st XV completed a ten try rout to beat Stewarts & Lloyds 68 - 5. With three matches left this season, the Bulls remain 9 points behind second place Market Harborough.

St Ives have to play their nearest three rivals whilst Market Harborough's remaining fixtures are against teams in the lower half of the league. This doesn't bode well for promotion and the Bulls need to be at their best to win their remaining games in the hope that Market Harborough slip up. Ironically it could be the Bulls local rivals, and bottom of the table, Huntingdon Stags who could help as they are hosting Market Harborough this Saturday and are in desperate need of a win.

Flea on the Quay

THIS SUNDAY

St Ives Quayside 10am to 2pm





Willow sculptures commemorate St Ives historic businesses

During April expect to see some cattle grazing on the roundabout near Morrisons when the Town Team's plans to enhance the approach to St Ives starts to take shape. Willow craftsman Sue Kirk is soon to complete life size sculptures of a pig a cow and a ram, animals that were once sold in the famous St Ives Cattle Market.

The idea of creating willow sculptures also recognises the importance of willow growing that used to take place on Holt Island and the tradition of basket making that continued until quite recently.

The Town Team are very grateful to Kevin Page of St Ives, a County Council registered contractor, who has kindly agreed to install the animals free of charge.

As Kevin put it *'As a resident of St Ives I feel it's about time I put something back to the town so we have decided to supply all the materials and put the sculptures up free of charge.'*

Chairman, Sheila Stones said *'The Town Team is run by volunteers who work hard to fund events and projects for the town, which is made a lot easier by the generosity of people like Kevin who support our work. We cannot thank him enough.'*



Riverbank mayhem – poop poop!

A new stage adaptation of the classic Wind in the Willows is being staged at the Burgess Hall in St Ives by the resident company Centre Players,

(causing mayhem above).

Director Collette Parker said *'The production has all the charm and joy of the original tale infused with contemporary, fun and highly theatrical touches.'*

Join the well-loved characters on their excursion into the land of fantasy and make believe, in this delightful tale for all the family to

enjoy during the Easter school holidays.

The Wind in the Willows, runs at the Burgess Hall from April 11 to 13, with a matinee and evening performance on the 13th. Tickets cost £12 adults, £8 under-16s. Telephone 01480 388111, or book online at:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/event/301070

St Ives Morrisons store named as one of the 'top 5' in the world!



improving the shopping trip for customers and to achieve that, we're doing all we can'. Morrisons has also partnered with Amazon, Doddle and Timpson to bring new services to customers in stores, such as electric car charging points and tyre change services in our car parks. Then there are currency exchange kiosks for travel money and even barber shops. Morrisons believe it's their new store designs and layout that are really catching the imagination of shoppers.

It's introduced paper bags at the checkout, new ranges of 'Naturally Wonky' veg and 'Too Good to Waste' boxes, donated more than five million edible items to over 450 local community groups, and updated 300 of its stores as part of its 'Fresh Look' improvements and that's before we get to the petrol station, takeaway pizza, clothing and even free Wi-Fi.

Local producers for the store were chosen by Morrisons buyers, local residents and members of the Cambridgeshire Women's Institute.

A year ago Morrisons opened a huge new store in St Ives – and it's been shortlisted as one of the best supermarkets in the world. Chief executive David Potts said, *'Our aim is based on*

Dear Riverporter,

I wonder if you would be kind enough to advertise a fund raising event for Kidney Cancer UK in your paper?

It is on Saturday 27 April at 7.30pm in The Corn Exchange. An evening of live music with the fabulous Neil Richardson. My husband passed away 5 years ago on the 25th April and since 2015 I have been involved with the charity, raising money for them. So far I have raised £8,500 and my target is to reach £10,000.

Tickets are available at The Corn Exchange and Shirleys Coffee Shop which I run with my kind volunteers every Wednesday. Profits to the charity.

Kind regards Shirley Chapman

Dear Shirley we are delighted to help publicise the event and hope that our readers will support your efforts by either attending the evening or enjoying coffee and cakes from your café. Ed.

Screen St Ives

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.

Thursday 4th Apr 2019

Screen 2

COLD WAR

**Director: Paweł Pawlikowski
Poland | UK | France 2018 1h 29m**



Passion, music, dance, history and divided loyalties weave magic through this special cinematic experience from the award-winning director of Ida. Loosely based on the true story of a couple trying to rebuild their lives in post war Poland, Cold War plays with our emotions, undermines our expectations and delivers a mighty punch to our hearts.

Friday 19th Apr 2019

Screen 1

BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY

**Director: Bryan Singer
UK | USA 2018 2h 14m**



A glorious big screen celebration of legendary rock band Queen and its charismatic lead singer. Featuring a stand-out performance by Rami Malek as Freddie Mercury, this film charts the rise of an iconic group through their songs and revolutionary sound.

NEW FROM THIS EASTER

Screen 1: Showing family friendly screenings in the Charter Hall starting this Easter holiday. See below.

Thursday 11th Apr 2019

@ 2:30pm

Screen 1

INCREDIBLES 2

**Director: Brad Bird
USA 2018 1h 58m**



The Incredibles hero family takes on a new mission, which involves a change in family roles: Bob Parr (Mr Incredibile) must manage the house while his wife Helen (Elastigirl) goes out to save the world.

Thursday 18th Apr 2019

@ 2:30pm

Screen 1

RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET

**Director: Phil Johnston, Rich Moore
USA 2018 1h 51m**



Six years after the events of "Wreck-It Ralph," Ralph and Vanellope, now friends, discover a wi-fi router in their arcade, leading them into a new adventure.

Corn Exchange, The Pavement, St Ives, PE27 5AD.

Kidney Cancer UK Fundraising Event

Buffet (with vegetarian option)

*** Live Music * Raffle * Mini Auction ***



**THE FABULOUS
Neil Richardson
on Saturday
27th April 2019
7:30pm to 11:00pm**

**At St. Ives
Corn Exchange
Market Hill, Saint Ives
Cambridgeshire PE27 5AG.**



Kidney
Cancer
UK

The UK's leading specialist kidney cancer charity



**Tickets:
Online: yourplace.news
Or Directly from The Corn Exchange
Or Call Shirley on 07718 920019
Or From Shirley's Coffee Shop
(in The Corn Exchange, St. Ives every Wednesday)
Or scan the QR Code**

Net Proceeds donated to Kidney Cancer UK www.kcuk.org.uk

Kidney Cancer UK is a trading title of James Whale Fund Ltd, which is a registered charity in England and Wales (1120146)



Scan me

having your say ...



Dear Erik PAWS FOR THOUGHT

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

Dear Erik,

Sad destruction of most of the trees on land in centre of town behind the Priory, Priory Road. This was an oasis for birds for centuries, gone for 'developing'. Name withheld

Erik, I spotted a very rare sight in St Ives this morning - two uniformed policemen!

It is several weeks since I last saw one. Instead of strolling the streets keeping us safe, they were sitting in a large white estate car driving across the town bridge towards Hemingford.

Is it okay for the police to do this? I risk being sworn at and physical violence when I try to prevent the public doing this. **Rod**

All ahead for ALDI

Plans that will see an Aldi supermarket come to St Ives were approved on Monday.

The retailer applied for planning permission for a 1,784 sq m store in Needingworth Road in August last year, and the proposal was approved subject to a condition that the developer provide a contribution of up to £170,000 for the provision of a Toucan Crossing on the A1123.

The store will be built on land which was formerly part of the England Chicory Ltd factory and will employ the equivalent of 50 full time members of staff. There will also be a 126-space car park. Huntingdonshire District Council deferred the application last year as



With Great Sadness...

Judging by the outpouring of sad social media entries, the news that 'Little Acre Kitchen' closed its doors for the last time on Sunday, we consider St Ives has lost one of its real gems. The owners have posted an explanation on social media, and on their door, that although the establishment had wonderful loyal customers who really enjoyed the food and ambience of the café, it was only one part of their business and it had become necessary to close so that other areas of their business could receive greater attention.

Speaking with the owners *The Riverporter* learned that they intend to look out for other outlets in town including event catering and popup shop opportunities.

Social media carried dozens of sad messages, customers spoke warmly of their experiences.

councillors said they needed more traffic movement data around the double roundabout system in and out of the site.

Image copyright Vector



The movie men are coming

Not only do we have a fabulous new cinema screen and sound system at the Corn Exchange we now have the movie makers actually filming the drama here in St Ives ...

Local film maker Daniel Attrill runs a company called Break the Chain Productions and they announced that they would be shooting their current movie, *The Takedown Trilogy 'VENDETTA'*, in and around the town over the weekend of 23/24th March.

The film is about the lead character Trevor and his revenge on the people responsible for the death of the girl he loved. Filmmaker Daniel Attrill is 28 and he has been making films for 8 years. Daniel and co-producer Louis Taylor have made over 12 short films including one feature film called *ALONE* which was a semi-finalist at the Los Angeles Cinefest film festival and was up for 4 awards at the Romford Film Festival, including best picture.

Daniel says he is hoping to get *ALONE* shown in St Ives in the future, however if you're interested in watching it now, you can find it on YOUTUBE on the Dark Urban Entertainment YouTube channel.

Eds note: We had hoped to have more information about the movies plot ahead of publication however the it had not arrived ahead of our press date. Perhaps we will have a little more information prior to our next issue.



Copyright Break the Chain Productions

The Riverporter

COUNCIL & COMMUNITY NEWS

Is Fake News everywhere?

Like publishers everywhere we regularly receive press releases from different groups, the majority of which are informative and help us media people spread the news without too much effort. Of course the motives for sending out press information can vary.

A statement from a political group would most likely try to persuade us of a political point of view, whilst something issued by the police might be designed to make us aware of a danger, such as the piece below about the TV licence fraudsters!

We obviously read and edit press releases before deciding whether to print them and occasionally we contact the organisation to clarify anything we are unsure of. There is an art to writing a good press release and this includes a picture (worth at least a hundred words) and a quote, which can, if the quoted person is of sufficient status, give gravitas to the article. One such news release, which arrived 10 days ago from Huntingdonshire District Council, caught our attention especially as it purported more good news for our market.

Despite not having a picture it followed the District Council's standard format with a positive headline and an extensive quote from one of the lead councillors, this time it was the Executive Councillor for Operations and Regulations, Councillor Marge Beutell.

It began with ... ***The Council is pleased to announce plans to expand its existing loyalty reward schemes for regular market stall holders.*** It continued with Marge saying '*I am delighted that we are implementing additional loyalty rewards for our market traders*' and further on it said ...

'The Council has also worked successfully with St Ives Town Centre Initiative (SITI) and the Town Councils to run events to encourage visitors.'

On the face of it this is good news and we can understand why HDC wanted to get it known. However we were unsure what the loyalty scheme was and how it had changed as the release did not make it clear. We were also puzzled by the comment about successful working with SITI as we were unaware of any successful events they had jointly run to encourage visitors (to the markets, presumably).

So we contacted the council to find out more. We didn't hear anything for a week so we rang Cllr Beutell who said we should contact HDC's Customer Services helpline '***who will be able to assist you***'. We did, and spoke to HDC's Press Office who confirmed that there are no details as they are still working on the scheme. We pointed out that their news release said that the council were expanding its '***existing loyalty reward schemes***' and presumably this meant that there was a scheme in place and its details should be already known?

So was this Fake News?

Well it seems so, for it appears that there isn't a scheme in place yet and, as for the successful events HDC have run with SITI and the Town Council to encourage visitors, no-one was able to enlighten us as to when and where these had been held.

Eds note: We noticed the quotes from the press release appeared in the local paper.

Mindless vandalism?

Our weekly police report has notified us that Crown Street suffered broken windows last week when the front windows of both Fat Face and the Mountain Warehouse were smashed leaving glass over the pavement and in store. A police report states that no effort was made by the culprits to enter the shops and nothing was reported stolen.

Eds note: Surely this was an occasion when our newly updated street cameras would have got a clear view of the offender/s? Perhaps in coming weeks we will be able to report a successful prosecution ... we'll wait and see.

REASONS TO BE SHUT PART 21



I hear the Robin Hood is gonna have a paintball park

What in the field behind the Priory wall?

Did they find anything interesting?

No just some old bones. It's going to be retirement flats!



**Entries Invited:
Next Fine Art Sale
Saturday 20th April**



Starting at 12.30 with Viewing Friday 19th April 9.00-5.00 and on the morning of the Sale

**Original Hudson's Extract of Soap Enamel Shop advertising sign
SOLD £1900**



**Ladies 18ct Gold Heavy Curb bracelet
SOLD £2300**

**Charles Robert D'oyley John Oil on canvas
SOLD £850**



[Next Antiques & Interiors Sale: 6th April starting at 11.00am](#)

**Hyperion Auctions, The Salerooms, Station Road, St Ives PE27 5BH
[www.hyperionauctions.co.uk](#) 01480 464140**



Bid online at our auctions through
the-saleroom.com



Experienced administrator available for up to 15 hours a week

I am a retired Management Accountant seeking a part time administration or general office support role, ideally between 10 to 15 hours a week. I have had over 30 years experience at a high level and offer reliability, innovation and full commitment.

You can contact me on 07598 862246 Brian Leith

Watch out for the TV licence fraudsters!

ActionFraud

An ongoing TV Licensing phishing campaign, first identified by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) in September 2018, continues to be reported to Action Fraud in high numbers.

Fraudsters are sending the public fake TV Licensing emails that are designed to steal their personal and financial information. Since April 2018, Action Fraud has received over 900 crime reports with victim losses totalling more than £830,000.

How you can protect yourself:

Don't click on the links or attachments in suspicious emails and never respond to messages that ask for your personal or financial details. Don't assume a phone call or email is authentic, even if someone knows your basic details (such as your name or address).

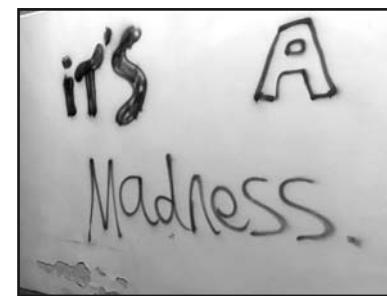
Remember, criminals can spoof phone numbers and email addresses to appear as companies you know and trust, such as TV Licensing. Your bank will never call and ask you for your PIN, full banking password, or ask you to transfer money out of your account.

What to do if you've fallen victim:

Let your bank know as soon as possible and monitor your bank statements regularly for any unusual activity. If you suspect your identity may have been stolen, you can check your credit file quickly and easily online. Use a reputable service provider and follow up on any unexpected or suspicious results.

If you have been a victim of fraud or cybercrime, report it to Action Fraud at [actionfraud.police.uk](#) or by calling 0300 123 2040

Is this a Brexit comment on St George's Passage wall?



ADVERTORIAL

SPRING IS IN THE AIR!

Mike Ellis of Ellis Winters assesses the current housing market



As the temperature has risen over the last few weeks so has the number of property sales, so we think we can safely say the usual Easter selling market is sparking into life!

We've started to see the number of viewings go up and this is usually the prelude to offers/sales coming in which we are already experiencing and those where sales have been agreed are generally for our new instructions and those properties which have recently had price reductions.

Over the last six months there has been so much uncertainty over the housing market, including buy to lets and the wider economy.

With Brexit being the only topic of conversations, it's small wonder that buyers are often frightened off by headlines, however read a

little further and these predictions are always less gloomy than they first appear.

We've seen first time buyer (FTB) confidence growing and the number of sales to that group exceeded all other buyers in 2018 for the first time since 2003.

There are some great mortgage deals available as well as assistance from the Government 'Help to Buy' schemes - if you would like more information about these, please call us to book an appointment with Kerry our 'cost of moving' expert.

If you've been thinking about selling but just not sure if it's the right time, please

get in touch - we're happy to help. There's never really a right or wrong time to sell, but judging by the activity we're seeing at the moment, this could be the best time to put your property on the market this year.

Please call us on **01480 388 888** if you are considering buying or selling in the near future.



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Ellis Winters (St Ives) Ltd 15-17 White Hart Court, St Ives, Cambridgeshire PE27 5EA Tel: 01480 388 888 | Email: info@elliswinters.co.uk | www.elliswinters.co.uk

The Riverporter

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