

The Riverporter

ST IVES AWARD WINNING
NEWSPAPER

Issue 40: 2 August 2019

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION



Riverporter wins Gold

Last week *The Riverporter* won the top award at the Cambridge Building Society's Community Magazine Awards 2019, held at the Arthur Rank Hospice Charity in Shelford Bottom.

Editors and publishers from the local community were joined by the team from The Cambridge Building Society (CBS) in an evening which saw the work of independent groups, charities and colleges celebrated.

Thirty publications entered the 20th annual CBS Community Magazine Awards competition with a combined circulation of over one hundred thousand copies.

The magazines were judged on editorial excellence, relevance of community content, use of imagery and overall presentation.

The judging panel consisted of Clive Weatherley (Joint Creative Director of the creative agency Mobas), Adrian Peel (The Property editor at Cambridge Independent), Janet Reid (Company Secretary and Head of Compliance at CBS) and Donna Talbot (Director of Fundraising &

Communications at the Arthur Rank Hospice Charity).

The Riverporter won the top prize for publications which are published 10 or more times a year.

There were also prizes for best editorial, best picture, best front page and most improved.

CBS Chief Operating Officer Andy Lucas said, 'It's wonderful to be able to combine our ongoing relationship with Arthur Rank Hospice Charity with our 20th Community Magazine Awards.'

Each year we get to see how passionate people are about their community and this is our way of showing appreciation to them for the hard work they put into creating the magazines'.

It was a first time entry for *The Riverporter* so Ron and John had no idea what to expect.

All the publications were on show and it was interesting to see just how many great publications are available throughout the county.

As is normal at such events, the winners were announced in reverse order and 'it was a great shock that our paper won the last and top prize' said Ron.

'We are absolutely delighted that *The Riverporter* has been recognised for its quality and in particular for its mix of news, probing articles and fun comments which has proved popular with our readers' added John.

'We also want to thank our regular contributors, especially Heidi, who keeps us informed on environmental matters, our friends, who help with deliveries and of course our business sponsors, Ellis Winters Estate Agents, Hyperion Antiques and Bests Coffee Shop.

Their constant support allows us to produce 25 free issues a year for you, our readers, to enjoy.



Ron (left), John (centre) were presented with the trophy by CBS Chief Operating Officer Andy Lucas (right).

Centre Theatre Players to support Dementia Friendly and Parkinson's

The Centre Theatre Players are busy preparing for their forthcoming Charity Cabaret show 'A RIGHT OL' KNEES UP' (see the poster below).

The evening will be a fabulous variety of music, comedy and dance, featuring several of the Players regular performers and the Vicky Grant dancers together with a few surprise guests.

This year the Players have nominated two charities to support, Dementia Friendly and Parkinson's. To date the Players have raised well in excess of £85,000 with over 30 different charities, both local and national, benefitting from their charity shows.



Winners of the Cambridge Building Society's Community Magazine Awards 2019 celebrating at the Arthur Rank Hospice last week.

The winners were:

High Frequency
(10 or more issues a year)

Gold: *The Riverporter*

Silver: *The Stansted Link*

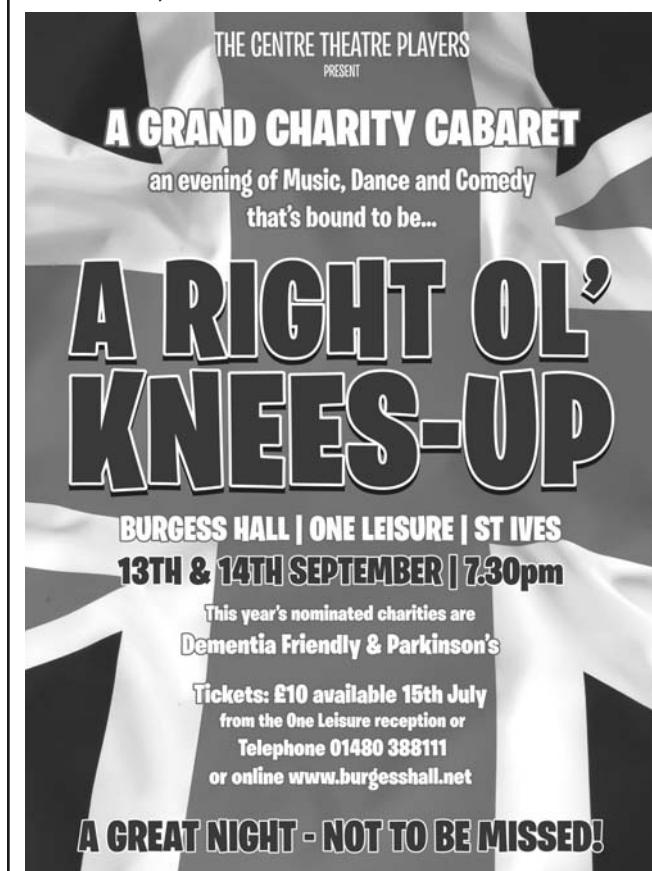
Bronze: *Girton Parish News*

Low Frequency
(9 or less issues a year)

Gold: *Sawston Scene*

Silver: *Ramsey Neighbourhood News*

Bronze: *Wilbraham's Warbler*



The Riverporter meets Sergeant Alice Draper

Sergeant Alice Draper has been our Neighbourhood Policing Team Sergeant since last September and *The Riverporter* thought it would be a good time to hear from her about policing issues in St Ives.

Alice says that she is now settled in her new role and fortunately for us, hopes to be here for some years. She feels that it will take time to really understand the town, the job and get good at it.

Alice has been in the force for 13 years and moved to this role from a response investigation role as a Detective Sergeant, the skills she gained cross over into community policing.

We asked Alice what she considered to be the main issues for our town and not surprisingly antisocial behaviour and parking matters were at the top of her list as these are the matters most often raised with her by the community.

Antisocial behaviour

Alice met one of the local neighbourhood watch groups recently, regarding the incidences of antisocial behaviour (ASB), and she is now in discussion with HDC about a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO), having collected and presented the evidence of ongoing ASB.

The PSPO legislation replaced all DPPOs in 2017. PSPOs are made by councils and enforcement is the responsibility of a wider group which includes Council officers, and other groups designated by the council, including officers accredited under the community safety accreditation scheme, Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers.

It is not an anti-drinking notice, the order will identify specific behaviours which are problematic but fall below the level of criminality and empowers a partnership approach to addressing it. Alice stressed that people enjoying an evening out, possibly picnicking by the river with a glass of wine will not be breaking the law.

This is good news for all of us who enjoy our wonderful riverside. The PSPO will be written to deter certain behaviour and does not target particular groups of people, such as youngsters or the homeless but the behaviour of people, regardless of who they are.

Parking

Alice says that parking is always an issue which people are most vocal about. Quite rightly Alice said that long term solutions are not down to her but for others to decide. Whether parking is decriminalised or the town centre pedestrianised is not within her power to influence, she, and her team, can only try to deal with the situation that exists with the limited resources she has.

Alice is in charge of a team of five PCSOs that cover Ramsey and St Ives - the East half of Huntingdonshire from Ponders Bridge in the north to Hilton in the south. It is quite clear to *The Riverporter* that our community police have an incredibly hard job to do, not just because of the large area they cover but because policing has changed and the demands now made on the force are very high.

Alice says her team will always try to respond as quickly as possible to the public when needed. Alice is currently the only warranted police officer in the team, which must be a considerable responsibility for her, especially as she is

sometimes called to help cover custody or response policing. Alice explained that the force restructured last year, creating a one team ethos, a more flexible and supportive way of working but it does mean she can be called away to help elsewhere.

Additional Police

With the news of an extra 124 Police Officers joining the Force recently we asked if that might impact on the St Ives team. Alice said that the force has posted two PC's to the St Ives Neighbourhood Policing Team. One starts in September and the other in January.

How to contact the Police

There are many different ways you can contact the police, which we list below.

Online at www.cambs.police.uk

Web chat is 24 hour service and can be accessed on the Cambs Police website. It is a service to use if you are in a situation where you may not be able to talk freely on the telephone.

By phone

Call 101 for non-emergency enquiries. Using this number, you can report an incident or get help.

Textphone

If you're deaf or hard of hearing, use the textphone service on 18001 101 or chat through their web chat service.

PEAL

You can register to use the non-emergency police enhanced access line (PEAL), designed to help people who have difficulties with telephone communication.

Emergency Call 999 if;

- a serious offence is in progress or has just been committed
- someone is in immediate danger or harm
- property is in danger of being damaged
- a serious disruption to the public is likely.

If you are hard of hearing you can use our textphone service 18000 or chat to us live using our web chat.

Emergency and cannot speak

If you are in a hostile environment or situation and you can't talk, you can call us on 999 and press 55 to tell us that you are unable to speak but that you need our help.

Anti-terrorist hotline

Call the UK Anti-Terrorism Hotline on 0800 789 321 for incidents suggesting terrorist activity.

Remain anonymous

You can report a crime or suspicious behaviour to Crimestoppers online, or by calling them on 0800 555 111.

More Gold Awards

St Ives in Bloom (SIIB) have announced the winners in their local competitions. Congratulations goes to The Nelson's Head, which who won the Gold Award in the Retail Premises Category.

In the residential garden competition, the following all won Gold Awards for their private gardens: Trevor and Sue Jones (who were the winners); Veronica and Terry Avory; Jill and Tony Currington; Pamela Evans; Peter Lambert; Val Lamont and Sandy and Robin Welsh.

SIIB will have to wait until 10th September to find out how they have done in the annual Anglia in Bloom competition. We reported incorrectly, in a previous issue, that SIIB had won gold twice in a row, in fact they have won gold awards for the last three years.



The fabulous garden at Nelson's Head. Landlord Andrew Lawson was surprised and delighted with the award.

Cambs to double green space by 2050

Cambridgeshire's councils have announced their support for an initiative to double the county's natural and green spaces by 2050. Currently 8.5 per cent of the county is covered by natural or green spaces, one of the smallest percentages of land managed for nature in the country. The commitment pledges to take that to 17 per cent by 2050.

The proposals include a pledge for 'securing access to high quality natural green spaces within 300m of everyone's home'. Cambridgeshire, one of the fastest growing economies in the UK, will need to be matched by one of the fastest nature recovery programmes if it is to succeed.

The Riverporter hopes to give more details in a future issue, especially if there are things we can all do to help achieve this.

Missed deadline not the fault of Europe!

All but one local government authority in Cambridgeshire, including Cambridgeshire County Council, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and Huntingdonshire District Council, has failed to publish their externally audited end of year accounts in time for the end of July deadline.

Senior figures from each council said the issue is partially linked to using the auditor Ernst and Young, which is the private contractor. Ernst and Young denies that in every case the delay is linked to its service. Peterborough City Council is the only local government authority in the county to say it would not miss the deadline.

Critics of the EU have claimed that auditors have not signed off the EU's accounts for 20 years. In fact they have been signed every year since 2007 although auditors have pointed out when funds have not been used in accordance with EU rules by countries amounting to about 4% of the budget.

Riverporter now available on Facebook

You can now find *The Riverporter* on Facebook - so, you can leave your comments and details of any news and events there, as well as emailing us. Erik will be delighted to hear from you and perhaps we can convince you to share our page even wider and get us a few likes too.

Since our launch *The Riverporter* has become the town's most popular newspaper carrying news clips that relate only to St Ives and our surrounding villages, and we thank our readers for their continued support.

In order to reach an even wider audience we have decided to have a Facebook page. Readers of the printed version need not worry we will still be issuing paper copies every fortnight and you can still see all the issues at www.theriverporter.uk

Following last months Town Council meeting, 'Probably the shortest ever', when one of the main discussions was about whether councillors should wear their heavy robes in hot weather...



having your say ...



Erik was chuffed to win, Gold although disappointed the prize wasn't a tin of biscuits!

PAWS FOR THOUGHT

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

Hello lovely Erik,

(I have heard you are lovely), I would just like to say how much I like reading *The Riverporter* newspaper.

I now live in Essex, but used to live in St Ives, and I like to know about the 'real' news and what goes on in the town.

When she visits me, my niece always brings a copy for me to read. She took this photo of me this week, so you can see your paper even gets to Essex!

Best wishes Carrie Hodge (Mrs), Kelvedon, Essex (aged 95 years).



Bee ware

A St Ives lady who is allergic to bee stings was terrified when a swarm in excess of 50,000 bees swarmed above her home during the recent hot period. The bees appeared and flew in an alarming tornado swirl over the property. A local glazier posted a note on Facebook looking for advice and help. He received the advice to let the bees settle down and sure enough after about 30 minutes that's what happened, and they formed a large ball in a nearby tree.

Local beekeeper Adam Neville safely rescued the colony by cutting off the branch and getting the bees into a box which he took away. Mr Neville commented that it was the biggest swarm he had seen this year.

Swarming bees are not usually aggressive however it can be an alarming sight.

Professional beekeepers are quite capable of rescuing these precious creatures.



Honey from Holt

The bees have had an excellent summer so far on Holt Island Nature Reserve. The honey, harvested by their 'Bee man', David Hetherington, is from our three hives, is filtered and runny and presented in 200g clear glass labelled jars. At £5 a jar it is a delicious way to support the Friends of Holt Island. Should you like a jar email your requirements, name, and contact details to Ian Jackson at ianjackson@ntlworld.com.



Knickerless Fashion?

The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues T-shirts have been selling well with the help of Nicklaus the knickerless model, seen here with Gilly Jackson and Chris Lewis on the Town Team's Farmers Market Stall. It seems that Nicklaus escaped

from Cadge's window for a welcome change of scenery.

Could we see this again soon?



This photograph, taken in the winter of 1890-91, shows Mr A.E. Worts, licensee of the Dolphin, driving the horse and trap with his young son beside him. Apparently he had been driving on the ice for half an hour before the photograph was taken. Will global warming allow this to happen again?

The Riverporter

COUNCIL & COMMUNITY NEWS

When is a councillor not a councillor?

August is usually a rather lean time to report any council issues but at the most recent council meeting the Mayor addressed the chamber to give the opportunity for any councillor present to apologise for anything they may have said to the press! *The Riverporter* thought this a little odd and decided to look closer at what may have led to this situation.

It appears that a rather less than remarkable story was being put together by the Hunts Post and they had sought details from those with a view on the subject and contacted one of our town councillors. They then published the story quoting and naming the councillor. While this all seems very normal practice the councillor was reprimanded for speaking out. **Why?** St Ives has for some years been proud of the fact that our Town Council contains a majority of independent councillors, unfettered by political party doctrine. As independent minds we elect them to say what they think and not what they are told to think. It's understood of course that they cannot speak on behalf of the council, unless elected to do so, but why can they not express their personal views on any subject?



Is this not how we learn whether we want this person representing us in the first place? In the past year we have reported on several occasions of councillors being reprimanded for speaking to the press, even to the point of those daring to do so, being called 'snakes'.

In a recent issue (RP36) we asked... **'Is democracy under threat in Huntingdonshire?'** and the question still appears to go unanswered. My colleague had just received a letter threatening to withdraw council services from him personally if he didn't stop asking questions of elected members, and bizarrely it has come to our attention that one Town and District Councillor has been heard to say he will no longer report issues in council, if a member of the press is present and stating that *The Riverporter* is not a proper paper anyway (He may wish to check out the article on the front page!)

A word often used these days in political circles is transparency, but it seems that it's a word easier to say than to enact, we should perhaps remember that next time elections come around, in the words of that great song by The Who ... 'We won't be fooled again!'

Getting a bit heated!

The Chairman of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority, Kevin Reynolds (right) has spoken out to make known their disappointment at the news that they have been unsuccessful in the fight to prevent the transfer of governance of the Fire and Rescue Service to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). Last month a judicial review panel announced that they upheld the Home Office decision to allow the office of PCC to take over the governance of the Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service from the Fire Authority. The Fire Authority has always stated that the PCC's business case, on which the decision was based, did not contain sufficient evidence to prove the change was justified and that it's a costly and unnecessary change that will reduce the public accountability.



Kevin continued 'As a Fire Authority, we have always believed we have an efficient and effective service and since we sought the judicial review, a government-commissioned inspection assessed us to be 'Good' in efficiency and effectiveness. In fact, we're only one of two, out of 30 fire services, so far inspected by the HMICFRS to not have a single area that has been classified as requiring improvement. Surely that demonstrates that what we are doing, and how we operate now, is working well. I could understand it if we were poorly performing but we're not, we're one of the best fire and rescue services in the country but that doesn't seem to count for anything.'

'It's all just so frustrating.' He said they will now take legal advice on their possible options and whether to continue the fight. PCC Mr Ablewhite has said that he 'welcomed' the decision.

Police matters ...

Police are investigating an incident that happened on The Quay in the early hours of Saturday morning, 27th July, in which a young man was discovered unconscious on the ground and taken to hospital after having apparently been assaulted. Paramedics tended the man at the scene and police officers are making enquiries at local addresses and are looking at CCTV footage. St Ives Quay is now permanently monitored with CCTV coverage.

Also in town last week, following many complaints about car noise and screeching tyres, Police obtained a Dispersal Order covering St Ives and Needingworth for the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, 27th and 28th July, following concerns that an unauthorised gathering of car enthusiasts was being planned at the Meadow Lane Park and Ride site.

The Order gave officers the power to require persons suspected of antisocial behaviour to leave the area and not return within a specified period of time, and to be arrested for failure to comply. However, following discussions between the police and the local council, the gathering did not take place and no disruption was experienced at the site.



Hyperion Home and Antiques Centre

Is your collecting hobby taking over?
Ever wanted your own small business?

Hyperion is a friendly, long-established business in the heart of St. Ives and we are looking for new faces to join the Centre's existing dealers. If you have some knowledge and a genuine passion for selling antiques and collectables, why not talk to us about renting a cabinet or sales space at Hyperion?

**Right now we are offering a 3-4-2 DEAL
You can hire a selling space for 3 months but only pay for 2!**

It's a great way to try out a new business at limited cost. The Centre is unique as it is run by the dealers for the dealers, you will have plenty of opportunity to meet the other traders, strengthen your knowledge and learn more about the business. By covering a regular duty at the Centre you learn the ins and outs of the trade, meet the general public and build your confidence.

You might already be trading on a small scale - maybe on-line or through local antiques fairs - or you might be a keen collector who understands your specialist field. You could be retired and looking for a new interest or studying and hoping to make a little extra money from your hobby.

Whatever your motivation, we would be happy to hear from you.

Interested? Why not call 01480464140

or for an informal chat about what being a Hyperion dealer involves

Station Road, St Ives Cambs. PE27 1Hk Email: hyperionantiques.co.uk

Chapel to be made safe?

Following our report 'St Ives Historic Chapel deemed unsafe' (RP38), *The Riverporter* understands that the County Council will be making the building safe.

They are looking to carry out remedial work including work on the main door and floor at the entrance, the installation of a hand rail down the stairs, putting larger fibre glass reinforced panels over the existing boards on the balcony and the erection of a sign to limit the number of people at any one time on the balcony.

This is welcome news, although it may be some time before the building will be fully open as the work will need approval from Historic England and possibly the Secretary of State. It has been suggested that in the meantime display boards are made, depicting the lower floor and balcony, to help provide a worthwhile experience for visitors, which can remain in the building for those, unable to physically access the lower floor to see, should it be opened again in the future.

Some more good news is that County Councillor Kevin Reynolds, with the support of the Town Clerk and Cllr Fuller, has been able to get the agreement for the hire form to be amended to allow costs to be recovered when used by community groups such as the St Ives Town Team, which organises arts events in the Chapel.



Work has begun on the balcony as this picture, taken last Friday by Gilly Jackson, shows.

Screen St Ives

Fri 16 Aug 2019, Screen 1:

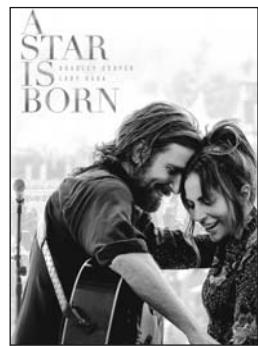
A STAR IS BORN Cert 15

Dir: Bradley Cooper, US, 2hr 16min, 2018.

A Star Is Born is the timeless story of love, fame and tragedy. It's a fresh look at a film that's been remade on three occasions now, each version speaking to its own age. Bring your heart and your tissues, it's going to be a bumpy ride!

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.



ADVERTORIAL

GET VIEWER READY!

Mike Ellis of Ellis Winters assesses the current housing market



The hottest week of the year so far also heralds the start of the school summer holidays and as millions of families either travel abroad or embark on their 'staycations' we're expecting the housing market to slow down a little for the next four weeks.

If you are already on the market, it's the perfect time to spruce up the garden or decorate a room or two as there are still many serious buyers around who need to move and are looking for their ideal home. Make the house as welcoming as possible and if you are able, reduce your asking price to encourage these viewers through your door.

If you are not yet on the market, now is also a great time to sell. With fewer properties around, your house will stand out - new instructions always get more views on Rightmove - more views, more viewings, more sales - one always follows the other.

When it comes to selling, pricing is everything. Buyers are almost as good at valuing as estate agents with so much information on the property portals like Rightmove and Zoopla. Viewers are able to do their own research on how long a property has been on the market and knowing if and when it's been reduced. They know when something is too

much money but they also know when something is great value.

If you are looking to move before Christmas, remember the average length of time for a sale to go through once solicitors are instructed is eleven weeks which means you will need to find a buyer in the next two months if you would like to be eating Christmas dinner in your new home!



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winters
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