

The Riverporter

ST IVES AWARD WINNING
NEWSPAPER

Issue 43: 13 September 2019



A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Amazing boost for the town

St Ives has always been blessed with a riverside position surrounded by beautiful countryside. At a time when town centres everywhere are under serious threat from our fast-changing lifestyles, St Ives' amazing voluntary town organisations are helping to keep our town centre alive and vibrant.

These groups help attract visitors and St Ivens to come into town and use our many excellent bars and restaurants.

An excellent example of this was the Illuminated Boat Parade last Saturday, which brought so many visitors into town that all our bars and restaurants were packed, not an empty table anywhere. Estimates of visitor numbers vary but were almost certainly between 2-3,000. FEST, the organisers of the boat parade, ran the event very professionally, as evidenced by the many appreciative comments on social media.

Next week the St Ives Town Team will launch the fifth annual Old Riverport Jazz and Blues Festival, another amazing event that helps support our town centre businesses. We tend to forget how privileged we

are to have so many volunteer groups that put their time and often their money into organising and running these events and all the groups always need new faces and support. So if you're interested in becoming more involved with supporting our town you can find more information in the Corn exchange (which is also mainly run by volunteers!)

More Gold for St Ives
It's that time of year again. The annual Anglia in Bloom awards were held on Tuesday in the Burgess Hall here in St Ives. Once again, the judges praised the standard of all the entries from around the region but the great news is that once again St Ives in Bloom won GOLD! The award was in the large town category and is the 4th Gold Award in a row for our hard working team of volunteers. The judges from Anglia in Bloom visited St Ives on 10th July and it's been fingers crossed ever since, see pictured left: Moreen Wells (Vice Chair), Linda Croucher (Chair), Julia Smith (Anglia in Bloom) and Joan Gibson (Anglia in Bloom).

This is an amazing achievement for the St Ives in Bloom team.



And while we're on the subject ...



We recently reported a free music fund raiser held on Bank Holiday Monday in the Nelson's Head in Merrylands. The event was to raise money for the British Heart Foundation, we can now confirm that the event raised £753 and a cheque was presented to Jean Chandler from the BHF store on Sunday afternoon (see above). This means that the Heart foundation will have received £1500 from the Nelson's Head events organised by Paul Dodson this year so far, and the foundation will receive even more cash from the Town Team's Jazz and Blues Festival as the last event to be held at The Lounge on Sunday 22nd will also donate the bands payments to the Heart Foundation. So well done St Ives lets keep up the amazing support.

Mickey & Minnie Mouse in the Illuminated Boat Parade.

SEE MORE PICTURES ON PAGE 2.



Well done again St Ives in Bloom



Pictured from left to right receiving the awards are - Bottom row: Helen Whatnall, Judith Ledwith. Middle row: Margaret King, Moreen Wells (Deputy Chair SIIB), Jill Burt, Carrie Pallant (Deputy Mayoress). Top row: Susan Bate, Jonathan Pallant (Deputy Mayor), Alison Benfield (Town Clerk), Linda Croucher (Chair of SIIB), Jo Bletsoe and top right Robin Bletsoe.

SIIB were also nominated in the following categories

Conservation Project: Holt Island; Drought/sustainable Garden: St Ives Bus Station; Individual/Community Floral Display: Hill Rise Rotary Flower Bed; Grow your own: Hill Rise Allotments; Industrial/Commercial Area: Bridge Street and The Mews; The Bill Webster Young People's Award (aged 12-18 years): Norris Museum Herbs for Medicine; The Mike Ames Award (In recognition of long and voluntary service given by individuals to local and regional In Bloom communities): Robin Bletsoe.

The Chapel Arts Season with *Acoustics Anonymous* The Chapel on the Bridge - Friday 27th September 8pm



This is the penultimate concert of the 2019 season with Acoustics Anonymous' whose line-up has changed recently with the addition of guitarist and singer Paul Edwards who joins John and Julie Jenkins and Brian Barnes. They have over five decades of musical experience and perform an eclectic range of music from all eras with a bit of humour thrown in. Due to limited space tickets should be booked online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives. This is a free concert, although the Town Team welcome a donation to support their costs. Doors open at 7.30pm.

Decorated boats illuminate The Old Riverport



Crowds turned out en masse to enjoy this spectacular evening of 'Disney' themed boats. Talented young vocalist Emily Welling sang a range of loved Disney classics from a boat moored mid-stream and Mad Dominic, on stilts, kept the waiting public happy along with two circling boats - pirates in one, and Mickey & Minnie Mouse in the other.

Then at dusk the illuminated boats began their parade under the historic town bridge past the massed crowds on the Quay and up to the Harrison Way Bridge before turning for their return journey. Each boat was greeted by its own theme music and commentary. A fantastic line up, including Dumbo, Mickey & Minnie Mouse, Cinderella, Aladdin, Snow White, and the later Disney productions of Up, Mary Poppins and Pirates of the Caribbean. They were all there. And to finish, a fabulous firework finale. This was a marvellous free community event from Festival Events St Ives, with the help from members of GOBA and sponsored by the St Ives Town Council and local businesses. The winning boat, as chosen by the applause from onlookers, with help from the Mayor and Mayoress was Dumbo, with his flexible trunk and illuminated flapping ears!

AN UPDATE

Following our article 'What's happening at the Dolphin?' (RP42) we said 'when asked for a comment, no one got back to us'. Following an email from the hotel we can confirm that we did get a call back, but after we had gone to press.

Ravi, the owner also wanted us to let our readers know that ... Per the council orders, we had noise monitors around town and kept the noise under 60 decibels. There were 7 private security guards hired at a cost of over £1k and people were checked going in and out and we had noise dampening equipment all around. We have 8 more events planned this year.

Cambs Police made the following comment ...

We were called at 9.42pm on 25 August to reports of violence at The Dolphin Hotel, St Ives. Officers attended the scene and spoke with staff, however they stated no crimes had been committed.

They advise that any people who are affected by such events should report their concerns to HDC Licensing as such concerns will be considered when future event licences are applied for.

NOW WE'RE TALKING . . .

Mind over natter: the small town with a happiness plan. From gentle strolls to cups of tea, the Cambridgeshire market town of St Ives is trying to confront isolation and mental distress.

This was the headline in last Wednesday's *Guardian* newspaper. Readers will recall The CALM town initiative created back last year by our then Mayor Tim Drye and The Rev Matt Finch. Well, this excellent scheme has now reached the notice of the National newspapers!

The following is an extract from the *Guardian* story...

In April last year 28-year-old Carl Malik, a popular regular at Floods, the pub owned by ex Mayor Phil Pope, took his own life; a loss compounded by the suicide of his father Kevin seven years earlier.

Last December, 26-year-old Adam Hyde, a keen cricketer for St Ives and Warboys cricket club, did the same. Tim Drye, who replaced Pope as Mayor in May 2018 – and whose son was a friend of Carl's – decided it was time to act. 'It resonated with me,' he says. 'I'd had mental health issues of my own at university.'

I said something in my speech about wanting to make St Ives a better place for mental health and to do something, not knowing what it would be. That phrase created a ripple that spread to others.'

Finch (right) was one. A textbook

trendy vicar, boyish, with tousled locks and a ready smile, Finch marked his 40th birthday by cycling from London to Paris for CALM, the Campaign against Living Miserably. 'In all, 84 men under 45 take their lives every week in the UK – and no one talks about it,' he says. 'So, Tim and I said: 'Let's try to make St Ives a Calm Town.' Around 50 people, including Carl's mum – came to our first meeting, which drew out people's details, interests, gifts and talents. We planned another and invited people to be part of a guiding team.'



Firework Finale



ERIK ON BREXIT

Erik discusses the Backstop with a Border Collie!

Next issue: Erik meets Mr Reece's Moggy.



Screen St Ives

Friday 20 September 2019, Screen 1:

STAN & OLLIE Cert PG

Dir: Jon S. Baird, UK / Canada / US, 1hr 38min, 2018.

A sweet, tender comedy with a superb cast about the final years of Laurel and Hardy. After a pre-war parting of the ways, in the 1950s they agreed to tour the UK one last time, performing in odd, and sometimes seedy, venues. When their glamorous wives join them from the US, tensions rise but the comedy is never far away.

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.



Rotary Club's Trolley Dash Benefits Three Local Charities

St Ives Rotary Club spent a week selling over 1,250 Trolley Dash raffle tickets outside the St Ives Waitrose Store.

Generous Gesture

There was an additional surprise when the winner very generously donated the winning ticket to the St Ives Food Bank – thus not only did the named charities of the St Ives Heron Club, and CALM Town Project benefit, but the Food Bank also gained £400 worth of supplies. The Dash was great fun as volunteers from the St Ives Food Bank rushed around the store to load up what in the end was two trolleys worth of goods.



Above: Mayor Dan pulls out the lucky winning ticket worth £400, donated by the Rotary Club, with St Ives Rotary President Iain Martin and Waitrose Branch Manager Simon Garside.



Trolley Dash Organiser Rotarian Ian Pemberton said, 'This really is a smashing way to not only raise funds for two very worthwhile local charities, but we also got to talk to a lot of people over the week and tell them about Rotary, and what it is we do. Very many thanks to everyone who helped, to the Waitrose staff, and to the Food Bank trolley-pushers for being such good sports.'

Above: Food Bank volunteers Gemma Walsh and Debbie Trehearne dashing.

having your say ...



Dear Erik PAWS FOR THOUGHT

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

Dear Erik,

Ref: Heritage Weekend at St Ives Methodist Church Sept 21st (10 to 4) and 22nd (12 to 4). **Have your readers any photographs to share with us about family/social events in the past?**

I have just returned from Copenhagen - 2 hour free parking in a car park near the Centre. We are destroying small market towns by charging for car parks ... **Mary Gatehouse**

Dear Erik,

I would like to pick up on a few points from your last edition. Regarding the article *Do we have a misunderstanding*. I am so confused I voided my ballot paper on the last election due to the Nest of Vipers who were all, according to the paper, to be INDEPENDENTS. I see from the text some member of the nest says he or she is a conservative now. How can we trust them - where has honesty gone?

The market is an excuse for its former self, the staff responsible should look out of their windows on a Monday and Friday to see how bad things are.

Appointments at Specsavers are free!!!!

Keep up the good work

Regards **Jim Morrison BEM**

Dear Erik,

Subject: Heritage open days

The town does not end at the Waits. Why is our Parish church not on the list of buildings open?

Barbara Sanders

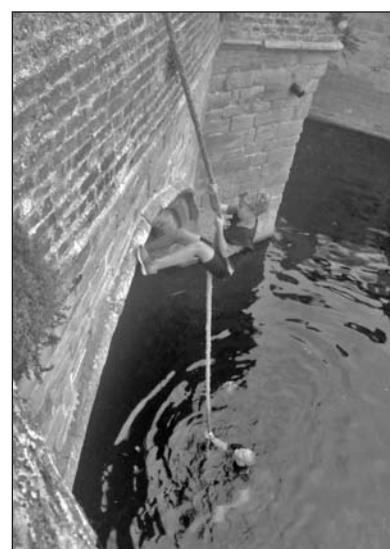
Dear Barbara The Riverporter has heard that the Parish Church will be open on Saturday (11am-5pm) and Sunday (2-4pm) although it was not shown on the official HODS web page.

Good morning Erik,

Over the last 6 weeks *On A Mission Fitness* has been running a children's training course for 10-14 year olds, Tuesday being our last session. You recently managed to capture and included the children from our last course taking a dip in the river off St Ives bridge, to which I'm hugely grateful.

While we are a business it was fabulous for the children to see and read about what they had done. The training is all about giving them confidence and building a sense of team working in all the challenges we put their way. Tonight we will finish this course with our final dunk into the river. If Erik is about it would be fabulous to get a photo of him and these amazingly enthusiastic children.

Warm regards **Colin Rich.**



From our Environmental Correspondent Heidi N. de Tries

HEIDI REVEALS MORE THAN SHE SHOULD

Hello Darlinks! I'm back. I've been topping up my tan in the Med. Did you miss me? The editor mailed me to get back here and catch up. So here goes ...

Bye Bye Birdies

The first thing I noted is my favourite birds have gradually disappeared. Have you noticed? The lovely Sand Martins nesting in The Quay drainage holes, the chirpy House Martins ducking and diving from under the eaves in Bridge Street, the gorgeous Swallows swooping up to nests along the waterfront, and the high-flying Swifts hawking insects in the clouds - all gone. Where? Back to Africa that's where. I feel melancholy because the season has changed - and so must my wardrobe! Let's wish them bon voyage for a safe journey there and back. Isn't it amazing they find their way to us every year? Mind you, many people find their way back to St Ives. It's that kind of town.

More Batty Bits

I know, I know - I'm mad about bats. But this is serious. After a survey declared the Cromwell Place Surgery bat-free and planning

permission for re-development granted, guess what? Five Pipistrelles, our smallest bats no bigger than a 50p coin, were found in the premises in some distress! They were quickly 'adopted' by our local bat 'nurse', rehabilitated and released on Holt Island Nature Reserve. Happy ending eh? But what does this say about the survey? How could it miss the evidence? To disturb a roost is a criminal offence. I know this, you know this, the Town Council knows this. And surely the Planning department at HDC and the developer now know it? **Watch this space ...**

A Bridge Too Far?

We all know our town is located in an absolutely beautiful section of the Great Ouse Valley. We are blessed by stunning riverside scenery (see above), lush meadows and picturesque villages - all worthy of an area of outstanding natural beauty. I for one love to drift along under the willows, lounging on the

The Riverporter

COUNCIL & COMMUNITY NEWS

Give your views on anti-social behaviour

Cambs Police have contacted The Riverporter with this information ...

We are aware of issues in the St Ives area concerning anti-social behaviour and are working with Huntingdonshire District Council to implement a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO). The PSPO, proposed for The Quay and Warner's Park in St Ives, would prohibit anti-social behaviour, alcohol related disorder and vehicle related nuisance.

From 16 September, a public consultation will take place seeking views on the proposed PSPO. Anyone wishing to comment on the proposal is asked to send an email by 13 October to: crm_cpe@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Tree Felling Queried

Jeffrey Massey contacted us about the Horse Chestnut in Warner's Park. He said having seen the tree after it was felled he queried whether its removal was really necessary. The notice said only 28% of the tree was of sound wood. He wrote to the Town Council querying this as the tree seemed more sound than suggested (see picture right). He has also asked if there is a proper policy on tree coverage in St Ives.



Neighbourhood Plan consultants confirmed

September's Town Council meeting confirmed that the independent neighbourhood planning consultancy of O'Neill Homer are to be appointed to help the council with their neighbourhood plan at a cost to the council of £10,000. The cost of the plan will probably be around £25,000, the balance likely to come from a Locality Grant.

The meeting also heard from resident Ian Jackson who addressed the council on the Strategic Plan, the Local Transport Plan and Mooring on the Waits. Mr Jackson stated that a few boats had overstayed the 48 hour free mooring although the report stated that none had. He suggested that a group of volunteers could monitor the situation next season, as he feared that if boats were routinely staying longer this could prevent boating tourists visiting here.

Councillors spent considerable time discussing a controversial motion to request that the Town Council become a corporate member of the CIC, the independent body that runs the Corn Exchange. Opinions on the divisive nature of this motion were aired and it was agreed to delay this request for the Town Clerk to give Councillors a full report on the matter.



cushions with a glass or two, plus hamper and handsome companion. In terms of visitor appeal our natural unspoilt landscape generates significant tourism income – riverboat trips, nature reserves, flood meadows, walks and cycle paths contribute locally, and all along the valley from Earith to St Neots.

So far so good, but my friends on the Great Ouse Valley Trust tell me they are greatly concerned about the sudden return of the Third River Crossing proposal to allegedly relieve traffic congestion caused by development at RAF Wyton. They say that this idea has been dropped once by our District Council as too environmentally damaging but it is now proposed again by James Palmer, Mayor of Peterborough and Huntingdonshire Combined Authorities. He wants it to cross the valley between Huntingdon and Houghton, one of our most beautiful stretches or river.

It is one of his ideas for a Local Transport Plan currently out for consultation. This means we can all have a say about it. My dears, if like me you are worried about the growing tendency for authorities to think that building new roads is the answer to everything, especially when

they have pledged to reduce polluting emissions, then please let them know.

How? Heidi's suggestions

To find out more about the proposals first visit:

<https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/about-us/programmes/transport/ltp>

To learn more about the worries take a look at

<http://greatousevalleytrust.org.uk/index.php>

Then go back to the first website to find the link to the questionnaire.

I'm sorry to leave you on a serious note my lovelies but I do encourage you to have a think and then have your say.

PLEASE DO IT FOR HEIDI! You have until 27 September. Remember, there may well be other options and the future of RAF Wyton is still not decided.

Happy days in the valley

Heidi x

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ST IVES - Crossways Centre, Ramsey Road

Tuesday 9.30 am - Kathie 07772 868472

Thursday 9.30 am, 5.30 pm, 7.30 pm - Di 07554 027640

Saturday 8.30 am - Becs 07887 573336

FENSTANTON - United Reformed Church, Chequer Street

Tuesday 5.30 pm & 7.30 pm - Kathie 07772 868472

SOMERSHAM - Victory Hall, Parkhall Road

Thursday 5.30 pm & 7.30 pm - Becs 07887 573336

Friday 9.30 am Becs 07887 573336

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We are also delighted to be sponsoring **The Old Riversport Jazz & Blues Festival** in St Ives for the second year running.

The event has become increasingly popular and draws thousands of music lovers from all over the country to hear twenty four different bands perform in venues throughout the town. We hope you enjoy this new season of the Jazz & Blues Festival with friends and family and look forward to seeing you there.

The Festival, which runs from 19th to 22nd September starts on Thursday at 7pm in the Oliver Cromwell with The Jazz Tones and ends on Sunday evening with a Charity concert at 8pm in The Lounge by The Tomb Raiders and The What's That Band.

This year the programme offers 24 concerts, a

harmonica workshop and a jam session where you can try out your musical skills.

You can book tickets for the Harmonica Workshop at www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives

You can download the programme at www.theoldriverportstives.co.uk/images/home-page/JBProgrammeLR2.pdf.



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