

The Riverporter

ST IVES AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER

Issue 67: 4 September 2020

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

BREAKING NEWS

TOWN COUNCILLOR RESIGNS - See Page 3

Road improvements being considered

According to a study commissioned by the Combined Authority (CPA), the most beneficial option to relieve traffic congestion in the area, will be a single carriageway bypass between Spittals Interchange and the Wyton roundabout and a package of improvements in St Ives.

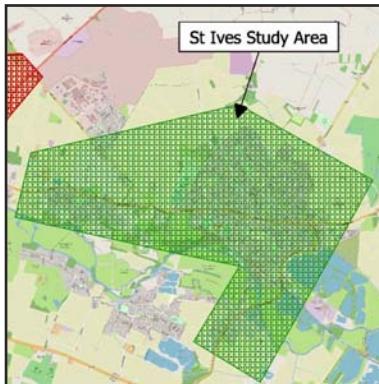
As we reported previously, the third river crossing over the Ouse valley has been dropped in favour of other improvements to the A141 and in St Ives. The plans will now be assessed in more detail at an estimated cost of £350,000 for the A141 strategic outline business case, and £500,000 for the St Ives strategic outline business case.

District Council leader, Ryan Fuller, said he welcomed the measures but in a Hunts Post article he went on to criticise those people who objected to the idea of a third river crossing. He said, '...unfortunately there is a group of people locally labouring under a misapprehension that this was an absolutely committed scheme that has required a campaign against it to try and get it thrown out'.

[The comment, probably aimed at groups such as GOVT, a charity formed to conserve the Great Ouse Valley, was unnecessary. Cllr Fuller should be praising those people who care enough about our landscape to raise concerns, rather than moaning about them. Ed.]

Cllr Fuller went on to welcome the plans for St Ives. The aim of the assessment was to consider how to reduce through traffic in the town centre. The current CPA report suggests that the following package of measures is considered to offer the most benefit.

- Reduce town centre speeds to 20mph, most likely through physical measures such as traffic calming



- Signalisation of the western half of Junction M (A1123 / B1040)
 - Ban the right turn movement from Needingworth Road onto the A1123
- Priority Changes at:
- Ramsey Road/North Road
 - North Road/Globe Place/Broad Leas
 - Globe Place/East Street.

Phase 2 of the Operational Assessment considered the impact of the additional growth at Wyton Airfield could be close to nil, with a series of local junction improvements. The Town Mayor, Councillor Jonathan Pallant told *The Riverporter* 'We will soon have the results of the St Ives Area Transport Study. I'm expecting this to be published on 9 September and we should be able to table it for our September Town Council meeting that evening.'

Fenny Penny... Have you seen him yet? See page 2.



From our environmental correspondent Heidi N. de Tries. *Photograph by Nigel Spowell.*

Hi-de-hi Heidi gets the bird!

Hi de-hi Heidi gets the bird! Dears, I was strolling in the Meadow the other day, keeping my distance more's the pity and musing on this and that, like you do when you are at a loose end, when suddenly a large floaty shape caught my eye high in the sky.

Now I don't normally take much notice of birds, lovely as they are, but this was really something. Broad wings, gorgeous chestnut colour and a forked tail. You might have seen one too?

Well, I have another gentleman friend who shall be nameless but you know the type – bit of a loner, always looking here and there and often sporting an enormous telescope. I first met him in a field and he invited me into a hide (Heidi in the hide!). The things he showed me. Anyway, I asked him about my sighting and he explained everything.

It was a Red Kite, once an endangered species poor thing but now to be seen all over the country. How come? Because it has been reintroduced in specially selected places to give

it a fresh start. And one of those is in Northamptonshire, so we get to see more and more of them as they spread.

Don't worry, it won't swoop down on you and steal your picnic, or even snatch the lovely tits from your garden feeder. Its soaring, wheeling flight enables it to spot dead things on the ground to eat, and so it is doing a good job keeping the countryside tidy.

If only we were as considerate!

Now, I found all this so interesting I've arranged to meet my friend in the hide again soon. I wonder what he'll reveal this time ... I'll let you know!

Bye dears

Tweet, tweet!

Heidi xx

TOWN TEAM UPDATE

Although there are no events arranged for the remainder of the year the Town Team are busy working on ways to attract visitors back to our town. With life gradually returning to the town centre it is important we take the opportunity to make the town as attractive as possible. Plans are underway to improve displays and create new marketing leaflets and on-line campaigns ready for next years return of events such as

The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival (16th to 19th September 2021) and an exciting new Yukelele Festival (2nd/3rd October 2021)

Thank you from Huntingdonshire Volunteer Centre (HVC)



A posting on one of our St Ives social media sites reported that all at the Huntingdonshire Volunteer Centre (HVC) would like to say a huge thank you to Julie, Jackie and the Waitrose St Ives team for their help before and over the period of the pandemic. HVC went on to say they were delighted to receive a cheque for £1,333 from Julie to continue their work and support HVC in these difficult times! If you would like to help out, you can contact HVC at... www.huntsvc.org.uk

Fenny Penny... Have you seen him yet?

St Ives own fancy dress penny-farthing rider is raising money for the charity 'Mind'. Fenny Penny has set himself a target of £2,400 and as of this week he's well on his way with £959 pledged so far. Mind is the mental health charity, working across England & Wales, which believes no one should face a mental health problem alone and states, 'We're here for you. Whether you're stressed, depressed or in crisis. We'll listen, give support & advice, & fight your corner.'

You can contribute to Fenny Penny's cause by looking him up on Facebook or go to 'Just Giving.org'

The Costumes so far

- 1 Saturday 11-04-2020 Batman
- 2 Sunday 25-04-2020 Freddy Krueger
- 3 Saturday 16-05-2020 Saw Billy
- 4 Sunday 30-05-2020 Mask
- 5 Saturday 13-06-2020 Hulk
- 6 Saturday 13-06-2020 Charlie Brown
- 7 Saturday 20-06-2020 Skeleton
- 8 Saturday 11-07-2020 Honey Monster
- 9 Sunday 12-07-2020 Animal
- 10 Saturday 18-07-2020 Rupert Bear
- 11 Sunday 19-07-2020 Mario
- 12 Sunday 26-07-2020 Big Bird
- 13 Saturday 01-08-2020 Shrek
- 14 Sunday 02-08-2020 Leprechaun
- 15 Saturday 08-08-2020 Teletubbie - Po
- 16 Sunday 09-08-2020 Gizmo
- 17 Saturday 15-08-2020 Gru
- 18 Sunday 16-08-2020 Lego Man



It happened just last year . . .

It's hard to believe now, but this was the scene outside the White Hart just over a year ago when the Town Team organised a Day of Dance. Three wonderful Morris sides came together to entertain the crowds on a bright sunny Sunday in June 2019. Plans for an even bigger event had to be shelved this year, but with a bit of luck we might be able to enjoy it next year, virus permitting.



Great news for the White Hart

When the sad news came that the White Hart would not be re-opening after the Covid lock down it looked like St Ives was about to get a second prominent pub business to fall into disuse. But unlike the Robin Hood the White Hart has sprung back into life, thanks to pub landlord Brenden who also runs the Seven Wives.

This week Brenden re-opened the White Hart doors and he told *The Riverporter* that he has

great plans to rejuvenate the pub without spoiling its character. With its new outside seating it will bring a real lift to our shopping centre.

But, as our Erik will confirm, Brenden's best move is bringing Carol Waring and Donna Fordham (pictured below with Brenden) on to his team, we can look forward to some really great pub lunches.

Erik can't wait for pie night!



Rotary Club hand over defibrillator to St Ives Town Council

The Rotary Club of St Ives was delighted to have handed over to St Ives Town Council, the public access defibrillator they have donated for use in the town centre. It is a great example of how they use funds donated by the local community, and even in difficult times like these, it is good to see they're able to make a difference within St Ives. The purchase of the PAD was inspired by local First Responder John Fagg, who rendered life-saving services to one of the club members.

The picture shows the Mayor receiving the PAD from our Past President Iain Martin, and also in the photograph are Rotarians Sue Duma and David Smith and SITI Chairman Angie Dickinson (right). Both Simon Townend, who played a part in its sourcing and Rtn Philip Sadler, who played a key role in supplying and installing the defib were unable to attend. The PAD is situated at the corner of Priory Road and Station Road on the side wall of Nuts Bistro, and is available at any time.

Mayor Jonathan Pallant said he was delighted and grateful to be able to officially receive the new Defibrillator from St Ives Rotary. He said *'The Mayoress and I are only too aware of the importance of rapid intervention should someone unfortunately suffer a cardiac arrest and having access to these life saving machines on our High Street is so important.'*

Should you find anyone having a medical emergency, call 999 and if required the operator can direct you to the unit, provide the security code to the lock, and offer full instructions on its use.

It is designed to be used by a complete novice in a highly stressful situation and so is very easy to use, yet could make all the difference.





After a busy day in the office Erik and his assistant Milly play ball. Tuesday was Milly's first birthday which she celebrated with cake!

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

Dear Erik,

Thank you for mentioning our recent Facebook article 'IT'S OFFICIAL! ST IVES TOWN CENTRE HAS MOVED TO A ROUNDABOUT ON HARRISON WAY' in your last issue.

Unfortunately it was linked to fake news rather than the satire it actually was.

(SATIRE: A humorous way to criticise people or ideas). To ensure no-one was misled, we added a comment to clarify the parody was used to highlight a genuine issue.

Cllr Fuller added multiple comments stating the quotation credited to him was false.

Unfortunately Cllr Fuller went silent when asked to answer the questions at the base of the article, being:

1. When will HDC reimpose parking charges?
2. What effect [does] Cllr Fuller think this will have on St Ives town centre?

Maybe you can get an answer from Cllr Fuller. Isn't he meant to represent St Ives and answer to its residents and businesses?

Keep up the good work!

ST IVES MATTERS

[Dear St Ives Matters - I'm not sure your article could be considered humorous, especially as some readers said they thought it was a good idea to move the town centre to the Morrisons roundabout!]

On getting an answer from Cllr Fuller - I think we have said before that Cllr Fuller will not engage with *The Riverporter* either. He says that we will distort his comments. This is despite the fact that we told him that we would print any reply or comment he made word for word. **Ed.**]

Help to find hearing aid

John Ledward of Ansley Way sadly lost both of his new hearing aids on his first visit out to Boot's the chemist.

On returning home he discovered that when he put his face mask on, before entering the shop, he must have knocked both of the aids out.

After a quick return to the shop he found one aid but not the other. If anyone has found it could they please contact John on:

01480 492874.

Dear Erik,

Subject: Dogs barking priory road

Hi want to get this off my chest. I live in Priory Road and 7 days a week, day and night, all hours, there's people's dogs constantly barking at the end of Priory Road - the island house and in Wellington Street. This is beyond a joke now. Surely I can't be the only one who hears this racket. It has to stop.

Town Councillor Resigns

Richard Bellamy, one of the fake 'Independent for St Ives' candidates, who was elected in 2018 for the East Ward, has resigned from St Ives Town Council.

At the time of going to press it is not known if he has resigned his Hunts District Council seat, although it is believed he intends to.

Mr Bellamy was one of the 12 'Independent for St Ives' candidates put up by Tory, Ryan Fuller, who also stood as 'independent' which resulted in Mr Fuller featuring in Private Eye magazine. Mr Bellamy also stood and was elected as a Conservative District Councillor at the same time. The reason for his resignation has not been stated but he has stated before that he is not one of the 'in-crowd', referring to his Tory colleagues.

Mr Bellamy is well-known in St Ives and has held a number of jobs, bringing him into contact with many local people. He was, at one time, landlord of the Royal Oak.

He is a regular commentator on local Facebook pages but rarely spoke at Town Council meetings and recently has attended only one of four District Council committee meetings that he was a member of.

It is known that the Town Council would like to adopt someone to take his place, rather than wait to have a member elected. This is partly because no election can be held before May 2021. The Town Council now has 15 councillors, rather than a full compliment of 17, as Councillor Brian Luter stood down in May after 24 years service.

To guarantee an election for the vacant seat, 10 voters from the St Ives East Ward need to write to Democratic Services at the District Council requesting an election.

The Riverporter

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

NEWS UPDATE

Crossing in Needingworth Road

Many of you will have seen the roadworks in Needingworth Road, where a crossing is being installed. This scheme was put forward under the County Council's Local Highways Initiative. Each year St Ives Town Council put forward a scheme, which they believe will improve road safety. Only a few are selected in the county each year and this scheme was selected in 2018 and is now being implemented.

The proposal was led by the current Deputy Mayor, Councillor Pasco Hussain (pictured below), who made a successful bid on behalf of local residents, who for many years have wanted a safer pedestrian crossing of the road and measures to slow the traffic down.

Now there will be a formal crossing, obviously no parking at and near the crossing, a narrowed carriageway with raised road surface and hopefully accidents will reduce considerably. According to one resident this should stop accidents from the reckless, speeding contra-flow passing of vehicles which has led to high-speed shunts, scrapes and broken wing mirrors. The worst accident to have happened recently resulted in one car overturning!

Town Mayor, Jonathan Pallant said he is looking forward to the improvements being finished. He put forward a proposal last year for an improved pedestrian and cycle crossing on Erica Road (just north of the Burstellars corner) which was also accepted by the County Council but as yet he doesn't have a target date for completion of that scheme.



In case you wondered... no Fair this year

The annual Michaelmas Fair, which is held in early October in St Ives town centre will not be on this year due to the Coronavirus restrictions. The Town Council will be issuing a joint statement with Scarrots, who run the Fair, in the next couple of weeks.

Norris Museum opening is low key

Last week the Editor of *The Riverporter* tried to find out when the Norris Museum was going to open again, as nearly all the national and local museums had already opened. Having rung the museum twice with no answer he contacted the Town Hall, but no-one there knew and said that staff were currently working from home.

This Wednesday the phone was answered by a member of the staff at the Norris, who said the museum had reopened the day before, Tuesday 1st September. Their website and Facebook page made no mention of this. Later it was confirmed by the Museum Director that it was a low key re-opening to see how it goes. If successful, then they will publicise it next week. So once again you heard it first in *The Riverporter*. I hope they can cope with the rush!

Recreation Centre swimming pool re-opens

Also re-opening on Tuesday was the One Leisure swimming pool. The new centre guidelines are: Pre-book all swimming sessions - arrive at the time of your booking, and no earlier than five minutes before the start of your session. Arrive 'swim ready' with swimwear on underneath clothing, keeping personal belongings to a minimum. Full details are on the Centre's website.

Houghton Grange to be developed at last

Houghton Grange mansion is set to be converted into five flats by Morris Homes, who were given the go-ahead to build 99 new homes in the grounds, replace a house and refurbish the listed gate lodges. The old government research centre was closed in 1992 and the house, built in 1897-99 for the Coote family of coal firm Coote and Warren, in the Elizabethan Revival style by internationally-renowned architect James Ransome, is considered of historic significance.

Coronavirus deaths in Huntingdonshire

The latest breakdown of deaths from Covid-19 shows that St Ives North had 4 Covid deaths and St Ives South 5 Covid deaths as of July 31st.

The biggest rise in Huntingdonshire, since the last figures in June, was in Hartford which now has a total of 18 Covid deaths. The latest figures from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) show that, so far, 131 deaths from Covid-19 have been recorded in Huntingdonshire.



The COURTYARD St Ives

Open-air boutique market, run by independents

Arts & Crafts - Lorenzo's Coffee -

Eco-Refills - Floristry

Vintage & Festival Clothing

Pet Accessories - Baby Clothing & Gifts

Antiques - Jewellery

Home Furnishings - Books

Soy Wax Candles - Upcycled Furniture -

Photo Framing - Greetings Cards

Stocking Fillers

& much more to come...



Visit us..

Mon-Sat: 9-5

Sun: 10-4

The Courtyard at Hyperion Antiques,
Station Road, St Ives, Cambridgeshire, PE27 5BH

Malawi appeal... Can you help?

Josie Charter runs a local charity, Aquaid Lifeline (www.lifelinefund.org.uk) helping orphans and the most vulnerable in Malawi, one of the poorest countries in the world.

Josie is organising a 40ft container to leave the UK around December. In order to fill the container space completely, and to help the Aquaid Lifeline Fund in Malawi, Josie still needs the following items:

Children's Clothes

Age 5 and above

Adult clothes

Ladies 8,10 and 12 and Men's, Small and medium

Special appeal to ladies

BRAS please - all sizes welcome!

Sleeping bags, bedding, blankets, sheets etc.

Shoes suitable for school - all sizes please

Laptops- all will be wiped before leaving the UK

Bicycles - good condition suitable for 13 years and above

Spectacles - these will be checked before leaving.

And, lastly, does anyone have any links with local football teams? We have 8 teams (all ages) desperate for a full strip to proudly wear.

This week the team dismantled and loaded two commercial polytunnels. This Josie says will be a game changer for us as it will mean we can grow fresh vegetables 12 months of the year to feed 500+ children at our primary school in Namisu.

If you can help please get in contact at: www.lifelinefund.org.uk



Amazing!

The photo shows where we are currently up to. The white bags at the top, in the distance, mark half way up the container. It's incredible how much we are managing to fit in. Please... keep it coming!

ADVERTORIAL

STAMP DUTY HOLIDAY PUSHES UP DEMAND FOR HIGH-END PROPERTIES



The stamp duty holiday has led to a 14% surge in calls and emails to estate agents in the UK. We have seen this increase in demand across our four offices since the chancellor announced the policy.

In particular, properties priced between £400–£500k have registered the biggest rise in interest at almost 50%!

It's remarkable that in 2019 this price bracket only represented 8% of sales. We may, therefore, see a shift in the distribution of transactions in rest of 2020.

Similarly, representing 7% of sales in 2019, houses priced between £500–£750k have a house-hunter interest increase of 40%. While properties priced over £750k representing only 4% of sales last year, surged by 11%.

As regards houses priced less than £300k, a Dataloft report explains that the stamp duty holiday will save homeowners only £5k and will not save first-time buyers any money at all. So, they have only seen a 1% increase in demand.

With the stamp duty holiday benefiting homeowners and investors the most, particularly those with bigger budgets, we are likely to see increased demand for higher-priced properties over the next 8 months.

Stamp Duty Holiday Deadline

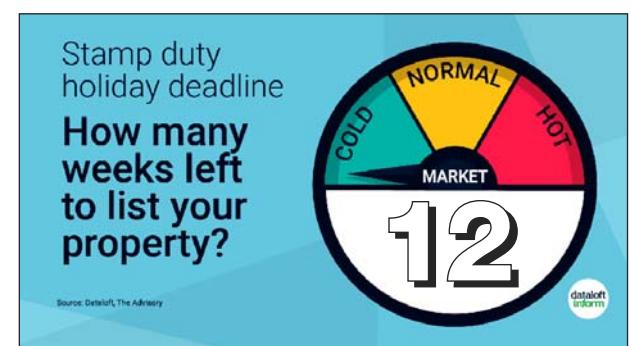
With just under 30 weeks of the stamp duty holiday left, and with the average property taking 18 weeks to sell, vendors have 12 weeks to list their properties, if they want to take advantage of the offer.

The Advisory reports that the average time to sell a property from the first day of marketing

to completion is between 16 and 25 weeks. In a hot market, it can take on average 16 weeks and a cold market, 25 weeks.

Mortgages are taking longer to secure as lenders have a backlog from lockdown and are prioritising existing customers. As a result, it may take vendors longer to move through the house buying process than normal.

Although 31st March 2021 seems a long way away, vendors should consider the time scales of selling homes and act now before it's too late!



ellis&co
winters